

Finishing Strong!

Troop 870 Star/Life to Eagle Workshop

October 11, 2010



Table of Contents

- Today's objective
- Troop's History of Eagle Scouts
- Participants
- Why are we having this session?
- Deadlines
- When is the best time to Eagle?
- Last Eagle Required merit badges
- Recommendation Letters
- What makes a good project?

- Separate Handout: "From Here to Eagle"



Today's Objectives

- We ARE informing scouts and parents to reduce unpleasant surprises.
- We ARE encouraging you to **Finish Strong!**
- We are NOT trying to force you to do something you don't want to do. Not everyone who reaches Star or Life makes it to Eagle. However, if making Eagle weren't at least of interest to you, you likely wouldn't be here.
- Remember, if you elect to wait till the last minute, the troop will NOT drag you across the finish line.



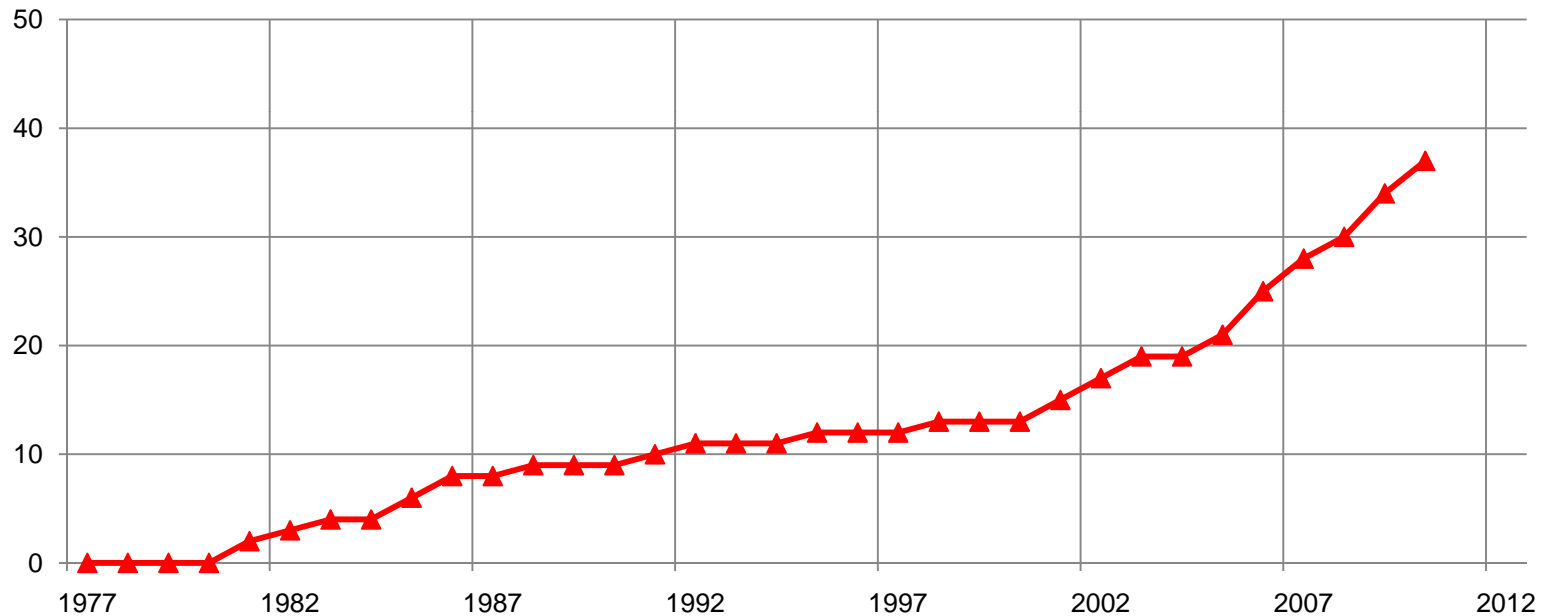
Troop 870: A Heritage of Eagle Scouts

- 4 years for 1st Eagle { 1977 - Troop was chartered
- 10 years for 1st 10 Eagles { 1981 - First Eagle Scout – Michael D. Moore
- 14 years for 2nd 10 Eagles { 1991 - 10th Eagle Scout – Stephen Irwin
- 3 years for 3rd 10 Eagles { 2005 - 20th Eagle Scout – Jason Green
- 2008 - 30th Eagle Scout – Brendan Dalpe
- 2010 - 37th Eagle Scout – Andrew Eaton
- ??? Will you add your name to our nest of Eagles?



Troop 870: A Heritage of Eagle Scouts

Cumulative # of Eagle Scouts



Tonight's Participants

(as of 9/1/10)

- 18 Life Scouts and their parents

Scout	Rank Earned	Gr.
Colin Schneider	11/08	12
Marshall Godwin	5/10	12
Stefan Balciunas	4/07	12
Eric Stone	3/09	11
Allen Vinson	5/10	11
Kevin Davis	8/09	11
Ryan Ramirez	9/09	11
Kevin Van Kirk	3/09	11
Kevin Roan	9/09	11

Scout	Rank Earned	Gr.
Andrew Kuhlman	3/10	10
Brad Paul	9/09	10
Michael Fodroci	2/10	9
Daymond Crucian	3/10	9
Matt Lovelace	11/09	9
Jeffrey Myers	11/09	9
Alec Fluharty	7/10	9
Matt Mucha	8/10	9
Alan Stepchinski	11/09	9



Tonight's Participants, Cont'd

(as of 9/1/10)

- 10 Star Scouts and their parents

Scout	Rank Earned	Gr.
Ryan Mays	11/08	12
Eric Layden	11/09	11
Kyle Ludovice	1/09	11
Tyler Najarian	5/10	10
Joe Godwin	3/10	9
Farzam Farahani	3/10	9
Devon Login	2/10	9
Lane Francis	8/10	9
Joseph Sukkar	4/10	9
Gavin Love	5/10	9



Why are we doing this?

- In the last couple of years, the troop has had about **3** Eagles per year and we were able to deal with each one as they came together (this has typically meant as their 18th birthday rapidly approached)
- In Sept 2009, when we did this for the first time, there were **20** of you who could Eagle in the next 2 years.....
-today, there are **28** of you! In other words, that's more than one Eagle project per month on average beginning with Brad Paul's!
- Our troop can't afford for a scout to wait till the last minute without risking someone not finishing before they turn 18
- On top of that, waiting until the last minute just isn't the optimal or most satisfying approach



Deadlines

- Technically,.....
 - BSA: 18th birthday to have your Eagle Scoutmaster Conference
 - SHAC: 180 days after your 18th birthday to complete your Eagle Board of Review
- However,.....
 - You don't get another shot at Eagle.
So DON'T wait till the last minute.



When is the Best Time to Eagle?

The troop is happy for you to Eagle any time, but doing it right before you turn 18 causes you to miss some opportunities!

Although you are eligible to become Eagle up until you turn 18 – here are some reasons to consider doing it earlier:

- Eagle is a significant accomplishment to highlight on any college applications you plan on sending out **(this means finishing your Eagle by your Junior year in HS)**
- Achieving Eagle right before you turn 18 doesn't give you the opportunity to put your Eagle to work within the troop. Younger scouts benefit considerably by your continued involvement after you Eagle.
- Younger Eagle Scouts find the leadership opportunities within the troop very rewarding (JASM, Advising Eagle Candidates through the process, special projects, etc) AND these leadership experiences are a noteworthy item for the college resume.
- Time commitments in High School ramp up as the Senior year approaches ... do what you can early!
- Allow time to complete the requirements at a normal pace vs. rushing at the last minute
– more rewarding / less frustrating for both the Scout AND the parents (& the troop!).



Last Eagle Required Merit Badges

- Typically, they are
 - Personal Management
 - Family Life
- Each includes a **three** month component. Don't get surprised by procrastinating on these!



Q: Recommendation letters

When & from whom should I request them?

- Answer: It depends, but you can ask for them any time after you make Life! Don't wait. It can often take 2 or 3 months to get a letter.
- You need at least five (1 parents, 1 teacher, 1 spiritual, 2 other, should also have 1 employer if you have a job)
- It's best to ask for the letters several months before you expect to Eagle. NOTE: If you expect to Eagle as a freshman and you want a middle school teacher or coach to write the letter, you should ask for it before the end of your 8th grade year – when you still see them regularly.
- KEY: The scout should approach the writer to ask them if they would write a letter for him, but the formal request comes from Mr. Lovelace and the recommendations are mailed directly to him. See checklist document on how to do this.



Q: What Makes a Good Project?

- Answer: One that meets the requirement:

“While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a **service project** helpful to any religious institution, school, or community. (The project should benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.) The project idea must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, your Scoutmaster and troop committee and the council or district before you start.

You must use the [Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook](#), BSA publication No. 512-927 (printed after 8/1/2009), in meeting this requirement.”



Q: What Makes a Good Project?

Further guidance from the Eagle Service Project Workbook:

Originality

Does the leadership service project for Eagle have to be original, perhaps something you dream up that has never been done before? The answer: No, but it certainly could be. You may pick a project that has been done before, but you must accept responsibility for planning, directing, and following through to its successful completion.

Limitations

- Routine labor (a job or service normally rendered) should not be considered.
- Projects involving council property or other BSA activities are not acceptable.
- Projects may not be performed for businesses or an individual.



Q: What Makes a Good Project?

Further guidance from the Eagle Service Project Workbook:

Limitations (Continued)

- Projects may not be of a commercial nature.
- Projects may not be a fund-raiser. Fund-raising is permitted only for securing materials needed carry out the project.
- Donors to projects must be made aware of what entity is benefiting from the project, and that it clearly is not the Boy Scouts of America.
- Any funds raised for a project and not used for the purchase of project materials must be returned to the donors.
- No minimum number of hours is required.
- The project is an individual matter; therefore, two Eagle Scout candidates may not receive credit for working on the same project.



Q: Give Leadership?

- Developing a plan that will make your project a success
- Using your resources efficiently & effectively
- Understanding and addressing the safety concerns
- Teaching your volunteers
- Giving direction to the participants



Q: What Makes a Good Project?

- Response: OK, but what does that mean?... =)
- There isn't any other firm guidance, but it might help to put consider recent Eagle projects done by scouts in our troop



Recent Projects from T870

Scout	Project Performed	Description of Project	Organization	Approx. # of Hrs.
Brad Paul	Oct, 2010**	Trail restoration	Seabrook Parks Dept.	TBD
Andrew Eaton	June, 2010	Art supplies drive	Texas Children's Hospital – Arts in Medicine program	131
Nick Mucha	Spring, 2010	Necessities Drive	Interfaith Caring Ministries	146
Jared Dalpe	Jan, 2010	Landscaping a walkway	St. Bernadette Catholic Church	100
Daniel Muratore	June, 2009	Invertebrate specimen collection	A&M Galveston Sea Campus Kids	231



Recent Project, Cont'd

Scout	Project Performed	Description of Project	Organization	Approx. # of Hrs.
Kevin Bradbury	2009	Food drive	Interfaith Caring Ministries	200
Bayard Nicklow	2009	Landscaping residence	Sean Ashley Foundation for Autism	141
Tim Ness	2008	Landscaping residence	Sean Ashley Foundation for Autism	151
Brendan Dalpe	2008	Parking Lot expansion	Interfaith Caring Ministries	178
Kevin Moss	2007	Painting picnic tables	Seabrook Parks Dept	228
Patrick Turley	2007	Mini-Carnival	Pasadena Homeless Shelter	?
Alan Mohn	2007	Park benches, swing	UBC park	163
Matt McNicholl	2006	Fitness program	UBC field for home-schooled kids	197



Q: What Makes a Good Project?

- So.....our 'typical' Troop 870 Eagle project has involved **between 150 and 180** man hours (including the Eagle candidate, scouts, friends and adults) and has helped all kinds of organizations.
- When envisioning yours, consider your impressions of the magnitude, complexity and community value of these other projects and tweak your concept accordingly



Q: What Makes a Good Project?

Other Considerations

- Challenging enough to build a Scout's confidence and skill level, but not overwhelming
- Something that inspires you
- Something that you can look back on it and say: I did that!
- Able to be planned and led by the Scout himself with minimum parent involvement



Other Eagle Projects in the News

- Recently in Eagletter Magazine (www.NESA.org): 3 simultaneous Eagle projects from 1 US troop performed in Guatemala:
 - Installed a water treatment system
 - Expanded a school library, clothing & sports equipment
 - Tackled massive erosion problem at school
- CNN.com – Alex Griffith put in a playground at the hospital from which he was adopted in Russia: 800 hours and \$60,000 donated
- **Message: The Sky is the Limit!!**
- Be creative
- **Make this project something you can brag about on your college application!**



See 'From Here to Eagle Checklist'
for specific detailed information

See article in Eagletter Magazine, Fall
2009, 'From Arlington to Antigua,' pp.
8-9, for example of triple Eagle project

