

## **On the Trail To Eagle Troop 677**

The following ideas can help you become an Eagle Scout. This list comes from the experience of 90 Eagle Scouts in our Troop.

### **Read the Life to Eagle Packet from Council**

The Greater St. Louis Area Eagle Scout Association has prepared an excellent packet of materials to help you become an Eagle Scout. You received this packet when you became a Life Scout. Read through this material and become familiar with it. In particular, study the Life to Eagle instructions. If you follow these instructions, you can't go wrong.

### **Get Organized**

You will be managing a lot of paperwork, forms, and information. Get something to collect all this material and make it easy to retrieve such as: (a) a three-ring binder with tabs, (b) a briefcase, or (c) an expandable file folder with individual files.

### **Develop a Plan**

Successful leaders develop a vision, which is a picture of future success. In your case, it is to become an Eagle Scout for the rest of your life. Successful leaders develop a mission, which is the overall plan to achieve the vision. Your plan can be fairly broad such as: (a) become an Eagle by X date, (b) complete my Eagle Scout project during the months of x, y, and z, (c) earn certain merit badges by x, y, and z dates.

### **Take Small Steps Every Chance You Get**

As with any major project you will face throughout your life, the first step is the most important (such as getting organized). Take that step now. Don't waste time. Keep yourself in motion. Do something every week.

### **Store All Merit Badge Cards**

You are responsible for proving that you earned a merit badge, and that proof is the merit badge card signed by the merit badge counselor. Collect all your merit badges and store them in your records. Some Scouts have used plastic protectors, or photo album protectors to store the merit badge cards.

### **Record Key Dates on the Eagle Application**

Using the “Trail to Eagle” form included in this material, fill in all the dates and merit badges earned. This form is laid out in a way that double checks to make sure the dates of the merit badges and First Class, Star, and Life ranks were earned in the right sequence.

From your “Life to Eagle” packet, make a copy of the Eagle Scout application and fill out all dates and information requested. Use the dates entered from “Trail to Eagle.” This draft can then be used for the final entries on the original application.

### **Identify a Coach for You**

A Coach is an adult Scout leader (could be from our Troop or elsewhere) who will coach you (advise you) through the process and Eagle Scout project. Your parents have an important role of encouraging and supporting you, but should not serve as a Coach. Like a baseball coach, your Coach can provide information helpful to you, encourage you, remove roadblocks, and be an advisor for your Eagle Scout project. The role of a Coach is not required in the process to become an Eagle, but we have found it very helpful to each Scout on the Trail to Eagle.

### **Stay in Touch with Barry Bingham, Assistant Scoutmaster, Life to Eagle**

As Assistant Scoutmaster, Life to Eagle, Barry Bingham will guide you through the process of becoming an Eagle Scout. You can meet with him individually, call him, email him, see him at the Life to Eagle Scout meetings, etc. He will ensure you minimize issues and problems that could be a roadblock on the Trail to Eagle.

### **Identify an Eagle Project**

Scouts often struggle with identifying an Eagle Project. Once it’s identified, the first big step has been taken. Some Scouts find projects in areas they are interested in, such as Alex Gavenda (Eagle Scout 2002) who plays baseball for Lafayette High School and the Pond Panthers (who went to Japan in 2001). Alex identified a project at the Pond Athletic Fields. The Ellisville Methodist Church has been a source of many projects, and so have the county’s parks. To get other ideas, talk with your parents, Scout leaders in the Troop, other Eagle Scouts, and adult leaders of any organization you participate in (such as band, swim club, hockey club, etc.).

Review your proposed project with Barry Bingham, the Assistant Scoutmaster for Life to Eagle Scouts. This will increase the probability that a successful project will be approved by the New Horizons District Eagle Board of Review. He has copies of approved projects which can be a guide for completing the paperwork for your project.

Your project is then reviewed by Troop 677's Eagle Project Review Committee. These are three adults from the Troop who review and add helpful comments to your project. This will also give you experience in preparing for the New Horizons District Board of Review meetings.

### **Stay in Touch With Those On The Trail To Eagle**

As a Life Scout in high school, you are very busy with academics, sports, activities, and possibly a girlfriend. Squeezing Scouting into your life at this point in time is very difficult. That is one reason so few Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle (four out of every 100 Scouts). Yet earning the Eagle in the face of all these other worthwhile activities is what marks you as a person who sets goals and achieves them. That's one reason the Eagle Scout is so respected in our society.

We know you can't come to every Scout meeting every week, nor participate in all the camping and summer camp activities. Instead, be a participant when your schedule permits. Set a goal to attend one Scout meeting a month, for example, especially when the Life to Eagle Scouts are meeting. Participate in the Life to Eagle meetings and share your frustrations and listen for ideas. Other Scouting activities you may want to consider that keep you in touch with Scouting are: Order of the Arrow, becoming Brotherhood Order of the Arrow, attending the tap out on Thursday night at the summer camp, going to the Northern Tier or Philmont, teaching a skill at a Scout meeting, selling poinsettias at Christmas time, or helping with Advancement University.

### **When You Have Questions or Are Stuck**

You will have a lot of questions. Sometimes you will just be stuck and can't get moving again. Call your Coach and talk about your question or lack of progress. He/She may have some suggestions. Call Barry Bingham, the Assistant Scoutmaster for Life to Eagle at 636-207-9310 or email him at [barrybingham@aol.com](mailto:barrybingham@aol.com).

### **And Don't Forget That Important Eagle Ceremony**

After climbing the trail to Eagle, you deserve an outstanding Eagle Ceremony. Assistant Scoutmaster Barry Bingham has a binder with Eagle Scout ceremonies plus the program brochures used by a number of Eagle Scouts.