



SCOUTING/USA

May 17, 1988

A program of

ALSC ITEM #46
1988 Annual Conference

**National Office
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

1325 Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, Texas 75038-3096
Telephone: 214-580-2000

**RECEIVED
JUN 20 1988**

ATSC

Susan Roman, Executive Director
Association for Library
Services to Children
American Library Association
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Susan:

The following is in response to your three questions:

Women in Scouting

Our public statement is "It is time to recognize that in a changing society the unique strength of our organization lies in the dedicated efforts of both men and women. Our efforts must be focused on obtaining the best possible leadership--male or female--to carry forward the work of the Scouting movement."

Officially, we have removed gender requirements from the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, Article VIII, Section 3, Clause 11 (leadership requirements).

Scouts with Handicaps


Enclosed please find the application form used to plan the advancement program for Scouts with handicaps. In summary, Scouts with handicaps can select badges to earn that are alternatives to those usually required. However, the requirements for the badges selected must be satisfied.

Homosexuals

The courts have determined that the Boy Scouts of America is a private membership organization and homosexuals will not be allowed to participate.

I hope these statements are helpful.

Sincerely,


John W. Larson, Ed.D., Director
Education/Community Relationships

JWL:jm

PLEASE NOTE NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

Boy Scouts of America, 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079





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APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATE EAGLE SCOUT AWARD MERIT BADGES

To: The District Advancement Committee

_____ District
_____ Council

Gentlemen:

We are submitting this application in behalf of _____
_____ (Name of candidate) of Unit No. _____,
chartered to _____
and located in _____

Community State

Because of the disability (see the medical statement below), we believe that he is physically or mentally unable to complete the requirements for the following merit badge or badges required for the Eagle Scout Award:

Because of his excellent performance, perseverance, and Scouting spirit, and following a personal conference with him and his family, we recommend that the following alternate merit badge or badges be assigned to him, feeling that they will be equally challenging and useful, but within his capability.

Date _____

Signed _____
Unit leader

Signed _____
Unit committee chairman

Parent Statement

In view of the medical statement (below), and following a conference with _____'s Scouting leaders, we approve the alternate method of application for Eagle Scout Award merit badges and the merit badges recommended as alternates.

Date _____

Signed _____
Parent or guardian

Medical Statement

As a result of a thorough examination of _____
_____ (Name of candidate) on _____
Date

I find that he has a permanent physical or mental disability that would prevent him from completing the requirements for the merit badge or badges, as shown above.

REASONS FOR INABILITY:

Date _____

Signed _____ M.D.



District Certificate

We have reviewed the situation regarding _____

Name of candidate

and in review of the medical statement, and his excellent record in Scouting, we feel he could follow the alternate Eagle Scout Award merit badge method of achieving the Eagle Scout Award. We recommend to the council advancement committee that the merit badge or badges on the preceding page be assigned to him as alternates.

Date _____

Signed _____
District representative

Signed _____
District

Council Committee Action

The recommendations of the _____ District
in regard to alternate merit badge(s) for _____

Name of candidate

have been reviewed, and the merit badges recommended have been approved as alternate merit badges for Eagle Scout Award requirements.

Date _____

Signed _____
Council chairman

Signed _____
Scout executive

(The local council action on the alternate merit badges for the Eagle Scout Award does not require National Council approval.)

Possible alternates for required merit badges*

CAMPING

Cooking
Cycling
Hiking
Rowing

COMMUNICATIONS

Electronics
Journalism
Photography
Graphic Arts
Public Speaking
Radio
Signaling

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OR LIFESAVING

Firemanship
Motorboating
Public Health
Radio
Rowing
Signaling
Traffic Safety

PERSONAL FITNESS, SWIMMING OR SPORTS

Archery
Canoeing
Cycling
Golf
Hiking
Horsemanship
Orienteering
Pioneering
Rowing
Skating
Skiing
Water Skiing

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Fish and Wildlife Management
Geology
Nature
Soil and Water Conservation
Weather

PERSONAL MANAGEMENT

Consumer Buying
Agribusiness

SAFETY

Firemanship
Public Health
Traffic Safety

*These possible alternates are suggested to give each person, involved in selecting an alternate, a list to choose from that could provide similar learning experience. If, after a careful review of the requirements, it does not seem possible that the individual can meet the requirements of one of the suggested alternates, apply for other alternates, using this form.

It is important that unit leaders use reasonable accommodation and common sense in the application of the alternate merit badge program. This plan is designed to provide advancement opportunities for Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, or Explorers who have handicapping conditions.



APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATE EAGLE SCOUT AWARD MERIT BADGES

INSTRUCTIONS

This application includes the necessary information to properly apply for alternate merit badges on the route to Eagle Scout. Below, you will find the steps to follow from the initiation of the application to the awarding of the Eagle Scout Award.

1. The unit leader (Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor) initiates this application on behalf of a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or qualified* Explorer (candidate).
2. Follow the instructions on this application to determine the alternate merit badge(s).
3. Secure a clear and concise medical statement from a physician licensed to practice medicine concerning the Scout's disability.
4. The unit leader and unit committee chairman hold a conference with the candidate and his family present. They determine the alternate merit badges for those requirements which physical or mental disability prevents him from doing.
5. The district or council committee then reviews the proposed alternate merit badges. (If approved by the district, its recommendations would be forwarded to the council committee for final approval.)
6. After council approval, the candidate starts to qualify.
7. Upon completion of the Eagle Scout rank requirements, using the alternate merit badges, the candidate appears before the board of review. This application is attached to the Eagle Scout Award application.
8. Following a successful board of review the council processes both applications and forwards them to the National Eagle Scout Service. The local council action on the use of alternate merit badges for the Eagle Scout Award does not require National Council approval.

*In order for an Explorer to be an Eagle Scout candidate, he must have achieved First Class rank as a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



GUIDELINES FOR ADVANCEMENT TO EAGLE SCOUT RANK FOR PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED SCOUTS



1. The Eagle Scout Award may be achieved by a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or qualified* Explorer (candidate) who has a physical or mental disability by qualifying for alternate merit badges. This does not apply to individual requirements for merit badges. Merit badges are awarded only when all requirements are met as stated.
2. The physical or mental disability must be of a permanent rather than a temporary nature.
3. A clear and concise medical statement must be made by a physician, licensed to practice medicine, concerning the Scout's disability.
4. The candidate must earn as many of the required merit badges as his ability permits before applying for an alternate merit badge.
5. The candidate must complete as many of the requirements of the required merit badges as his ability permits.
6. This form, Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Award Merit Badges, must be completed prior to the candidate's qualifying for alternate merit badges.
7. The alternate merit badges chosen must be of such a nature that they are as demanding of effort as the required merit badges.
8. When alternates chosen involve physical activity, they must be approved by the physician.
9. The unit leader and the board of review must explain that to attain the Eagle Scout Award a candidate is expected to do his best in developing himself to the limit of his resources.
10. This application must be approved by the council committee responsible for advancement, utilizing the expertise of professional persons, involved in Scouting for the handicapped.
11. The candidate's application for Eagle Scout must be made on the Eagle Scout Award Application, No. 58-728, with this form and the Eagle service project attached when submitted to the council for his Eagle Scout board of review.

The Purpose of the Eagle Scout Award

A recipient of the Eagle Scout Award is a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or qualified* Explorer who applies the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life. He has achieved the qualities listed below because of determination and persistence through the advancement program.

- Concern for others
- Ability to help others through skills he has learned
- Ability to live and work cooperatively with others by meeting his responsibility to his patrol and troop
- Concern for self by improving his physical fitness to the limits of his physical resources
- Capacity for leadership

*In order for an Explorer to be an Eagle Scout candidate, he must have achieved First Class rank as a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout.

District Certificate

We have reviewed the situation regarding _____

Name of candidate

and in review of the medical statement, and his excellent record in Scouting, we feel he could follow the alternate Eagle Scout Award merit badge method of achieving the Eagle Scout Award. We recommend to the council advancement committee that the merit badge or badges on the preceding page be assigned to him as alternates.

Date _____

Signed _____
District representative

Signed _____
District

Council Committee Action

The recommendations of the _____ District
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COMMUNICATIONS

Electronics
Journalism
Photography
Graphic Arts
Public Speaking
Radio
Signaling

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OR LIFESAVING

Firemanship
Motorboating
Public Health
Radio
Rowing
Signaling
Traffic Safety

PERSONAL FITNESS, SWIMMING OR SPORTS

Archery
Canoeing
Cycling
Golf
Hiking
Horsemanship
Orienteering
Pioneering
Rowing
Skating
Skiing
Water Skiing

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Fish and Wildlife Management
Geology
Nature
Soil and Water Conservation
Weather

PERSONAL MANAGEMENT

Consumer Buying
Agribusiness

SAFETY

Firemanship
Public Health
Traffic Safety

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