

APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATIVE EAGLE SCOUT RANK MERIT BADGES

A youth in Scouts BSA or qualified Venturer or Sea Scout who has a physical or mental disability may achieve the Eagle Scout rank by qualifying for alternative merit badges. This does not apply to individual requirements for merit badges. Merit badges are awarded only when all requirements are met as stated. See the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 10.2.2.3, for details.

The physical or mental disability must be of a permanent rather than of a temporary nature (or a disability expected to last more than two years or beyond the 18th birthday). This request must include a written statement from a qualified health-care professional related to the nature of the disability. This person may be a physician, neurologist, psychiatrist, psychologist, etc., or an educational administrator as appropriate.

Before applying, a Scout must earn as many of the Eagle-required merit badges as possible. However, if a permanent disability clearly precludes completing specific merit badges, a Scout who has earned at least First Class may apply for an alternative merit badge without waiting until all other Eagle-required merit badges are complete. Any alternatives must present the same challenge and learning level as those they replace. Unless the Scout has been approved for registration beyond the age of eligibility, all merit badges must be completed by the 18th birthday (reference *Guide to Advancement*, topic 10.1.0.1–10.1.0.2).

1. Obtain a clear and concise statement related to the nature of the disability from a qualified health-care professional.
2. The unit leader meets with the candidate and the candidate's parent or guardian to determine the alternative merit badges to replace those the candidate is unable to complete.
3. The unit leader, parent or guardian, and the Scout (if possible) prepare supporting letters to accompany the application.
4. The district and council advancement committees, in turn, review the proposed alternative merit badges. They may choose to speak with the Scout, the Scout's parent or guardian, or the unit leader. If the council advancement committee approves, then the candidate may start work on the merit badges.

Note: In approving the application, the district and council advancement committees must utilize the expertise of a health-care professional involved with youth who have disabilities.

5. Upon completion of the Eagle Scout rank requirements, using the alternative merit badges, the candidate appears before a board of review. This approved application must be attached to the Eagle Scout Rank Application.
6. Following a successful board of review, the council processes both applications and forwards them to the National Advancement Program Team. Local council action on alternative merit badges does not require national approval.

The Purpose of the Eagle Scout Award

Recipients of the Eagle Scout Award are youth in Scouts BSA, or qualified Venturers or Sea Scouts, who apply the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in daily life. They have achieved the qualities below with determination and persistence.

- Capacity for leadership and a concern for others
- Ability to help others through skills they have learned
- Ability to live and work cooperatively with others by meeting their responsibilities to the unit
- Concern for self by improving their physical fitness to the limits of their resources

Possible alternatives for required merit badges*

CAMPING	COMMUNICATIONS	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OR LIFESAVING	ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE OR SUSTAINABILITY	PERSONAL FITNESS	SWIMMING, HIKING, OR CYCLING
Backpacking	Digital Technology	Fire Safety	Energy	Archery	Archery
Canoeing	Electronics	Motorboating	Fish and Wildlife Management	Athletics	Athletics
Kayaking	Graphic Arts	Public Health	Forestry	Backpacking	Canoeing
Pioneering	Journalism	Radio	Nature	Canoeing	Kayaking
Rowing	Moviemaking	Rowing	Oceanography	Climbing	Motorboating
Search and Rescue	Photography	Safety	Soil and Water Conservation	Golf	Rowing
Wilderness Survival	Programming	Traffic Safety	Weather	Horsemanship	Small-Boat Sailing
	Public Speaking	Wilderness Survival		Rowing	Snow Sports
	Radio			Skating	
	Salesmanship			Water Sports	
	Signs, Signals, and Codes				

*These possible alternatives are merely suggestions that *could* provide **similar learning experiences**. *The list is not considered all-inclusive*. It is important for unit leaders to use reasonable accommodation and common sense in the application of the alternative merit badge program.

APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATIVE EAGLE SCOUT RANK MERIT BADGES

To: The District Advancement Committee

_____ District _____ Council

We are submitting this application on behalf of _____ of Unit No. _____ ,
Name of candidate

chartered to _____ and located in _____
Community State

Because of the disability (see the statement below from a qualified health-care professional), we believe that the candidate is physically or mentally unable to complete the requirements for the following merit badge or badges required for the Eagle Scout rank:

Following a personal conference with the candidate and the candidate's parent or guardian, we recommend the following alternative merit badge or badges be approved. **These must not be merit badges previously earned (Guide to Advancement 10.2.2.3).** Please see the attached documentation supporting this recommendation.

Signed _____ Date _____ Signed _____ Date _____
Unit leader Unit committee chair

Parent or Guardian Statement

In view of the medical or administrative statement attached, and following a conference with our unit leader, I approve the alternative Eagle Scout rank merit badges. My/our letter supporting this recommendation is attached, and also one from our Scout (if possible).

An Individualized Education Plan or other documentation is attached (optional).

Signed _____ Date _____
Parent or guardian

Statement From a Qualified Health-Care Professional

As a result of a thorough examination or testing of the above-named Eagle Scout candidate on _____ ,
Date

I have attached a statement describing the disability, the Scout's capabilities, limitations, and prognosis, and outlined why the merit badges to be replaced cannot be completed.

Signed _____ Date _____ Title/credentials _____

District Certification

We have reviewed this application for the above-named Eagle Scout candidate, and in review of the medical or administrative statement, we believe the Scout should follow the alternative Eagle Scout rank merit badge method. We recommend to the council advancement committee that the merit badge or badges indicated above be approved as alternatives.

Date _____

Signed _____
District advancement committee chair or designee

Signed _____
District executive

Council Committee Action*

We have reviewed the district's recommendations and provide our approval.

Date _____

Signed _____
Council advancement committee chair or designee

Signed _____
Scout executive

*The local council action on the alternative merit badge(s) for the Eagle Scout rank does not require National Council approval.

