

# **EAGLE SCOUT BOARD OF REVIEW**



## **STUDY GUIDE**

## EAGLE BOARD QUESTIONS - STUDY GUIDE

These questions were compiled over the years by Craig McConnell, former Cubmaster of Pack 30 in Butler, Pennsylvania, Glacier Ridge District, Moraine Trails Council. He is now the Scoutmaster of Troop 9 in Brush Valley, Pennsylvania, Chestnut Ridge District, Laurel Highlands Council. Craig is the proud father of an Eagle Scout and a Life Scout.

*"I have had the pleasure of sitting on Eagle Board of Reviews for the past several years. It has been an eye opening experience, and an honor. I have met some amazing scouts. Most of the scouts have been well prepared. However, not all pass the review the first time through it. I believe it is not because they did not know scouting, I believe it was because they did not prepare or they did not communicate well."*

*"These are actual questions that I have experienced while sitting on actual Eagle Board Reviews. Since I still consider us to be a young troop, I have kept a list to better prepare you for what you may encounter. I did not do this to give you the answers, as there can be as many answers as there are Eagle Scouts, but I have included some typical answers we may be looking for. The Eagle Board of Review is for you to convey to the Board that you have experienced scouts, had fun, and learned some life skills along the way."*

Additional submissions by:

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Mother of two Eagle Scouts and one Star Scout

### UNIFORM

1. Be neat and clean in your appearance.
2. Be in full class "A" uniform. Make sure it is CLEAN!! Do not wear muddy hiking boots!!
3. Make sure all insignia is in the correct place. Know the significance of each patch.
4. Wear your merit badge sash even if you have not received all 21 of the merit badge patches. Do not place the folded merit badge sash over the belt.
5. Do not wear your OA sash; it is to be only worn at OA functions and special scouting activities when OA members need to be identified as Arrowmen rendering special services. Some councils will allow the OA sash to be folded over the belt.
6. Wear a temporary patch centered on the right pocket. Only one patch may be worn at a time. Only a world or national jamboree patch is worn above the right pocket.
7. Make sure you have your current membership card, you will be asked to show it.

## IN GENERAL

1. You will need someone to introduce you to the Board. You should ask your Scoutmaster to accompany you. If he is unable to attend, a parent may introduce you.
2. You should ask your parents to accompany you. You can ask grandparents, members of your troop, friends to attend if you wish.
3. Bring a camera for photos afterwards.
4. Remember to bring: Scout handbook, project workbook, before and after photos of your project, anything else pertaining to your project.
5. Bring your "blue" merit badge cards.
6. Be present at the time requested . . . actually be 15 minutes early!
7. It's best to leave your cell phone in your car. If it is in your pocket, make sure it is turned off.
8. Be sure you know your Joining/Tenderfoot material.
9. You should know the Scout Oath and Scout Law FLAWLESSLY!
10. When you salute, make sure that the arm is straight out to the side, shoulder height, bent elbow and arm straight up! (maybe not the best description, but you know exactly what I mean)
11. Stand and salute when saying the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
12. NO CHEWING GUM!
13. DO NOT take a seat until you are directed to.
14. DO NOT shake hands until one of the board members make the move towards a hand shake.
15. Answer questions with at least a minimum of a full sentence, 2 or 3 sentences would be best. It's best to elaborate on a subject, especially if you know it well.
16. Sit straight up in the chair.
17. Make eye contact when speaking to the board.
18. Speak with confidence. DON'T mumble!
19. DON'T laugh or giggle after you give answers or during answers.
20. BE HONEST. If you don't know the answer, say so. Don't try to act like you know something and give a false answer. (HINT: The board will know if you are not being truthful. Also, everyone cannot know everything.)
21. If you do OR do not pass the board of review, please be respectful of others. Not all scouts pass the first time.
22. Most importantly . . . BE PREPARED . . . . RELAX!!!

The board will consist of 3-6 adults. At least one will be from the district advancement committee. They will ask about your entire scout career. A typical board will last about 45-60 minutes. At the end of the questioning, you will be asked to step out while the board deliberates about your qualifications. This typically takes 10-15 minutes. You will then be asked to return. The board will tell you if you passed or not. If you did not pass, they will explain to you why, and what you can do to correct any unresolved issues. Typically, between 75% to 80% of candidates pass the first time. Remember . . . BE PREPARED!

### **RELATING TO THE EAGLE PROJECT:**

1. What did you learn most from your project? (**HINT:** *In what way did you learn leadership skills?*)
2. How did you come up with your idea for the project?
3. Is there anything that you would do differently concerning your project?
4. Did you have any problems during your project?
5. How did you handle any personnel issues, like other scouts behaving wrongly?
6. If asked by a Life Scout on tips about how to handle the Eagle project process, what advice would you give him? (*Don't get frustrated with all the paperwork. Be organized. Write down all the names of the people you meet and especially the names of the managers of the businesses that you ask for donations. Take lots of before and after photos. Keep a journal of everything you do on your project.*)
7. What was the most difficult part of your project?
8. How were the adult leaders/volunteers towards your project? Were they helpful? Did they cooperate with the way that you wanted to do a particular task? (*They never told me how to do it, only gave their input and gave suggestions.*)
9. How did you feel once your project was complete?
10. What was the project?
11. How did the project benefit others?
12. Who from the group benefiting from the project gave guidance?
13. Did you direct the project or did you do all of the work yourself?
14. Was the project of real value to the beneficiary?
15. Did you demonstrate leadership?
16. Who from the group benefiting from the project may be contacted to verify the value of the project?
17. Did the project follow the approved plan or were modifications needed to bring it to its completion?

**RELATING TO BECOMING AN EAGLE SCOUT:**

1. What will you do as an Eagle Scout to give back to Scouting?
2. What do you believe our society expects from an Eagle Scout?
3. Of all the patches on your uniform, which one means the most or which one of them are you proudest to wear?
4. If you could do it all over again, would you, and why?
5. What lessons did you learn from the Eagle process and how do you think those lessons will help you in your future endeavors? In other words, what will you take away from this experience?
6. How would you describe the effort you have put into your Scouting career? (*Expected response: I did my best.*)
7. What advice would you give to a new Scout?
8. You are about to breathe your last breath. What is the one Scouting memory (*beginning with Cub Scouts and going all the way through*) that is going to put a smile on your face?
9. How do you balance accomplishments you are so proud of such as your Eagle with the peer perception that Scouting is uncool?
10. What is the most pressing issue today? Why?
11. What point of the Scout Law do you think is the hardest for the youth of today to follow? Why?
12. Please stand up, give me the 12 points of the Scout Law, and tell me what each one means to you.
13. Tell me which is more important: earning and rank of Eagle or wearing it?
14. Why should we make you an Eagle Scout tonight? In other words, how have you demonstrated the characteristics of an Eagle Scout and what is our assurance that you will continue to use them throughout your life?
15. If you could talk to anyone throughout history, who would it be and what would you talk about?
16. If you could change one requirement for Eagle, what would it be?

17. If you could add one point to the Scout Law, what would it be and why? If you could remove one point from the Scout Law, what would it be and why?
18. What is something you found in Scouting that you can improve upon?
19. What is the moment you knew you wanted to earn Eagle?
20. Currently, there are 21 merit badges required for Eagle. As of January 1, 2014, Cooking will be a required merit badge, so the new total will be 22. If you had to add one more to the required list, which one would it be, and why?
21. Of the 12 points of the Scout Law, which one best describes you and why? Which one least describes you and why?
22. What Good Turn did you do today?
23. What is the difference between "getting eagle" and "being eagle"?
24. Do you deserve to be an Eagle Scout? (*Correct answer: No one deserves to be an Eagle Scout, you must EARN it.*)
25. Ask what honor means to them.

**RELATING TO MERIT BADGES:**

*(HINT: Be able to name each one you have on your sash. A board member may point to one and ask what it is. They may know what it is or they may not.)*

1. How many merit badges have you earned?
2. What was your favorite? Why?
3. What was the hardest for you to earn? Why?
4. What was your least favorite? Why?
5. Was there any merit badges that you earned that taught you something that surprised you like something that you would have never thought was connected to that certain topic?
6. What merit badge taught you the most? Why?

7. Which merit badge do you think you will use the information learned the most?
8. What did you have to do to complete the \_\_\_\_\_ merit badge? **(HINT: You better have an idea of what you did for each one you earned. They usually don't pick an Eagle required one for this question.)**
9. Was there a merit badge that you earned that made you want to learn more about a subject or even made you think of pursuing a career/hobby in that subject?

**RELATING TO SCOUT UNIFORM:**

**(HINT: Be in FULL UNIFORM! That means Class A, including shirt, pants, sash, belt with buckle, neckerchief, and socks. If you wear a hat, remove it as you enter the room. Remember to take your scout handbook and membership card.)**

1. Please describe all of the insignia (patches) that is on the uniform. **(HINT: know the symbolism of your Council's Shoulder patch, be able to describe the different parts of the Life rank badge, world crest symbol, US Flag, troop numbers, patrol patch, merit badges (just state general, you don't have to name them all), leadership position patch (you must be holding a leadership position when you are going for your eagle) temporary insignia (best to wear one, and know how you earned it, arrow of light award (if you earned it) and any religious emblems/knots you have earned.)**
2. Are you proud to wear the uniform? Why? **(HINT: You better answer YES to this and have a good explanation.)** (Expected answer: YES, I am proud to wear the scout uniform. It shows that you care about the community and environment. It shows leadership skills, most scouts are leaders and hopefully will be leaders in the community. When I wear it in public, people I don't even know will come up to you and ask what rank you are or how many badges have you earned, they are curious and will ask about scouting.)
3. When was the last time you wore your uniform in public?

**RELATING TO YOUR SCOUT HISTORY:**

1. Tell us your background in scouts. (**HINT:** *Start from the day you started in scouts. If it was cub scouts, state your age and grade and continue to the present day.*)
2. Why did you join scouts?
3. What was your most memorable BOYSCOUT event? Why?
4. What was your least favorite BOYSCOUT event? Why? (Expected answer: *I have never had a bad experience in scouting. Maybe a little rain here and there.*)
5. Have you gone on any high adventure trips?
6. What leadership positions have you held in your Troop?
7. What has scouting done for you?
8. What have you learned from scouting? Do your friends know you are in scouts? Do they support your efforts? Do the other students in your school make fun of you being a scout or scouts in general?
9. Is there someone that is not involved in scouts with you that you wish they were?
10. In scouts, who has had the most impact on you? (**HINT:** *another scout, a leader, an Eagle Scout, etc.*)
11. Have you gone to a scout camp? Have you been to a different scout camp other than those within our Council? What was the best thing about camp? (**HINT:** *Time well spent being with your friends/fellow scouts or meeting new scouts from other troops.*) What was the thing you did not like about camp?
12. Have you attended a National Scout Jamboree?
13. What are some of the service projects that you have been involved with?
14. What is your current patrol name? Patrol yell?
15. What is your best Scout Skill?
16. Who is someone that you respect most throughout your scouting experience? Why?
17. What was the hardest thing for you to accomplish in the scouting program?
18. What does Scouting mean to you?

### RELATING TO YOUR FAMILY:

1. Tell me about your family. Tell them about your parents (and grandparents) what type of work they do. Tell them about your siblings, how old they are, what you do together, etc. Tell them about the relative that has had the most impact on you or the relative you feel closest to.
2. How do your parents support you in regards to scouting?
3. Is anyone in your family an Eagle Scout?

### RELATING TO YOU CURRENTLY:

1. Tell us about yourself. Tell them what makes you tick. What are you involved with in school, church, etc. Tell them your hobbies. Tell them if you are in any sports. Tell them if you work somewhere. Tell them about your favorite school subjects.
2. Why did you become a scout?
3. How has scouts helped you?
4. What has driven you to achieve Eagle Scout rank? (**HINT: DO NOT ANSWER BECAUSE MY MOM/DAD WANTED ME TO!!**)
5. What does **BEING** an Eagle Scout mean to you?
6. Do you know any Eagle Scouts? (**HINT: There are two levels they may be asking here, one may be if you know of an Eagle Scout personally, or if you may know of someone famous that is an Eagle Scout.**) This question is usually followed by, How has being an Eagle Scout helped them?
7. What happens if we deny you the Eagle Scout rank at this time? (**HINT: Answer that you would have some disappointment, that you felt you were prepared, and HOW you would continue working towards achieving the Eagle rank.**) (Expected answer: *Of course I would be disappointed in myself. I felt I was prepared for the Board of Review. I would return home and study my Boy Scout Handbook thoroughly as well as any other subjects that were brought up tonight.*)
8. If awarded the Eagle Scout rank tonight, who will you want to tell most? Why?
9. Have you even been in trouble at school or in public?

### **RELATING TO YOUR FUTURE:**

*(HINT: The better thought out the answer you have for this question, the easier it seems the questions become because the reviewers show more interest in you than they do towards wanting to ask questions regarding scouts in general.)*

1. What do you think you will be doing as a career? Why?
2. Are you planning on attending college, attending trade school, going to the military? Where? Why? What are you going to major in?
3. Where do you want to be in ten years?
4. What do you want to be doing in ten years? (HINT: Responsibility and Leadership) Will you continue to be a part of scouting? How? (HINT: YES!! and give a good answer.)
5. If you are a younger scout and still have time before you are 18, there is a VERY good chance that you will be asked in what way will you continue to serve your troop? (HINT: You better have a good honest answer for this question.)

### **RELATING TO SCOUTS IN GENERAL:**

*(HINT: Most of the answers to the questions below come from The Boy Scout Handbook, have you read yours? Usually a board member will ask particular questions from a single part of the book, but remember you will have three board members reviewing your status.)*

1. What knot would you use for \_\_\_\_\_ and why? (HINT: Know your basic knots from your book and what they are best used for.)
2. Can you tell us the Scout Law? (HINT: Remember to use the Scout Sign where appropriate in questions 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.)  
*A scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.*
3. Can you tell us the Scout Oath?  
*On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.*
4. Can you tell us the Scout Motto?  
*Be prepared.*

5. What is a scout suppose to do daily? What did you do today? (**HINT:** *You better have one and not have to think very long for the answer.*) *Do a good turn daily. Take the garbage out, feed the dog, etc.*
6. Can you tell us the Scout Slogan?  
*Do a Good Turn Daily*
7. Can you tell us the Scout Outdoor Code?  
*As an American, I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation-minded.*
8. Describe the SCOUT Badge.
9. What do the first three words of the Scout Oath mean to you? (On my honor)
10. If you had to choose one of the points of the Scout Law to describe you, which one is it? Why?
11. Describe to me someone who is Courteous? Friendly? Brave? (**HINT:** *This could include any of the 12 points of the Law, these have been the ones that I have heard be asked.*)
12. What are the different ranks of boy scouting? (**HINT:** *Start off with Scout.*)  
*Scout, Tenderfoot Scout, Second Class Scout, First Class Scout, Star Scout, Life Scout and Eagle Scout*
13. You are currently an American, what allows you to be who you are? (**HINT:** *the US Constitution. Know this article, what is in each general section of it; the Pre-Amble, the Constitution and Amendments, including the Bill of Rights. Review the section in your handbook concerning Citizenship. Questions may be worded differently, but relate to the subjects contained within the section. This is especially true if you get one of the reviewers, he asks MANY, MANY questions from here.*)
14. What are two things should you do once you turn 18 years of age?  
*Register to vote. Serve on a jury. Get a valid ID or license. Open a bank account. Get a job. Go to college. Pay taxes. Enlist in the military without parental consent.*
15. What is the best way to know any scouting information? (**HINT:** *Teach it to other scouts.*)
16. What have you taught others?
17. What does having initiative mean to you?

18. What does self-reliance mean to you?
19. What does good judgment mean to you?
20. Have you ever witnessed someone using poor judgment, whether it was in scouts or not? Did you try to persuade them otherwise? If so, how?
21. What does getting along with others mean to you?
22. Can you demonstrate the Scout Sign?
23. Can you demonstrate the Scout Handshake?
24. Can you demonstrate the Scout Salute?
25. What are the different parts of the US Flag?
26. When should the US Flag be flown at half-mast? death of a government leader???
27. Where is the US Flag to be placed on a stage? *(To the right of the speaker).*
28. What is the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance?
29. What is Leave No Trace?
30. How important is First Aid? Have you ever had to use any of the First Aid procedures learned through scouting? Do you feel confident in performing First-Aid as learned through scouting? *(HINT: Be careful here, I feel a blister coming on . . . what would you do for a blister? Sometimes First-Aid is very basic!)*
31. For those of you that were in cub scouts before you became a boy scout, a question that you may get asked is: What would you tell a Webelo Scout who is unsure of bridging to boy scouts? *(Expected answer: Come to the meetings. You will see boy scout is very different from cub scouts. The boys run the meetings. Boy scouts get to go camping alot and do a lot of fun things.)*
32. If a friend asks what you do in scouts, what would you tell him? *(Expected answer: Scouts learn how to do knots, go camping, do community service, and have fun!)*
33. What are the 3 words on the back of the Scout handbook? *(This question will let the board know if the scout actually looked at his handbook!)*
34. *(The board hands you a map)* Can you show me on the map exactly where we are at?