



Eagle Scout Rank Extensions due to COVID-19

In light of the closures, cancellations, or other issues caused by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) questions have arisen, especially from Life Scouts, parents and leaders about how this will impact the opportunity to earn the Eagle Scout Rank.

We cannot diminish or alter in any way the [Eagle Scout Rank Requirements](#) spelled out in the current Scouts BSA Handbook. The Guide to Advancement (GTA) does include policies where through no fault of their own the Life Scout is not able to actively participate in the Troop meet all the requirements by their 18th birthday.

To help our Life Scouts answer many of their questions, we provide the following information from the GTA. Additionally the [FAQs](#) provides guidelines to allow Scouts BSA advancement to continue during the COVID-19 restriction. Some relate specifically to the Eagle Scout Service Project and Eagle Scout Boards of Review. At the end there is the Extension Request Form for those who need it.

[Guide to Advancement 2019](#)

Active Participation

[GTA 4.2.3.1](#): “if a unit takes time off it must count that time toward the Scout’s active participation requirement.” So, time missed due to canceled unit meetings still counts toward active participation.

Position of Responsibility

[GTA 4.2.3.4.3](#): While meeting a unit’s expectations, “if a unit takes time off, such as during the summer months, it must count that time toward service in a position of responsibility.” Therefore, if youth are unable to meet the expectations of their positions because of COVID-19 disruptions, then units may need to waive or rethink the expectations.

Time Extensions beyond the 18th birthday

[GTA 9.0.4.0](#): “A [Life] Scout who foresees that, due to no fault or choice of their own, it will not be possible to complete the Eagle Scout rank requirements before age 18, may apply for a limited time extension.”

If a Scout has previously received an extension, they may apply for additional time due to these unusual circumstances.

NOTE: The BSA has delegated GGAC the authority to approve these requests through December 31, 2020 to expedite the processing. To request an extension where COVID-19 disruptions were the only circumstances causing requiring the extension, complete the [Request for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank](#) [This form may also be used for Summit and Quartermaster Award extensions extension beyond the Scout’s 21st birthday.]

When a time extension is requested, the Scout should continue working on the

requirements as they are able—e.g., independently, or over the phone or videoconference—and at Scouting activities once they resume, while processing occurs

Eagle Scout Boards of Review Through Videoconferencing (VC)

[GTA 8.0.1.6](#): “1. The local council must grant permission to hold a videoconference board of review for the Eagle Scout rank.”

For VCing an Eagle Board, an Eagle Scout candidate needs NCAC approval – an e-mail is preferred to the NCAC Advancement & Recognition Chair, but a call would also suffice. Please provide the Scouts name, BSA ID#, unit, and district in the request. (see the Guidance document linked above)

The intent for VC is when a Scout is remote or a delay could be several months AND the Scout has exhausted the allowable time to have the board of review in person (6 months after 18th birthday with council approval).

Electronic or digital signatures on the Eagle Scout Rank Application

The BSA has authorized electronic or digital signatures be accepted through December 31, 2020.

For questions about the Eagle Scout Rank, or other advancement questions, please contact your District Advancement Recognition Chair.