

Alternate Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

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Sequoyah Council (# 713)

Boy Scouts of America

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Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science

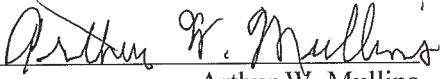
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Ridgecrest, North Carolina


Arthur W. Mullins, Advisor

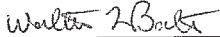
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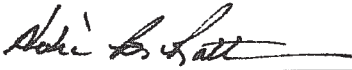
I am submitting herewith a Dissertation written by Glenn M. Blackard, entitled "Alternate Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities". I have examined the final copy of this report for format and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Commissioner Science.

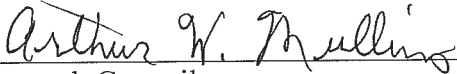

Arthur W. Mullins

We have read this Dissertation
And recommend its acceptance:

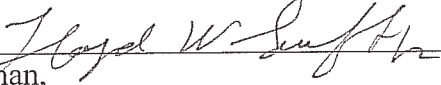

Blue Ridge Council


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ABSTRACT

This dissertation is written as an informational and resource guide to enhance the Scoutmaster's understanding of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) requirements for alternate advancement of Boy Scouts with mental and physical disabilities up to the rank of Eagle.

This dissertation does not cover the volumes of materials that are in print about working with or providing a Scouting program for youth with a specific type of disability. An additional resource is included in Chapter 4 of this dissertation which identifies reference documents to be used by the Scoutmaster or Scout Leader on how to provide the Scouting program to youth with various types of disabilities.

Early in my career as a Scout Leader, I had a boy join my troop who had severe mental and physical disabilities due to Down syndrome. I had difficulties in finding information on how to advance him in rank, what approvals were needed, what documentation was required, and what were acceptable alternate requirements? This guide will endeavor to answer those questions.

Thomas is a Scout with Down syndrome. Due to his birth condition, he struggles with everyday life tasks that we all take for granted. He is near sighted, mentally, and speech impaired and cannot master basic scout skills above Second Class. However, by his actions, Thomas exhibits courage and fortitude above and beyond most able bodied Scouts. This dissertation is dedicated to Thomas whom I hope will be given the opportunity to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout in spite of his mental and physical limitations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere appreciation and thanks goes to Maxine and Arthur Mullins for their friendship, guidance, and support as I worked to complete this dissertation and also to the Review Board for giving of their valuable time and talents in making the Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science a worthwhile and meaningful product.

I want to especially acknowledge my life partner and bride, Karen Blackard for her unwavering support in my commitment to the scouting program. The lawn is not mowed; home projects are unfinished; and vacation time is committed to some sort of scouting event - thank you for all you do in helping me provide the "Promise of Scouting" to the youth in my Troop, District, and Council.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. REQUIREMENTS FOR ALTERNATE ADVANCEMENT	4
Alternate Program for Tenderfoot to First Class	4
Alternate Program for Eagle Scout	6
III. ALTERNATE ADVANCEMENTS	9
Alternate Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class Ranks	11
Alternate Star, Life, and Eagle Ranks	11
IV. ADDITIONAL RESOURCE	13
V. SUMMARY	15
REFERENCES	17
APPENDIX - FORMS	18
Form A: Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges.	18
Form B: Sample Application for Approval of Modification of Requirements	24
Form C: Individual Scout Advancement Plan	27

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The principal purpose of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program is to instill in young men the qualities of Scouting by encouraging them to do their best within their abilities and to apply the principles of the Scout Oath and Law in their daily life. These qualities are achieved in part due to the determination and persistence developed through the scouting rank advancement program (The Boy Scout Handbook, No. 33105).

Since the beginnings of the Scouting program in the United States in 1910, Scouts with disabilities have been participating in an inclusive Scouting program, directed toward keeping such boys in the mainstream of Scouting. Special needs of those with severe disabilities were recognized in 1972 and an improved Scouting program went into effect which allowed a more flexible advancement program. Then in 1979, the National Executive Board approved the substitution of merit badges for the Eagle Scout rank. Alternate advancement programs were developed and approved by BSA for those young men who are not able, because of a mental or physical disability, to complete the scouting advancement steps for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks beginning in 1995. Alternate advancement programs are now available for

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

Tenderfoot all the way up to the rank of Eagle Scout (Alternate Tenderfoot, Second Class, & First Class Ranks, No. 33215).

As a Scoutmaster with a boy with a severe disability, information and assistance for the alternate advancement program was not readily available, I discovered upon contacting the local council for information, that in the last five years not a single alternate advancement application had been processed, I became determined to document a step by step guide for the advancement of Scouts with disabilities.

So what is considered a disability? The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) considers an individual to have a 'disability' if s/he:

- has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities – seeing, hearing, speaking, walking, breathing, performing manual tasks, learning, caring for oneself, and working,
- has a record of such an impairment, or
- is regarded as having such impairment (The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)).

The BSA policy is to treat Scouts with disabilities as much like other Scouts as possible. Scouts with disabilities participate in the same program as their peers. This policy is designed to keep Scouts with disabilities as much in the mainstream as possible. Scout Leaders are to use an adaptive / substitution approach to advancement for Scouts with a disability, provided that pre-

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

approval is received from the Council Advancement Committee and the disability is verified by a physician (Advancement Committee Policies and Procedure Manual, No. 33088).

Today, approximately 100,000 Scouts with disabilities are registered with the BSA in more than 4,000 units (Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual, No. 34059). These Scouts deserve a program that instills in them the qualities of Scouting by encouraging them to do their best within their abilities.

CHAPTER 2

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALTERNATE ADVANCEMENT

The BSA's policy has always been to treat Boy Scouts with disabilities and special needs as much like other Scouts as possible. A local council may make some reasonable accommodations in the performance of requirements for Scouts with special needs if the Scouts' disability hinders him in completing a particular requirement or merit badge; he may apply for alternate requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class ranks, or for an alternate merit badge for Star, Life, or Eagle rank (Advancement Committee Policies and Procedure Manual, No. 33088).

Alternate Program for Tenderfoot to First Class Ranks

For those young men unable because of a physical or mental disability such that they cannot complete the requirements for Tenderfoot up to First-Class there is an alternate way for them to achieve rank requirements. These are the required steps:

1. The physical or mental disability must be of a permanent rather than a temporary nature.
2. A clear and concise medical statement concerning the Scout's disabilities must be submitted by a physician licensed to practice medicine. As an alternative, an evaluation statement certified by an educational administrator may be submitted. The medical statement must state the doctor's opinion that the Scout cannot complete the requirement(s) because of a permanent disability.

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

3. The Scout, his parents, or leaders must submit to the council advancement committee a written request that the Scout be allowed to complete alternate requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class rank. The request must explain the suggested alternate requirements in sufficient detail so as to allow the advancement committee to make a decision. The request must also include the medical statement required in paragraph two above. The written request for alternate requirements must be submitted to and approved by the local council prior to completing alternate requirements (Appendix Forms B and C).
4. The Scout must complete as many of the regular requirements as his ability permits before applying for alternate requirements.
5. The alternate requirements must be of such a nature that they are as demanding of effort as the regular requirements.
6. When alternate requirements involve physical activity, they must be approved by a physician.
7. The unit leader and any board of review must explain that to attain Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class rank a candidate is expected to do his best in developing himself to the limit of his resources.
8. The written request must be approved by the council advancement committee, utilizing the expertise of professional persons involved in Scouting for disabled youth. The decision of the council advancement committee should be recorded and delivered to the Scout and his leader.

9. There is also an appeal process for situations where the advancement committee turned down the request (Alternate Tenderfoot, Second Class, & First Class Ranks, No. 33215).

Alternate Program for Star, Life, and Eagle Ranks

The Eagle Scout Award is presented to a Scout 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 Scout advancement program (Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 58-730):

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

All current requirements for an advancement award (ranks, merit badges, or Eagle Palms) must be met by the Scout. There are no substitutions or alternatives permitted except those which are specifically stated in the requirements as set forth in the current official literature of the Boy Scouts of America (Advancement Committee Policies and Procedure Manual, No. 33088).

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

No council, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or to subtract from, any advancement requirements. The Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated. The advancement policies related to certification for all Boy Scout advancement are appropriate for Scouts with disabilities as well.

In the application of these policies for Scouts with special needs, reasonable accommodation in the performance of requirements for advancement may be made. These may include such things as the extension of time, adaptation of facilities, use of equipment, or necessary devices consistent with the known physical or mental limitations of the Scout. It is urged that common sense be employed.

If a Scout's disability hinders him in completing a particular requirement or merit badge, he may wish to apply for alternate requirements. The application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 58-730 (Appendix Form A), includes the necessary information to properly apply for alternate merit badges on the route to Eagle Scout. These are the steps to follow from the initiation of the application to the awarding of the Eagle Scout Rank (Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 58-730):

1. The Eagle Scout rank may be achieved by a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or qualified Venturer 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.

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

3. A clear and concise medical statement concerning the Scout's disabilities must be submitted by a physician licensed to practice medicine, or an evaluation statement must be certified by an educational administrator.
4. The candidate must earn as many of the required merit badges as his ability permits before applying for an alternate Eagle Scout required merit badge.
5. The Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Merit Badges (Appendix – Form A) must be completed prior to qualifying for alternate merit badges.
6. The alternate merit badges chosen must be of such a nature that they are as demanding of effort as the required merit badges.
7. When alternates chosen involve physical activity, they must be approved by the physician.
8. The unit leader and the board of review must explain that to attain Star, Life, or Eagle Scout rank a candidate is expected to do his best in developing himself to the limit of his resources.
9. The application must be approved by the council committee responsible for advancement, utilizing the expertise of professional persons involved in Scouting for the disabled.
10. The candidate's application for Eagle must be made on the Eagle Scout Rank Application, along with the Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Award Merit Badges.

CHAPTER 3

ALTERNATE ADVANCEMENTS

The rule of thumb for Alternate Advancement is to treat Scouts with disabilities as much like other Scouts as possible. Scout Leaders are asked to use an adaptive / substitution approach to alternate rank advancement. As varied in form are physical and mental disabilities, the adaptive / substitution of alternate rank advancements should also be as varied in implementation (Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual, No. 34059).

It is obvious that a Scout who uses a wheelchair has accommodation needs that are different than a Scout with a dyslexia learning disability. Scout leaders should seek to recognize and understand the Scouts disability by asking for advice first from the Scout's parents on how best to work with the Scout and his required adaptive accommodations (find out his abilities as well as his limitations). With the parents' permission, the Scout Leader may also seek help from the youth's teacher, doctor, or other special education professional for assistance. Each Scout is different, so no single plan will work for every Scout. The Scout Leader's goal should be to work to adapt the ordinary scouting program so that the disabled Scout is treated no differently than the other Scouts in the troop. Youth with disabilities are more like other youth than they are different. Their successes result from hard work, and they should be provided the opportunity to build self-confidence and self-improvement (Guide to Working with Boys Scouts with DisABILITIES, No. 33056C).

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

The following high level approaches are identified as possible adaptation methods and approaches for rank advancements (Guide to Working with Boys Scouts with DisABILITIES, No. 33056C):

- Materials Adaptation
 - Example: A Scout has limited hand strength and is trying to carve.
 - Solution: Substitute a bar of soap or balsa wood (use a plastic knife for safety.)
- Architectural Adaptation
 - Example: A scout using a wheelchair is unable to go hiking because the trail is inaccessible.
 - Solution: Substitute “field trip” for “hike” or select alternative route.
- Leisure Companion Adaption
 - Example: A Scout cannot stay on task and runs around.
 - Solution: A parent can become a buddy for the Scout.
- Cooperative Group Adaptation
 - Example: A Scout has difficulty remembering the steps in a project.
 - Solution: List the steps on a paper and work in cooperative groups to ensure completion for everyone.
- Behavioral adaptation
 - Example: A Scout is unable to participate because of low concentration levels.

- Solution: Identify the Scout's interest, provide a variety of activities, and if needed, talk with his parents or guardians about a behavioral plan. Plan activities of short duration.

Alternate Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class Ranks

A Scout who has a permanent physical or mental disability and is unable to complete all of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class rank may submit a request to the council advancement committee to complete alternate requirements (Alternate Tenderfoot, Second Class, & First Class Ranks, No. 33215).

For example, a Scout who uses a wheelchair could meet the requirements for hiking by making a trip to a place of interest in his community, such as a zoo or nature preserve, that is wheelchair accessible.

Giving more time and permitting the use of special aids are other ways Scout Leaders can support Scouts with disabilities in their efforts to advance. The substitute should provide a similar learning experience to the original requirement.

Alternate Eagle Rank Merit Badges

A Scout must earn as many of the required merit badges as his ability permits before he can apply for an alternate Eagle Scout required merit badge (Alternate Tenderfoot, Second Class, & First Class Ranks, No. 33215). There are no alternate requirements allowed for individual merit badges. To earn a specific merit badge all requirements must be met.

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

A listing of possible alternates for required merit badges is contained in the Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Award Merit Badges (Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 58-730). Recommended alternates are as follows:

<u>CAMPING</u>	<u>COMMUNICATIONS</u>	<u>EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OR LIFESAVING</u>
Backpacking	Cinematography	Fire Safety
Canoeing	Computers	Motor Boating
Cooking	Electronics	Public Health
Rowing	Graphic Arts	Public Health
	Journalism	Radio
	Photography	Rowing
	Public Speaking	Safety
	Radio	Traffic Safety
	Salesmanship	Wilderness Survival
<u>PERSONAL FITNESS</u>	<u>SWIMMING, HIKING, OR CYCLING</u>	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE</u>
Archery	Archery	Archaeology
Athletics	Athletics	Energy
Backpacking	Canoeing	Fish & Wildlife Management
Canoeing	Motor Boating	Forestry
Climbing	Rowing	Geology
Golf	Small-Boat Sailing	Nature
Horsemanship	Snow Sports	Oceanography
Orienteering		Soil & Water Conservation
Pioneering		Weather
Rowing		
Skating		
Water Sports		

CHAPTER 4

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In researching printed materials for this dissertation, I happened upon a reference document, the *Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual*, which combined into one document multiple previously issued BSA manuals on Scouting for youth with disabilities (Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual, No. 34059).

Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual consists of 157 pages and is a compilation of numerous Scouting manuals created to provide information on how to provide the Scouting program to youth with various disabilities. This manual replaces the previous editions of the following manuals: *Scouting for the Blind and Visually Impaired*, No. 33063D; *Scouting for Youth With Mental Retardation*, No. 33059C; *Scouting for Youth With Emotional Disabilities*, No. 32998D; *Scouting for Youth With Physical Disabilities*, No. 33057D; *Scouting for Youth With Learning Disabilities*, No. 33061B; and *Council Advisory Committee on Youth With Disabilities*, No. 89-239A. The Appendix is divided into the following three sections: (1) Fact Sheets and Forms, (2) Resources, and (3) Best Practices and Additional Resources. Updates to this manual are available on-line and can be downloaded from www.scouting.org and is also available for purchase from the National Distribution Center, national Scout shops, council distributors, or direct from the Web.

Though this manual is not included as a part of this dissertation, it is a recommended supporting resource document and should be available for all Scoutmasters/Leaders who have

youth with a disability in their troops. This manual provides specific advice and practical instruction on understanding various types of physical and mental disabilities, including youth with Down syndrome, and how to adapt the program to Scouts with special needs.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY

Within the first pages of the Boy Scout Book is “**THE PROMISE OF SCOUTING**”, this promise contains the program commitments to youth joining the program. One of which is the opportunity to work toward the Eagle Scout rank (The Boy Scout Handbook, No. 33105). The Alternate Advancement Program allows Scouts with a mental or physical disability to do their best within their abilities to work toward the Eagle Scout rank.

THE PROMISE OF SCOUTING:

SCOUTING promises you the great outdoors. As a Scout, you can learn how to camp and hike without leaving a trace and how to take care of the land. You'll study wildlife up close and learn about nature all around you. There are plenty of skills for you to master, and you can teach others what you have learned. Everyone helping everyone else - that's part of Scouting, too.

SCOUTING promises you friendship. Members of the troop you join might be boys you already know, and you will meet many other Scouts along the way. Some could become lifelong friends.

SCOUTING promises you opportunities to work toward the Eagle Scout rank. You will set positive goals for yourself and then follow clear routes to achieve them.

SCOUTING promises you tools to help you make the most of your family, your community, and your nation. The good deeds you perform every day will improve the lives of those around you. You will be prepared to help others in time of need.

SCOUTING promises you experiences and duties that will help you mature into a strong, wise adult. The Scout Oath and the Scout Law can guide you as a Scout and throughout your life.

Scouts with a physical or mental disability are just as eager for “The Promise of Scouting” as any other youth and it is up to the Scout Leaders to provide them the opportunity, within their abilities, to learn, achieve, and lead.

REFERENCES

- Advancement Committee Policies and Procedure Manual, No. 33088. Boy Scouts of America, 2009.
- Alternate Tenderfoot, Second Class, & First Class Ranks, No. 33215. Boy Scouts of America, 2002.
- Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 58-730. Boy Scouts of America, 2008.
- Disabilities Awareness Merit Badge Pamphlet, No. 33370. Boy Scouts of America, 2006.
- Guide to Safe Scouting, No. 34416. Boy Scouts of America, 2011.
- Guide to Working with Boys Scouts with DisABILITIES, No. 33056C. Boy Scouts of America, 2007.
- Individual Scout Advancement Plan. Boy Scouts of America, 2008.
- Scouting for Youth with Disabilities and Special Needs Fact Sheet, No. 02-508. Boy Scouts of America, 2006.
- Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual, No. 34059. Boy Scouts of America, 2007.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). 25 March 2009. Department of Justice. <<http://www.ada.gov/pubs/ada.htm>>.
- The Boy Scout Handbook, No. 33105. 12th. Irving, TX: Boy Scouts of America, 2009.

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

Appendix – Forms

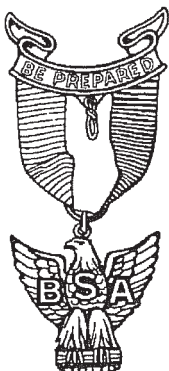
FORM A: APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATE EAGLE SCOUT RANK MERIT BADGES

APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATE EAGLE SCOUT RANK 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 rank.

1. The unit leader (Scoutmaster, Coach, or Advisor) initiates this application on behalf of a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or qualified* Venturer (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, or a school administrator, 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 rank 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 rank does not require National Council approval.**



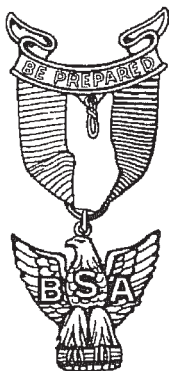
* In order for a Venturer to be an Eagle Scout candidate, he must have achieved First Class rank as a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

GUIDELINES FOR ADVANCEMENT TO EAGLE

SCOUT RANK FOR SCOUTS WITH DISABILITIES

1. The Eagle Scout rank may be achieved by a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or qualified* Venturer (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, or a school administrator, 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. This form, Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, must be completed prior to the candidate's qualifying for alternate merit badges.
6. The alternate merit badges chosen must be of such a nature that they are as demanding of effort as the required merit badges.
7. When alternates chosen involve physical activity, they must be approved by the physician.
8. The unit leader and the board of review must explain that to attain the Eagle Scout rank a candidate is expected to do his best in developing himself to the limit of his resources.
9. This application must be approved by the council committee responsible for advancement, utilizing the expertise of professional persons, involved in Scouting for the disabled.
10. The candidate's application for Eagle Scout must be made on the Eagle Scout Rank Application, No. 58-728, with this form and the *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook* 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* Venturer 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 a Venturer to be an Eagle Scout candidate, he must have achieved First Class rank as a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout.

APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATE EAGLE SCOUT RANK MERIT BADGES

To: **The District Advancement Committee**

_____ District

_____ Council

Gentlemen:

We are submitting this application in behalf of _____

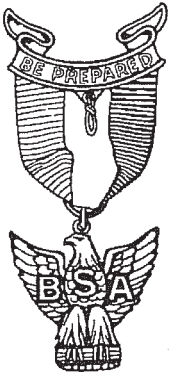
_____ (Name of candidate) of Unit No. _____

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 rank:

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 chair

Parent Statement

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

Date _____

Signed _____

Parent or guardian

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

Medical or Administrative 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.

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

District Certificate

We have reviewed the situation regarding _____

Name of candidate

and in review of the medical or administrative statement, and his excellent record in Scouting, we feel he could follow the alternate Eagle Scout rank merit badge method of achieving the Eagle Scout rank. 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 Advancement committee chairman or designee

Signed _____
District executive

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 rank requirements.

Date _____

Signed _____
Council Advancement committee chairman or designee

Signed _____
Scout executive

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

Possible alternates for required merit badges*

CAMPING

Backpacking
Canoeing
Cooking
Rowing

COMMUNICATIONS

Cinematography
Computers
Electronics
Graphic Arts
Journalism
Photography
Public Speaking
Radio
Salesmanship

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OR LIFESAVING

Fire Safety
Motorboating
Public Health
Radio
Rowing
Safety
Traffic Safety
Wilderness Survival

PERSONAL FITNESS

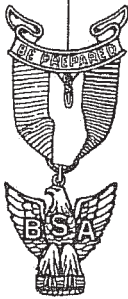
Archery
Athletics
Backpacking
Canoeing
Climbing
Golf
Horsemanship
Orienteering
Pioneering
Rowing
Skating
Water Sports

SWIMMING, HIKING, OR CYCLING

Archery
Athletics
Canoeing
Motorboating
Rowing
Small-Boat Sailing
Snow Sports

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Archaeology
Energy
Fish and Wildlife Management
Forestry
Geology
Nature
Oceanography
Soil and Water Conservation
Weather



*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, and Venturers with disabilities.



Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

Appendix – Forms

FORM B: SAMPLE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS

Sample Application for Approval of Modification of Requirements

To: The District Advancement Committee

_____ District _____ Council

We are submitting this application on behalf of _____ of (unit)

Chartered to _____

Located in _____

For modification of the requirements for the _____ Tenderfoot, _____ Second Class, _____ First Class rank.

This is required due to his physical or mental disability; he is unable to complete the specified requirements for the rank indicated. After conferring with him and his family, we would like to adapt the following requirements:

Please specify which rank(s) and requirement number(s) you are proposing for adapted requirement(s). Put "T" for Tenderfoot, "S" for Second Class, or "F" for First Class before each requirement needing adaptation. We feel that the following requirements are equally challenging for him, and are within his ability: _____

Put "T" for Tenderfoot, "S" for Second Class, and "F" for First Class for each requirement adaptation. Enter in same order above.

Signed _____, Unit Leader

Signed _____, Unit Committee Chair

Parent's Statement:

In view of the medical or administrative statement below, and following a conference with _____

_____ 's Scout leaders, we approve this application for adapted requirements for the rank(s) specified above, and the recommended adapted requirements.

Date _____

Signed _____

Parent or Guardian

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

Medical or Administrative Statement:

As a result of a thorough examination or testing of _____ on _____ I find that he is physically or mentally unable to complete the requirements for the rank shown on page one of this form.

Reason for inability: _____

I feel that the requirement adaptations are within his physical or mental ability except as noted: _____

Signed (include Title)

The Advancement Committee of the _____ Council, Boy Scouts of America has reviewed and approves the suggested alternate requirements for _____ for _____, Troop _____.

Award or Rank Name Number

We remit the alternate requirements to the family physician for approval, as indicated in the Boy Scout Requirements book: "Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks Alternate Requirements, number 6: 'When alternate requirements involve physical activity, they must be approved by the physician.'"

Physician approval _____ date _____

Scout Executive approval _____ date _____

Checklist of Abilities and Limitations

This checklist covers most of the things a Scout leader might need to know about the abilities and limitations of a disabled Scout, Boy Scout, or Venturer. Many of the questions will not apply to those youth whose disabilities are not severe.

A list of resources may be copied and given to parents to fill out and return with their child's membership application, or it used by the leader in his first meeting with the youth and his parents. The leader may want to file the checklist with the membership application in his records for safekeeping.

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

Appendix – Forms

FORM C: INDIVIDUAL SCOUT ADVANCEMENT PLAN

Individual Scout Advancement Plan (ISAP) - SAMPLE

(This sample form should ONLY BE USED if it has been approved by your council for use with Scouts with disabilities. The council may have its own form for approval.)

Contract and Addendums

- ISAP—A written plan developed by the Scout, his parents, and his Scout leader with the approval of the professional providing the documentation of the Scout's disabilities. This plan provides a list of each rank advancement being modified, replaced, or eliminated. Changes or substitutions to the rank are explained.

This letter (the sample form below) needs to be approved by the district and council advancement committees before the Scout begins working on the modified requirements.

This ISAP is designed:

- to be a non-threatening, non-judgmental, individual advancement plan.
 - to be a basic “contract” which can be used for all Scouts, and is modified by addendum.
 - so every Scout sees the “contract” as personal so no segment is singled out.
- Addendums are required if it is determined that a Boy Scout has specific, permanent disabilities which create an impediment toward rank achievement and advancement.
 - The safety of each Scout is part of this consideration.
 - Requirements may be redefined to maintain the challenge but provide an alternative path toward achievement.
 - This Addendum may be amended, in the future, by mutual consent.

INDIVIDUAL SCOUT ADVANCEMENT PLAN AND CONTRACT (SAMPLE)

Scout Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Troop/Team/Crew/Ship _____ District _____

Council _____

Statement of Belief: Every boy in Scouting is a candidate for the Eagle Scout Award. The only limitations upon achievement of that award should be that boy's individual desire, focus, and perseverance.

Objective: To provide a safe haven for personal growth free from adversity such as hazing, disrespectful or threatening behaviors by others, but filled with opportunities and challenges.

Methodology: To encourage and, within reasonable guidelines, provide each Scout with the opportunity and avenue to achieve his personal goals and chosen level of success. To remove unreasonable and unnecessary barriers, through creative thinking and actions, which may impede a Scout in achieving his personal goals. At the same time the Scouting experience will not lessen the challenges necessary to actual personal growth. Addendums to the contract may be made to define requirements.

Expectations of Performance: Each Scout is expected to do his best.

CONTRACT:

I, _____, Scoutmaster, promise to do my best to deliver upon the statement of Belief, Objective, and Methodology expressed above.
_____(signature) _____(date)

I, _____, Boy Scout, and Eagle Award candidate, promise that on my honor I will do my best in working toward my personal goals.
_____(signature) _____(date)

INDIVIDUAL SCOUT ADVANCEMENT PLAN AND CONTRACT—Addendums

- Disabilities of a permanent, not temporary, nature allow the development of alternative requirements.
- Alternative requirements shall be supported by a physician's statement, or certification by an educational administrator.
- The Scout shall attempt to complete the regular requirements before modifications are sought.
- Alternative requirements shall be as demanding of effort by the Scout as the regular requirements.
- Modifications and alternative requirements must receive PRIOR approval by the council advancement committee.
- Alternate requirements involving physical activity shall have a physician's approval.
- The unit leader and any board of review must explain to the Scout that he is expected to do his best based on his abilities.

What About Merit Badges?

- Eagle Scout—required merit badges that the Scout is unable to physically or mentally complete.
- Alternative merit badge(s) must be “as challenging” to the Scout.
- Alternative merit badge(s) identified by Scoutmaster, with help from family, professionals, and other Scouters.
- Use form No. 58-730 to document and get approval by the council advancement committee.

Alternate Merit Badges for the Eagle Scout Rank:

- The Eagle Scout rank may be achieved by a Scout who has a disability by qualifying for alternate merit badges. Merit badges are awarded only when all requirements are met as stated.
- A clear and concise statement concerning the Scout's disabilities must be made by a licensed physician, or an educational administrator.
- Earn as many of the required merit badges as you can BEFORE applying for an alternate Eagle Scout rank merit badge.
- Complete as many of the requirements of the required merit badges as you can.
- Complete the Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Award Merit Badges BEFORE qualifying for alternate merit badges.
- Choose alternates that are as demanding of effort as the required merit badges.
- When alternates chosen involve physical activity, they must be approved by a physician.
- The unit leader and the board of review must explain that to attain the Eagle Scout rank, a candidate is expected to do his best in developing himself to the limit of his resources.
- The application must be approved by the council committee responsible for advancement, utilizing the expertise of professional people involved in Scouting for people with special needs.
- The candidate's application for Eagle Scout must be made on the Eagle Scout Rank Application, with the following attached:

—Possible Alternatives for Required Merit Badges

—Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges, No. 58-730

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

ADDENDUM TO INDIVIDUAL SCOUT ADVANCEMENT PLAN

Scout Name _____ Date of Birth _____

THE STANDARD REQUIREMENT (State the ranks and the requirement number _____)

MODIFICATIONS AND ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENT(S) (Describe in detail the modified alternative requirement)

NARRATIVE SUMMARY (Why this Scout's circumstances make him unable to complete, in the way normally described, the "standard" requirements)

MEDICAL STATEMENT: As a result of a thorough examination of _____ on ___/___/___, I find that he has a permanent mental or physical disability, which is accurately described above, and which will inhibit him from completing the requirements as generally stated. However, I find that he can safely complete the requirements as stated as modified below.

_____ (signature) _____ (date)
(Physician licensed to practice medicine)

Physician's Office Address: _____

Physician's Office Telephone Number: _____

Attach additional documents if applicable.

Alternative Advancement Program for Scouts with Disabilities

ADDENDUM TO INDIVIDUAL SCOUT ADVANCEMENT PLAN

Scout Name _____ Date of Birth _____

SCOUT'S STATEMENT:

I, _____, Boy Scout, and Eagle Scout Award candidate, promise that on my honor I will do my best in working toward my personal goals. The following requirements are meant to strengthen me so that I can improve my abilities. I will do my best in completing them as written or as modified.

_____ (signature) _____ (date)

PARENTAL STATEMENT:

In view of my son's expressed desire to advance in Scouting, his personal commitment to do his best, and the Scout leaders' commitment to encourage him along that pathway consistent with his abilities, I agree to the requirements as written or modified. If any further modification is deemed warranted, I understand that such can be negotiated.

_____ (signature) _____ (date)

SCOUT LEADER'S STATEMENT:

I agree with, and support, the desire of _____ to progress in the paths of Scouting. Any program modifications agreed to are viewed to be as challenging as those expected of any other Scout. My objective will be to provide opportunities for success consistent with health and safety considerations.

_____ (signature) _____ (date)

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The council advancement committee approves the above modifications for advancement because of the Scout's permanent physical or mental disabilities. _____

(signature) _____ (date)

Notification sent to the Scout/parents and Scout leader on _____ (date)