

Advancement to Star / Life / Eagle - Leadership Requirement

A hallmark of the Scouting experience is the development of leadership skills through active participation as a youth leader. There are a number of troop positions that are listed in the Scout Handbook that can serve to fill this requirement.

“Serve actively...” is a critical standard for meeting the Leadership requirements. It is not enough to just hold a title – the Scout must fulfill his responsibilities. That is to say, **it is the way that the position is performed and not the badge on the sleeve that earns the Scout the desired leadership credit.**

For Patrol Leaders: Being an active patrol leader requires a balance of attending: (1) the monthly Troop Leader Council meetings; (2) camping trips and other outside troop events; and (3) the weekly troop meetings. It is not realistic to expect perfect attendance, but on the other hand effective patrol leadership does require an ongoing presence in front of the patrol on troop outings and at meetings.

For Other Troop Leadership Positions: The specific job responsibilities of troop positions like Scribe, Historian, Bugler, etc. vary from one to the next. Consistent throughout all of them, however, is an expectation of: 1) commitment to the position; and 2) accomplishment of associated tasks. A recurring theme for all of the jobs is that the **SCOUT TAKES THE INITIATIVE** to pursue the responsibilities of the position rather than sitting back waiting to be asked to perform. Examples of tasks that might serve to meet the requirements of the various positions are listed below.

Scribe: attends PLC meetings and provides published minutes

Historian: maintenance of a scrapbook or some other form of archive for troop events throughout the year

Librarian: organize troop merit badge books and take the initiative to actively promote availability of library throughout the year

Leave No Trace: take initiative to raise LNT awareness on camping trips and provide necessary training to Scouts

Webmaster: work with adult web designer to upload documents and photos to website and provide other useful online information

Chaplain Aide: lead troop in Scouts Own services on camping trips, seeking the participation of other scouts to help conduct those services.

Order of the Arrow Representative: Actively promote OA activities to OA members.

Instructor: Take initiative to work with Advancement chairman and other adult advisors to help provide instruction to younger scouts.

Bugler: Be accountable for using the bugle to keep the troop organized and honor the flag on troop outings. (According to BSA policy being Bugler only counts towards Star & Life, not Eagle)

Special Projects: Star and Life candidates may also meet the leadership requirement by taking on several special Scoutmaster-assigned leadership projects throughout the year. The Scoutmaster will inform the Scout how many months of leadership a given special project is equivalent to, for example taking leadership for scout participation at a local service project might count for one month of leadership. According to BSA policy the option of using multiple special projects is not available to Eagle candidates.

When in doubt **IT IS THE SCOUT’S RESPONSIBILITY** to check with the Scoutmaster during early stages of rank advancement to insure that the current level of performance in the leadership position is sufficient to meet the requirements for rank advancement. Do not wait until the end of your rank advancement to check on your status.