

IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS FOR FIRST-TIME MEMBERS ENTERING SCOUTS BSA

Temporary Transition Rules

On February 1, 2019, the Boy Scouts of America will begin admitting girls into Scouts BSA. One of the characteristics of Scouting—for over a hundred years—is that no matter when you join, however long you stay, or the rank you attain, the Scouting experience prepares you for life. And for some, the pinnacle of their Scouting experience is achieving the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

The policies of the BSA indicate that, except in extraordinary circumstances, a youth desiring to achieve the rank of Eagle must do so before the youth's 18th birthday. This will continue to be our policy.

It is in the interests of the entire BSA, and in fact our nation, that all girls who join the BSA in 2019 should have an opportunity to earn their Eagle badge should they diligently and promptly complete all requirements. Accordingly, after carefully considering recommendations from stakeholders, including feedback from volunteers and professionals, the National Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts of America has approved the following temporary transition rules regarding extensions for youth over 16 but not yet 18 years of age on February 1, 2019 to complete the requirements for the Eagle Scout award.

To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, no exceptions to or waivers of any of the requirements for the Eagle Scout Award are permitted under this limited exception, and all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the BSA Guide to Advancement).

Since the BSA has determined that the minimum period of elapsed time to complete the requirements of the Eagle Scout rank is approximately 19-20 months, the extension is not available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019 (as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18) nor to any youth who has already turned 18 years of age on February 1, 2019 (as they will be ineligible to join Scouts BSA).

1. Beginning on February 1, 2019, youth 16 years of age or older, but not yet 18, who register as members of Scouts BSA on or before December 31, 2019 may request extensions to complete the Eagle Scout Award requirements after they turn 18 years of age or by December 31, 2019, whichever comes first.
2. Requests for extensions must be received no later than thirty (30) days after turning 18 years of age. Only the National Council may grant extensions. The actual extension will be based upon the individual's registration date and age at the time of the request and will provide not more than twenty-four months from the date of initial registration to complete all requirements.
3. In the interest of fairness, these temporary transition rules apply to all youth joining Scouts BSA during 2019—both girls and first-time joining boys.

Recognition

In keeping with established policy, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when the candidate's award has been approved by the National Council.

The BSA will not recognize a first female Eagle Scout to avoid potentially introducing incentives for leaders, troops or Scouts to prioritize expediency or engage in behavior counter to Scouting's values.

Instead, the BSA will officially recognize our Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts in early 2021, providing young women who join Scouts BSA the needed time to complete all requirements. This Inaugural Class will be celebrated nationally and collectively commemorated.

It is our hope and expectation that local units will ensure substantial individual recognition of their first female Eagle Scouts in a manner befitting their great accomplishments.

IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS FOR FIRST-TIME MEMBERS ENTERING SCOUTS BSA

FAQ

- Q: Is the BSA changing the Eagle Scout requirements for girls joining Scouts BSA in 2019?**
No – the Eagle Scout rank requirements are not changing.
- Q: Can troops, districts or councils amend or adjust the requirements/process?**
No. Eagle Scout requirements are set by the National Council and cannot be adjusted by a troop, district or council. In fact, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council.
- Q: Will work completed while girls participated unofficially before the introduction of Scouts BSA count towards Eagle requirements?**
No. To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the BSA Guide to Advancement, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).
- Q: Will work that female Venturers or Sea Scouts completed count toward Eagle Scout requirements?**
To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First Class rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the BSA Advancement Guide, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).
- Q: Will camping nights from current Venturing and Sea Scouts that count for requirements for the Order of the Arrow, also count for the Eagle Scout rank?**
No.
- Q: Will this extension always be available for all youth that enter Scouts BSA?**
No. These are temporary transition rules and will not be available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019 as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18.
- Q: Can the first female Eagle Scout be identified based on the earliest Board of Review date?**
No. Boards of review must not occur prior to October 1, 2020 and only after the local council has verified all requirements.

For potential female Eagle Scouts, all boards of review will take place between Oct. 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021. All boards of review for this inaugural class will have the same date on the application, February 8, as a celebration to recognize the historic achievement of this class on Scouting's anniversary.

That means any girl in this Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts will have that date as the date she officially earned Scouting's highest honor.

Note: This inaugural class is not just for girls who have requested and been granted the extension. This class is open to any girl who passes her board of review between October 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021, and has submitted her Eagle application to the National Service

IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS FOR FIRST-TIME MEMBERS ENTERING SCOUTS BSA

Center (advancement.team@scouting.org) no later than February 2, 2021. That means, for example, that a 15-year-old girl who completes the requirements and passes her board of review by January 31, 2021 will be included in the inaugural class. These rules also apply to the males who have received the inaugural class extension.

Q: When will the credentials be sent?

Waiting's tough, but these young people earned it.

Eagle credentials will continue to be sent by mail.

For those Eagle Scouts in the Inaugural Class, these credentials will be mailed starting early 2021.

Q: What is the process for verifying the Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scout applications?

Local council will verify that all requirements needed for an Eagle board of review have been fulfilled. The National Service Center will certify the completed Eagle Scout application after the board of review has been held.