

Eagle Coach Training
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Being a great BSA Eagle Coach is all about supporting Scouts as they navigate one of the most significant achievements in their Scouting journey: earning the Eagle Scout rank. This is a high-impact mentorship role, and doing it well means understanding both the process and how to guide a young person without doing the work for them.

Here's a breakdown of how to be effective:

1. Understand the Eagle Scout Requirements Thoroughly

Know all Eagle requirements inside and out, especially:

- * The Eagle Scout Service Project process
- * Merit badge requirements (especially the required ones)
- * Leadership position requirements
- * The Eagle Rank application (including references, essays, and signatures)
- * Board of Review expectations

 Tip: Read and reference the *Guide to Advancement*, especially Section 9.

2. Be a Mentor, Not a Manager

Your job is to *coach*, not to do or direct.

- * Encourage self-leadership: Ask guiding questions instead of giving answers.
- * Let the Scout own their timeline, plan, and execution.
- * Be available but not overbearing.
- * Help them reflect on what they've learned — it's about growth, not just boxes checked.

3. Support the Eagle Project Wisely

This is often where Eagle Coaches are most involved.

- * Help them understand the difference between *doing* and *leading*.
- * Offer advice on project scope, feasibility, planning, and fundraising.
- * Ensure they complete the project proposal, plan, and report correctly.
- * Help them understand SA safety, YPT, and permissions.

 Tip: Walk them through the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook and help ensure it's well-organized and complete.

4. Keep Them on Track Without Pushing

Most Eagle candidates are teens with a lot going on — college applications, sports, jobs, etc.

- * Help them set realistic timelines.
- * Encourage them to set personal deadlines.
- * Be positive but firm — especially if they're nearing the age cutoff (18).

 Tip: Use calendar check-ins and gentle nudges.

5. Help Them Prepare for the Board of Review

The Board of Review can be intimidating.

- * Practice mock questions with them.
- * Encourage them to reflect on their Scouting journey — not just projects, but lessons learned and personal growth.
- * Review their full application together to ensure it's clean, accurate, and complete.

6. Work Well With Other Adults

- * Coordinate with Scoutmasters, Advancement Chairs, and the local Council or District Eagle representatives.
- * Understand who needs to approve what, and in what order.
- * Keep good records of all communication, sign-offs, and deadlines.

7. Model Scout Spirit

Set an example of the values in the Scout Oath and Law. Your character and attitude matter just as much as your knowledge.

- * Be kind, encouraging, and patient.
- * Show integrity in every interaction.
- * Celebrate achievements and growth, not just the final result.

BONUS: What Makes a *Great* Eagle Coach?

- *  Listens more than talks
- *  Encourages independence
- *  Has up-to-date knowledge of current Eagle requirements
- *  Knows when to step in, and when to step back
- *  Supports *growth*, not just completion

