

Scout's parent or guardian and come to an understanding of all viewpoints. Guidance should also be sought from the district or council advancement chair to assure expectations are not more than are actually required. If the leader or chair remains unconvinced, then they may deny approval of the Eagle Scout Rank Application. In this case, the application, along with a letter explaining the reasons for denial and the right to request a board of review under disputed circumstances, is returned to the Scout, or the Scout's parent or guardian who may then choose to request a board of review under disputed circumstances.

In any case, if a Scout or the Scout's parent or guardian has legitimate concern that a unit cannot deliver a fair hearing, one of them may write a letter explaining the reasons and request a board of review under disputed circumstances. The letter is attached to the completed Eagle Scout application and sent with the service project workbook to the council service center. The council advancement chair or staff advisor, or other designated volunteer or professional, should notify the unit leader or unit committee chair that the request has been received, and then guide the process through the council or district advancement committee according to local practices. After the board has met, the unit leader or unit committee chair should be informed of the decision.

It should be rare that a council or district would deny a request for a board of review under disputed circumstances. However, the request may be denied if it is deemed frivolous, or any concerns about the unit's inability to deliver a fair hearing are deemed invalid. In that case, the initial board of review must be held according to local council practices (not under disputed circumstances). If that board decides not to approve, the Scout may appeal the decision (see "Appealing a Decision," 8.0.4.0).

Procedures for a board of review under disputed circumstances, including the option for the Scout or the Scout's parent or guardian to appeal the decision, are the same as for any Eagle Scout board. The members should be well versed in related policies and organized in advance so they can research background and facts. Written statements or telephone interview summaries must be obtained from the unit leader, knowledgeable committee members, a representative of the service project beneficiary (if applicable), and others familiar with the case. Every effort should be made to have balanced representation. Only review-board members and administrators with a need to know may see the evidence.

The board of review is like any other for Eagle, but with extra attention to the concerns at issue. It is also permissible to hold the review via videoconference under the rare circumstances and the requirements found in "Boards of Review Through Videoconferencing," 8.0.1.6. Afterward, all statements, summaries, or notes are sent to

the council and then destroyed once any appeal efforts are concluded. Note that in councils where Eagle boards of review are already held at the council or district level, the time and effort put into researching the background and facts may be the only real difference from a typical board of review.

If a board of review under disputed circumstances approves a candidate, the candidate's application goes through the process as outlined under "The Eagle Scout Rank Application Process," 9.0.1.0. The board must attach a letter to the application indicating it may be processed without the signature of the unit leader or unit committee chair, without the date of the Scoutmaster conference if it had been denied, or without the date of the final Eagle service project signature if that was at issue.

8.0.4.0 Appealing a Decision

If a board of review or a board of review under disputed circumstances does not recommend a candidate for rank advancement, only the Scout or the Scout's parent or guardian may appeal the decision to the local council.

8.0.4.1 Filing and Processing an Appeal

Adverse decisions for Star and Life ranks can be appealed to the local council. Should this occur, the National Program Committee or their designee is available for advice only. Adverse decisions for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class are not appealable. The National Council reviews appeals only for the Eagle Scout rank.

All interviews, deliberations, conversations, and related details in summaries and statements are kept confidential to appeals board members and those assigned oversight, such as the designated appeals coordinator or staff advisor. Others' knowledge should be limited to overview information as required for reports to advancement committees.

1. The Scout should have received communication from the board of review advising actions that could lead to advancement and explaining appeal procedures. If this was not received within two weeks of the denial, the Scout or the Scout's parent or guardian should contact the council advancement chair, staff advisor for advancement, or the Scout executive to request it. To initiate the appeal, the Scout or the Scout's parent or guardian prepares a letter notifying the local council of the appeal, which must be submitted within two months of receiving the letter documenting the denial. It should detail the reasons it is believed the

Scout met all the requirements and should not have been denied. The letter is sent to the council service center, to the attention of the council advancement committee. The communication from the board of review mentioned above should be attached.

2. To assure all appeal requests are handled consistently throughout the council, they are first routed to the council advancement committee.
3. The council advancement committee, through its chair or a designated member or its staff advisor, coordinates the appeals process. This designated appeals coordinator's primary role is to get the paperwork in the right place and orient and guide those who will hear the appeal.
4. The appeals coordinator designated in #3 above routes a copy of the request to the district or council advancement committee according to local practices. It is recommended that appeals of a unit decision go to the district, and those elevated from a district go to the council. This allows an additional step before the National Program Committee or their designee is involved.
5. For appeals heard by a district, the district advancement chair and district staff advisor (usually the district executive) must agree on appeal-board members. The council advancement chair and staff advisor have the authority to approve them (or to call for different members) should they believe this action will lead to more equitable appeals consideration.
6. If the appeal is to be heard by the council, then the council advancement chair and staff advisor must agree on appeal-board members.
7. There must be an odd number of appeal-board members—either three or five. A board chair may be one of these voting members, or serve additionally with no vote. All must be objective volunteers with thorough knowledge of advancement and appeals procedures. An individual who served on the original board of review or appeal board must not serve on a subsequent district or council appeal board for the same Scout. The council-designated appeals coordinator may be present and provide advice. No other guests, including the candidate's parents or guardians, are allowed. If the Scout is being interviewed, and the Scout's parents or guardians insist on attending with him, see "Conducting the Board of Review," 8.0.1.0.
8. The appeal-board meeting may be held via videoconference under the rare circumstances and the requirements found in "Boards of Review Through Videoconferencing," 8.0.1.6.
9. An appeal board is not another board of review. It

focuses only on the issues that brought about rejection at the lower level(s). A majority is sufficient for a decision.

10. If an appeal is rejected at the district level, the Scout or the Scout's parent or guardian may appeal to the council advancement committee.
11. If a council-level Eagle Scout board of review or appeal board rejects a candidate, then the Scout or the Scout's parent or guardian may appeal through the local council to the National Program Committee or its designee.
12. A decision at any level that finds in favor of a Scout is final. Units, districts, and councils are not allowed to appeal them. Similarly, decisions for rejection delivered through the National Program Committee or its designee are final. For rulings in favor of a Scout, the date of the original board—not the appeal board—is the effective date of advancement.

8.0.4.2 Appeal Board Must Research the Case

To allow time to research background and facts, appeal-board members must be organized in advance. Written statements or telephone interview summaries are obtained from those with pertinent knowledge of the case. These individuals might include the Eagle candidate, the unit leader and assistants, parent(s) or guardian(s), unit committee members, and, as applicable, a representative of the chartered organization or Eagle service project beneficiary. Every effort should be made to have balanced representation. Only appeal-board members and administrators with a need to know may see the evidence. If a face-to-face meeting with the Scout is impractical, extra care should be taken to collect information from the Scout's perspective. After the meeting, any notes are filed with the council and destroyed once the appeal is resolved. A written report setting out the details of the appeal and the reasons for the decision must be prepared and forwarded to the council Scout executive. A copy is sent to the Scout who brought the appeal.

Appeals forwarded to the National Program Committee or their designee are processed through the local council. A designated appeals coordinator combines, into a packet, the Eagle Scout application and service project workbook (if at issue); all letters, statements, and interview summaries; and any reports or minutes from the original board of review and appeal board(s) held; and a cover letter from the Scout executive (not designee) briefly summarizing the facts and stating the council's position.