



## 10 Things to Know About Eagle Scouts

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1. **2,151,024 and Growing:** That is the total number of men who have achieved the Eagle Scout rank since it was first awarded in 1912 to Arthur Eldred. The 1 millionth Eagle badge was awarded to Alex Holsinger in 1982; the 2 millionth Eagle was awarded to Anthony Thomas in 2009.
2. **The First 100:** It took less than 36 months for the first 100 young men to achieve Eagle status once the program was created. By the middle of 1914, Scouts from 19 of the then 48 states had earned the award.
3. **Largest Eagle Scout Class:** The largest number of Scouts to earn the Eagle Award in the history of the organization is 56,176 in 2010, which was the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. As the honorary president of the BSA, President Barack Obama's signature has appeared on more Eagle cards, in the shortest amount of time, than any other president.
4. **Oldest Known Living Eagle Scout:** As a relatively new centenarian, 100-year-old Oliver Wooten of Kentucky was born about a year and a half after the Boy Scouts of America was founded. He still lives the tenants of the Scout Oath and Scout Law and gives us all something to look forward to!
5. **In Service to Others:** In 2011, 51,473 young men earned the Eagle Scout Award. Before a Scout can be awarded his Eagle, he must create a leadership service project. The average number of hours spent on each project is about 185. So if you multiplied that number by the number of Eagle Scouts in 2011, it represents more than 9,525,610 hours that young people gave back to improve their communities and nation.
6. **Boy Scout Bling:** Scouts who earn their Eagle in 2012 will receive a special badge that was commissioned to recognize the 100th year of Eagle Scouts.
7. **Eagles and Heroes:** There is no higher medal that can be bestowed on a U.S. military serviceman or woman than the Congressional Medal of Honor. There are currently two heroes who wear their Medal of Honor as proudly as they display their Eagle Award, Leo K. Thorsness and Thomas R. Norris.
8. **Beyond Eagle:** Beyond the Eagle rank and Eagle Palms are Distinguished Eagles. This prestigious honor is awarded for distinguished service in a profession and one's community for a period of at least 25 years after attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Fewer than 2,000 men have received this high honor since it was established in 1969.
9. **Eagle Men:** A Scoutmaster could work on and earn the Eagle Award up to 1965, when rules were changed instituting a maximum age of 18 for earning Eagle—unless the Scout is identified as having special needs.
10. **Scouts among the Stars:** Of the 312 pilots and scientists selected as astronauts since 1959, at least 207 have been identified as having been Scouts or active in Scouting. Of the 24 men to travel to the moon on the Apollo 8 and Apollo 10 through 17 missions, 20 were Scouts, including 11 of the 12 moonwalkers and all three members of the Apollo 13 crew.



# Eagle Scouts

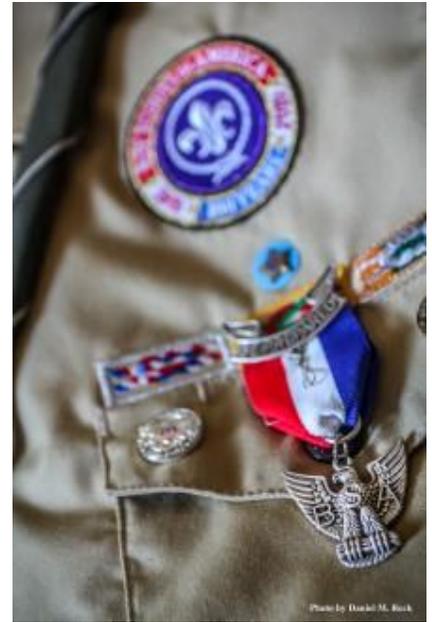
The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance.

The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank. This represents more than 2.25 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912.

Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting—the mission of the BSA, citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

## Progression

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, the highest advancement rank in Scouting, a Boy Scout must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. Although many options are available to demonstrate proficiency in these areas, a number of specific skills are required to advance through the ranks—Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. To advance, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges.



## Merit Badges

Merit badges signify the mastery of certain Scoutcraft skills, as well as helping boys increase their skill in an area of personal interest. Of the 134 merit badges available, 21 must be earned to qualify for Eagle Scout.

Of this group, 13 badges are required, including First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Cooking, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Camping, and Family Life. In addition, a Scout has a choice between Emergency Preparedness and Lifesaving, Cycling, Hiking, and Swimming, and Environmental Science and Sustainability.

## Service

While a Life Scout, a Scout plans, develops, and gives leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, school, or the community. In addition to providing service and fulfilling the part of the Scout Oath, “to help other people at all times,” one of the primary purposes of the Eagle Scout service project is to demonstrate or hone, or to learn and develop, leadership skills. Related to this are important lessons in project management and taking responsibility for a significant accomplishment.

## Famous Eagle Scouts

- Neil Armstrong, First man on the moon
- Stephen G. Breyer, Associate justice, United States Supreme Court
- Steve Fossett, World record holder, first person to circumnavigate Earth solo in a hot air balloon
- Bill Gates, Sr., CEO of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, father of Microsoft founder Bill Gates
- James A. Lovell, Jr., Retired U.S. Navy officer, former astronaut
- The Honorable Richard G. Lugar United States senator, Indiana
- J. Willard Marriott Jr., Chairman and CEO, Marriott International
- H. Ross Perot, Founder of Perot Systems Corp., former presidential candidate
- Mike Rowe, Host of “Dirty Jobs” on the Discovery Channel
- William S. Sessions, Former federal judge, former director of the FBI
- Steven Spielberg, Academy Award-winning film director
- John Tesh, Recording artist and performer
- Togo D. West Jr., Former United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs

