

The Flight to Eagle Timeline

One aspect of achieving the rank of Eagle that is often misunderstood is the timeline that must be considered. While most Scouts and their parents/guardians are aware that the rank of Eagle must be completed by the age of 18 they are often unaware of the timeline necessary for completing the ranks from First Class to Eagle.

To progress from the rank of First Class to Eagle the scout must complete a specified term in an approved position of responsibility in their unit; four months from First Class to Star rank, six months from Star rank to Life, and six months from Life rank to Eagle. The Scout must also complete a specified number of Eagle required merit badges and a specified number of approved community service hours to complete the Star, Life, and Eagle ranks.

This means that a Scout must complete ranks within a strict time frame. To achieve the rank of Eagle, the Scout must have:

- completed the rank of First class before they are 16 years and 8 months old
- complete the rank of Star before they are 17 years old
- complete the rank of Life before they are 17 years 6 months old
- complete the rank of Eagle by their 18th birthday (the Eagle Board of Review may be completed after their 18th birthday)

Because volunteers have busy schedules, the Scout must allow plenty of extra time for each of these ranks to also complete their Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review by the required dates shown.