

Normally, it is expected that youth with only moderate learning disabilities, or such disorders as ADD or ADHD can—albeit more slowly—complete standard requirements.

The advancement committee reviews the request, using the expertise of professionals involved with youth who have special needs. To make a fair determination, the committee may want to interview the Scout, his parent(s) or guardian(s), and the unit leader. The committee's decision is then recorded and delivered to the Scout and the unit leader.

After the committee's decision has been recorded and delivered, any supporting private information should be returned to its source—the parent or guardian, or institution that provided it. Should there be questions about its disposition, then the supporting private information should be destroyed.

*Note that topics 10.2.2.1 and 10.2.2.2 do not apply to merit badge requirements. See topic 10.2.2.3 to learn about earning alternative merit badges to those required for Eagle.*

### 10.2.2.3 Alternative Merit Badges for Eagle Scout Rank

Though individual requirements for merit badges may *not* be modified or substituted, youth with special needs may request approval for alternative badges they *can* complete. This is allowable on the basis of one entire badge for another. To qualify, a Scout or qualified Venturer or Sea Scout must have a permanent physical or cognitive disability, or a disability expected to last more than two years, or beyond age 18. The member does not need to be registered beyond the age of eligibility. Before applying, he must earn as many of the Eagle-required merit badges as possible. Any alternatives must present the same challenge and learning level as those they replace, and must be completed by the 18th birthday unless the member is registered beyond the age of eligibility (see "Registering Qualified Members Beyond Age of Eligibility," 10.1.0.0).

*Scouts with special needs must complete all merit badge requirements as written. No substitutions for individual requirements are allowed.*

Upon finishing the Eagle-required merit badges that are possible, the Scout, with his parent or guardian, reviews the detailed requirements covered in the Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit

Badges, No. 512-730. The completed application is sent first to the district advancement committee and is then routed to the council advancement committee. It must be accompanied by supporting letters from the unit leader, a parent or guardian, and the Scout (if possible), as well as a written statement from a qualified health professional related to the nature of the disability. This may be, for example, a physician, neurologist, psychiatrist, psychologist, etc., or when appropriate, an educational administrator in special education. Statements must describe the disability; cover the Scout's capabilities, limitations, and prognosis; and outline why the merit badge(s) cannot be completed. Additional information such as Individualized Education Plans provided to parents by schools, and various treatment summaries and reports, may help an advancement committee make an informed decision. All alternative badges should be included on just one form.

The advancement committee reviews the application, using the expertise of professionals involved with youth who have disabilities. To make a fair determination, the committee may want to interview the Scout, his parent(s) or guardian(s), and the unit leader. The committee's decision should be recorded and delivered to the Scout and the unit leader. Once this is done, the Scout may begin working with a merit badge counselor on the approved alternative merit badges.

After the committee's decision has been recorded and delivered, any supporting private information should be returned to its source—the parent or guardian, or institution that provided it. Should there be questions about its disposition, then the supporting private information should be destroyed.

When applying for the Eagle Scout rank, a candidate with disabilities must attach the Eagle Scout Rank Application to the approved Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges. The form can be found at [www.scouting.org/forms](http://www.scouting.org/forms). It is important to remember that requirements for merit badges cannot be changed in any way, and all requirements must be completed as written.

### 10.2.2.4 Approval for Special Needs Eagle Candidates Over Age 18

Men age 18 and older, properly approved by the council executive board to register beyond the age of eligibility, may apply for the Eagle Scout rank. Since they are considered youth members for as long as they are so registered, they do not need a time extension; nor is special permission needed for an Eagle Scout board of review that is held more than three months after the 18th birthday. A letter from an advancement committee or Scout executive, indicating the member is 18 or older and registered with a disability code, must accompany the Eagle Scout application. If the candidate is not so

# APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATIVE EAGLE SCOUT RANK MERIT BADGES

## To: The District Advancement Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Council

We are submitting this application on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ of Unit No. \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
Name of candidate

chartered to \_\_\_\_\_ and located in \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Community State

Because of the disability (see the statement below from a qualified health-care professional), we believe that he is physically or mentally unable to complete the requirements for the following merit badge or badges required for the Eagle Scout rank:

Following a personal conference with him and his parent or guardian, I recommend the following alternative merit badge or badges be assigned to him. Please see the attached documentation supporting this recommendation.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit leader Unit committee chair

### Parent or Guardian Statement

In view of the medical or administrative statement attached, and following a conference with our unit leader, I approve the alternative Eagle Scout rank merit badges. My/our letter supporting this recommendation is attached, and also one from our Scout (if possible).

An Individualized Education Plan or other documentation is attached (optional).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or guardian

### Statement From a Qualified Health-Care Professional

As a result of a thorough examination or testing of the above-named Eagle Scout candidate on \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
Date

I have attached a statement describing the disability, the Scout's capabilities, limitations, and prognosis, and outlined why the merit badges to be replaced cannot be completed.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Title/credentials \_\_\_\_\_

### District Certification

We have reviewed this application for the above-named Eagle Scout candidate, and in review of the medical or administrative statement, and his excellent record in Scouting, we believe he should follow the alternative Eagle Scout rank merit badge method. We recommend to the council advancement committee that the merit badge or badges indicated be assigned to him as alternatives.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
District advancement committee chair or designee

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
District executive

### Council Committee Action\*

We have reviewed the district's recommendations and provide our approval.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Council advancement committee chair or designee

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Scout executive

\*The local council action on the alternative merit badge(s) for the Eagle Scout rank does not require National Council approval.

