

Scouting

The highest advancement in scouting is the rank of Eagle Scout. This rank was first achieved in 1912 by Arthur Eldred, a 17-year old member of troop 1 of Rockville Centre, Long Island NY. In 1982 Alexander Holsinger of Normal Ill was recognized as the 1 millionth. In 2001 Anthony Thomas of Lakeville Minnesota was recognized as the 2 millionth Eagle Scout.

Requirements are to obtain at least 21 merit badges, and additional recognition can be earned through the Eagle Palm, awarded for completing additional tenure, leadership and merit badge requirements. Of the 21 merit badges, 13 are required. These badges are, Camping, Citizenship in community, Citizenship in nation, Citizenship in the world, Communications, Cooking, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Sciences, Family Life, First Aid, Personal Fitness, Swimming, Hiking, or Cycling.

Each year at National Convention the American Legion awards a \$10,000 scholarship to an Eagle Scout who has been named "Eagle Scout of the Year", with 3 runners-up each receiving \$2,500 scholarships.

As it states in the Eagle Scout Pledge, Eagles do their best each day to make their training an example, their rank and their influence count strongly for better Scouting and for better citizenship in their Troop, in their community, and in their contacts with other people. To this they pledge their sacred honor.

Scott Merrill

**National Americanism Commission,
Sons of the American Legion**