



Boy Scouts of America  
Great Smoky Mountain Council  
Tuckaleechee District  
Troop 81

## ***EAGLE QUEST!***

Your goal is to earn the most coveted award in Boy Scouts.... the *Eagle!* You've been on this quest for years and now you're almost there.... your destination is plainly in sight! One of the few hurdles remaining is the review of your scout skills. This is achieved in Troop 81 by an event called the "Eagle Quest."

The Eagle Quest event gives you the opportunity to demonstrate your abilities in basic scout skills during an overnight backpacking expedition. This event serves two purposes: it will be the fulfillment of the camping merit badge requirement; and it will assist in the total evaluation of your qualifications for the rank of Eagle.

Since this is *your* Eagle Quest, you basically are in charge. You will determine when, where, how, and who will be involved. More specifically, you select your adult evaluators (two minimum) from a troop prepared list and invite them as your guest for the event. You decide when and where the event will take place. You prepare an information sheet and a trip checklist. You select the menu, purchase the food and prepare the meals. You may use any resources you choose including any needed troop equipment.

The evaluation will be simple and fair... no tricks or deceptions. This is not a pass/fail test. You will be evaluated on your basic knowledge and application of scout skills. The results of this evaluation will identify your strong skill areas and any weak areas. In rare occasions when the weak areas exceed the strong areas, a second Eagle Quest may be necessary. An Eagle Quest guideline is included in this packet to indicate the areas of evaluation.

The Eagle Quest was conceived to insure the competency of the candidates for scouting highest honor. For the well-prepared scout, this event will be effortless and relaxing. It will be a chance for you to "show your stuff" and have a good time.

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**EAGLE QUEST EVALUATION GUIDELINES**

NOTE: The following questions are provided to guide adult evaluators in their performance assessment of candidates for Eagle Quest. These set of guidelines are not confidential and may be used by the candidate to better prepare for the event.

**A. PREPLANNING & PREPARATION**

- [ ] 1. Did you receive a formal invitation from the candidate?
- [ ] 2. Did he confirm the intended date for the Eagle Quest?
- [ ] 3. Did he ask if you had any special dietary restrictions?
- [ ] 4. Did he ask if you had any physical limitations?
- [ ] 5. Was an Outing Checklist issued at least two weeks prior to Eagle Quest?
- [ ] 6. Did the Outing Checklist include a profile of the hike?
- [ ] 7. Did the Outing Checklist include accurate dates, time and location?
- [ ] 8. Was a third-person informed of the intended itinerary, time and date?
- [ ] 9. Did he issue an appropriate map of the hike?
- [ ] 10. Was the intended route and destination on the map clearly marked?
- [ ] 11. Did he plan for an alternate campsite if the primary site was occupied?
- [ ] 12. Did he check the forecasted weather condition?
- [ ] 13. Did he use all of his available resources?

**B. PRE-HIKE SHAKEDOWN**

- [ ] 1. Did he have all of the "Outdoor Essential" items?
- [ ] 2. Was the foodstuff repackaged to conserve bulk and weight?
- [ ] 3. Did he divide the gear/food with you in an equitable manner?
- [ ] 4. Was stove(s) and/or lantern(s) fueled and not pressurized?
- [ ] 5. Did he have extra liquid fuel in an appropriate container?
- [ ] 6. Did he have a full water bottle?
- [ ] 7. Did he have a water-resistance wristwatch?
- [ ] 8. Was his backpack within the weight limits?
- [ ] 9. Was his backpack neat, secure, and sturdy?
- [ ] 10. Was his poncho, pack cover, and first aid kit readily accessible?
- [ ] 11. Was he dressed appropriate for the season?
- [ ] 12. Was his Scout uniform used for an outer garment?
- [ ] 13. Was his footgear appropriate and secure?
- [ ] 14. Did he discuss trail conditions, stream crossing, etc.?
- [ ] 15. Did he provided an updated weather forecast?
- [ ] 16. Did he accurately prepare a backcountry permit? (If necessary)

**C. HIKING**

- [ ] 1. Did he time the start and finish of the hike?
- [ ] 2. Did he use a hiking stick?
- [ ] 3. Did he perform any trail maintenance?
- [ ] 4. Was trail etiquette evident?
- [ ] 5. Did he set the pace for the hike?
- [ ] 6. Did he refer to his map and compass while in route?
- [ ] 7. Was his whistle readily available?
- [ ] 8. Was high-energy trail food available?
- [ ] 9. Did he comply with safety rules during any stream crossings?
- [ ] 10. Did he take appropriate time for "rest stops"?

**0 ESTABLISHING CAMP**

- [ ] 1. Did the campsite have a water supply?
- [ ] 2. Did the campsite have an adequate supply of firewood?
- [ ] 3. Did the campsite provide natural protection from the elements?
- [ ] 4. Was his tent location appropriate for the watershed and prevailing wind?
- [ ] 5. Was his tent erected properly using all stakes?
- [ ] 6. Did he use a correctly sized ground cloth?
- [ ] 7. Did he correctly store all stuff-sacks?
- [ ] 8. Was his tent seam sealed?
- [ ] 9. Did he have a suitable sleeping pad?
- [ ] 10. Was his backpack correctly posted at the campsite?
- [ ] 11. Did he protect his backpack with a rain cover?
- [ ] 12. Did he establish and use a clothes/utility line with clothes pins?
- [ ] 13. Was the clothes/utility line above head level?
- [ ] 14. Did he erect a dining canopy?
- [ ] 15. Did he used the appropriate knots and hitches with the canopy?
- [ ] 16. Would the dining canopy shed rainwater?
- [ ] 17. Was the dining canopy seam sealed?
- [ ] 18. Did he flag any guy-line that would pose a safety hazard?
- [ ] 19. Did he establish a fire ring away from other camp structures?
- [ ] 20. If not previously established, did he remove and protect sod blocks?
- [ ] 21. Did he clear all burnable material to a five foot radius of the fire?
- [ ] 22. Did he consider over-hanging tree branches?
- [ ] 23. Did he collect an adequate supply of firewood before lighting the fire?
- [ ] 24. Did he separate the firewood in the three classifications?
- [ ] 25. Did he start the campfire with natural material?
- [ ] 26. Was adequate firewood collected and protected for the morning?
- [ ] 27. Did he exercise safety precautions while sawing firewood?
- [ ] 28. Did he establish a re-fueling area in camp with flagged boundary rope?
- [ ] 29. Was the re-fueling area well away from the kitchen and campfire?
- [ ] 30. Were liquid-fueled devices and fuel stored in the re-fueling area?
- [ ] 31. Was all re-fueling activity performed in the re-fueling area?
- [ ] 32. Was the kitchen area established near or under the dining canopy?
- [ ] 33. Were all cooking utensils stores in the kitchen area?
- [ ] 34. Was a plastic sheet used as the "kitchen table"?
- [ ] 35. Was a weather-protected menu posted?
- [ ] 36. Was a trash bag established and utilized?
- [ ] 37. Was a camp gadget constructed that required lashing?
- [ ] 38. Was the lashing performed correctly?
- [ ] 39. Was an adequate amount of water purified and stored properly?
- [ ] 40. Was the water supply protected from overnight freezing? (If necessary)
- [ ] 41. Was a bearbag correctly erected using proper knots and hitches?
- [ ] 42. Was the bearbag located away from the campsite?
- [ ] 43. Was foodstuff stored in the bearbag between meals?
- [ ] 44. Were both foodstuff and camp trash stored in the bearbag overnight?
- [ ] 45. Was the bearbag waterproof?
- [ ] 46. Was a latrine established away from camp and in a private location?
- [ ] 47. Was it located in biologically active soil away from creeks or streams?

**E. MEAL PREPARATION**

- [ ] 1. Did he first wash his hands with soap and water?
- [ ] 2. Was he familiar with the cooking instructions and procedures?
- [ ] 3. Was his cooking activity organized?
- [ ] 4. Did he have the right kind and types of utensils?
- [ ] 5. Was a reflector oven used?
- [ ] 6. Did he comply with all safety precautions concerning camp stoves?
- [ ] 7. Was the menu appropriate for the season?
- [ ] 8. Were all the menu items prepared and offered?
- [ ] 9. Was the meal served hot and on time?
- [ ] 10. Was Grace recite before the meal?
- [ ] 11. Were you and other guests served first?
- [ ] 12. Were the food portions adequate?
- [ ] 13. Were condiments available and offered?
- [ ] 14. Was the meal cooked properly and appetizing?

**F. CLEAN UP**

- [ ] 1. Was water for clean-up heated while eating the meal?
- [ ] 2. Was left-over food disposed properly?
- [ ] 3. Did he have detergent, scouring pads, drying towel, etc.?
- [ ] 4. Did he use a hot-soapy wash and a hot-water rinse?
- [ ] 5. Did he air-dry the utensils or use a drying towel?
- [ ] 6. Did he dispose of dishwater properly?
- [ ] 7. Did he clean and dry the washing pans?
- [ ] 8. Did he burn all burnable trash?
- [ ] 9. Did he air-dry the washing and drying towels on the clothes line?
- [ ] 10. Did he leave the kitchen area neat and tidy?

**G. PERSONAL ITEMS**

- [ ] 1. Was his name or initials on all his personal belongings?
- [ ] 2. Was his pocketknife always readily accessible?
- [ ] 3. Was the knife clean and sharp?
- [ ] 4. Did he have one flashlight battery reversed when packed?
- [ ] 5. Were matches stored in waterproof container?
- [ ] 6. Was his map weather-protected in waterproof pouch?
- [ ] 7. Was his firestarter appropriate for backpacking?
- [ ] 8. Did he have a "high visibility" item, such as a red poncho?
- [ ] 9. Were personal hygiene items available and used?
- [ ] 10. Was skin protection (sunscreen, lip balm, etc) available and used?
- [ ] 11. Did he have a complete change of clothing?
- 12. Was his first aid kit adequately stocked?
  - [ ] a. Could he treat a burn?
  - [ ] b. Could he drain and treat a blister?
  - [ ] c. Did he have an antiseptic and soap?
  - [ ] d. Did he have bandages, gauze, and tape?
  - [ ] e. Had any dated medication expired?
- 13. Was his emergency kit adequately stocked?
  - [ ] a. fresh batteries and bulb for flashlight?
  - [ ] b. extra matches?
  - [ ] c. extra lantern mantle? (if necessary)
  - [ ] d. sewing kit with extra buttons?
  - [ ] e. safety pins and rubber bands?
  - [ ] f. extra boot laces?
  - [ ] g. coins for pay phone

**H. SCOUT SKILL KNOWLEDGE**

- [ ] 1. Did he know the length of his step?
- [ ] 2. Could he determine an unknown distance?
- [ ] 3. Could he determine an unknown height?
- [ ] 4. Could he determine direction with and without a compass?
- [ ] 5. Could he follow a compass bearing?
- [ ] 6. Could he orient a map?
- [ ] 7. Could he determine elevation and distances from a map?
- [ ] 8. Did he know the basic map symbols?
- [ ] 9. Could he tie the six basic knots and demonstrate their application?
- [ ] 10. Could he correctly sharpen a pocketknife?
- [ ] 11. Could he correctly purify water?
- [ ] 12. Did he know distress signals?
- [ ] 13. Could be lay a campfire and start it with only three matches?
- [ ] 14. Could he identify poison ivy?
- [ ] 15. Could he identify most trees by their leaves or bark?
- [ ] 16. Could he answer selected questions from the first aid MB Q&A list?
- [ ] 17. Could he answer selected questions from the rank-level Q&A lists?

**I. STRIKING CAMP**

- [ ] 1. Did he remove all unburnable items from the fire pit?
- [ ] 2. Did he clean out and scatter the ashes from the fire pit?
- [ ] 3. If necessary, did he return the sod blocks and restore the fire pit?
- [ ] 4. In established campsites, was unused firewood stacked for next camper?
- [ ] 5. In wilderness campsite, did he scatter firewood to natural surroundings?
- [ ] 6. Did he return the natural ground cover to previously cleared areas?
- [ ] 7. Did he dismantle all lashing gadgets?
- [ ] 8. Did he fill in the latrine pit and restore ground cover?
- [ ] 9. Did he re-pack his backpack in a neat, secure and sturdy manner?
- [ ] 10. Did he perform a campsite sweep?
- [ ] 11. Did he pack out all unburnable trash?
- [ ] 12. Did he exercise "no trace" camping techniques?
- [ ] 13. Did he leave the campsite in better condition than he found it?
- [ ] 14. Was the departure time on schedule?

**J. POST EVENT EVALUATION**

- [ ] 1. Did the expedition follow the backcountry permit information?
- [ ] 2. Did he collect from you all issued camping gear?
- [ ] 3. Did he return all borrowed equipment clean, dry, and on time?
- [ ] 4. Did he thank you for being his evaluator?
- [ ] 5. Did you review with the candidate your assessment of his Eagle Quest?
- [ ] 6. Did you make a written report of your evaluation?

## **I. EAGLE QUEST**

### **A. Definition**

1. "Eagle Quest" is a term used to describe an event that provides an eagle candidate the opportunity to demonstrate his scout skills abilities during an overnight backpacking expedition.

### **B. Concept**

1. The Eagle Quest was conceived to insure the competency of a candidate for Scouting highest honor.
2. It is an assessment of the candidates basic knowledge and application of scout skills.
3. The evaluation is performed by a minimum of two scoutmasters from Troop 81.
4. This evaluation is not a Pass/Fail event.

### **C. Purpose**

1. This event serves two purposes:
  - a) It will be the fulfillment of the candidate's Camping merit badge requirement;
  - b) It will assist in the total evaluation of the candidate's qualifications for the rank of Eagle.

### **D. Management and Coordination**

1. The Eagle Quest program shall be managed exclusively by the scoutmasters of Troop 81.
2. The Eagle Quest program shall be coordinated by a designated scoutmaster of Troop 81.

### **E. Candidate Eligibility**

1. A candidate must fulfil the following before attaining eligibility to take his quest:
  - a) Be at the rank of Life Scout
  - b) Have an approved Eagle Service Project in progress (or completed).
  - c) Have earned 80% of the required merit badges toward the Eagle Rank.

### **F. Evaluator Eligibility**

1. An Eagle Quest Evaluator shall be a registered and approved scoutmaster or assistant scoutmaster of Troop 81 having attained the age of 21 or older.
2. Scoutmasters are not eligible to evaluate their own son.

### **G. Selection of Evaluators**

1. The candidate shall invite a minimum of two evaluators for his quest.
  - a) Evaluators are entitled to decline the invitation.
2. A current list of evaluators shall be made available to the candidate when he gains his eligibility to take his quest.
3. The selection of evaluators shall be at the sole discretion of the candidate.

### **H. Scoutmaster Notification**

1. The candidate shall notify the Scoutmaster in writing to provide the following:
  - a) Date of the scheduled outing
  - b) Location of the scheduled outing
  - c) Names of evaluators
2. Notification shall be made within one week of the scheduled outing.

**I. Scope of the Outing**

1. The outing shall be an overnight backpacking hike.
  - a) The duration shall be at least one night (24 hours).
  - b) The length of the hike shall be at least one mile one way.
2. The outing shall be a “stand alone” event.
  - a) The sole purpose in the outing shall be the evaluation of the candidate
  - b) The outing shall not be conducted with any other activity.

**J. Evaluating the Candidate**

1. The evaluation of a candidate shall be in accordance with Troop 81's *Eagle Quest Evaluation Guidelines*.
  - a) The candidate is entitled to have access to this guideline in order to prepare for his quest.
2. The evaluators shall, in an impartial and unbiased manner, appraise both the strong and weak areas of the candidate in the discipline of scout skills.
3. The assessment can be determined by, but not limited to, the following methods:
  - a) cursory observations
  - b) demonstration of a skill
  - c) application of a skill
  - d) verbal inquiries
  - e) inspection
  - f) direct or implied knowledge
4. The candidate should be made aware of his performance during the event.

**K. Evaluation Report**

1. A written evaluation report, signed by both evaluators, shall be forwarded to the scoutmaster and to the candidate.
  - a) The report should be submitted as soon as possible following the quest but not to exceed two weeks.
2. The report shall distinctly, using narrative detail, identify the candidate's strong skill areas and weak areas.
3. The report shall include a declarative statement by the evaluators that reveals the outcome of the Eagle Quest.

**L. Successful Outcome**

1. The Eagle Quest shall be considered successful when the total amount of strong areas exceed the total amount of weak areas as outlined in the written report.

**M. Unsuccessful Outcome**

1. The Eagle Quest shall be considered unsuccessful when the total amount of strong areas does not exceed the total amount of weak areas as outlined in the written report.
2. The candidate shall be made aware of a unsuccessful outcome as soon as possible.
3. The candidate may, as many times as necessary before his eightieth birthday, retake his quest until a successful outcome is reached.