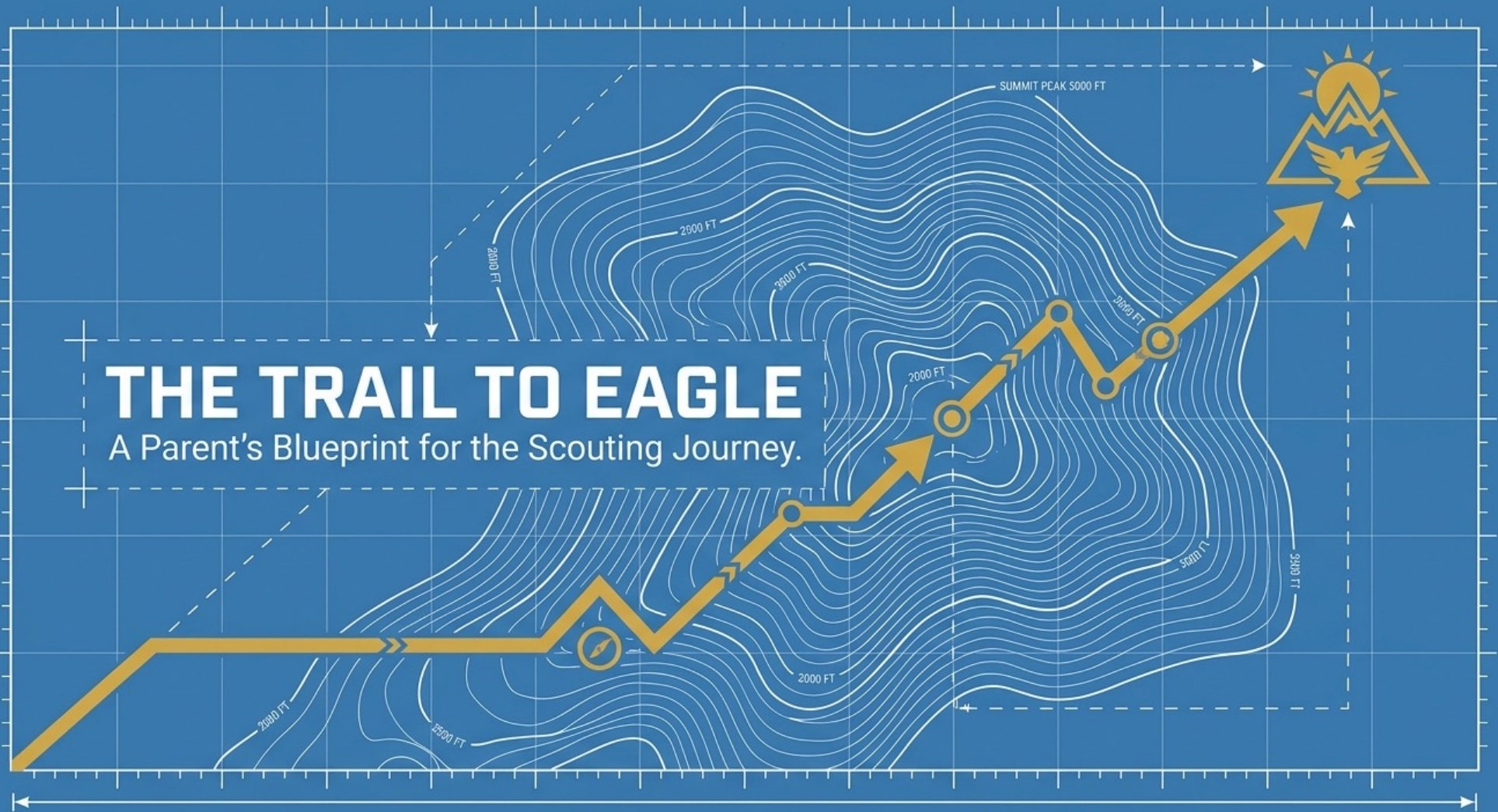


THE TRAIL TO EAGLE

A Parent's Blueprint for the Scouting Journey.



A sequential visual guide to navigating advancement, safety, and the Eagle Scout Service Project.

The Parental Mandate: Youth Protection Begins With You

BSA Systemic Rules

-  • Two-Deep Leadership required at all times.
-  • No one-on-one contact between adults and youth.
-  • Separate tenting and restroom accommodations.
-  • No secret organizations, hazing, or initiations.

Parent Action Items

-  • **Check First:** Insist your child asks permission before changing plans or going anywhere with anyone.
-  • **Buddy System:** Ensure your child always has a peer buddy.
-  • **Digital Safety:** Complete the Cyber Chip/Personal Safety Awareness videos.
-  • **Monitor:** Observe unit culture; all aspects of the program are open to parental observation.



**Suspect a violation or abuse? Stop it immediately.
Call 911, then the 24/7 Scouts First Helpline: 1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871).**

The Advancement Engine: How Progress is Made



The Scout Learns

- Experiential learning through patrol activities.
- Parent Role: Support attendance; avoid doing the work for them.



The Scout is Reviewed

- A Board of Review (unit committee members) ensures standards were met and discusses the Scout's experience.
- Parent Role: Ensure the Scout wears their uniform and arrives on time.



The Scout is Tested

- An authorized leader verifies the requirement was personally completed exactly as written.
- Parent Role: Step back. Parents cannot sign off on requirements unless registered and authorized by the unit leader.



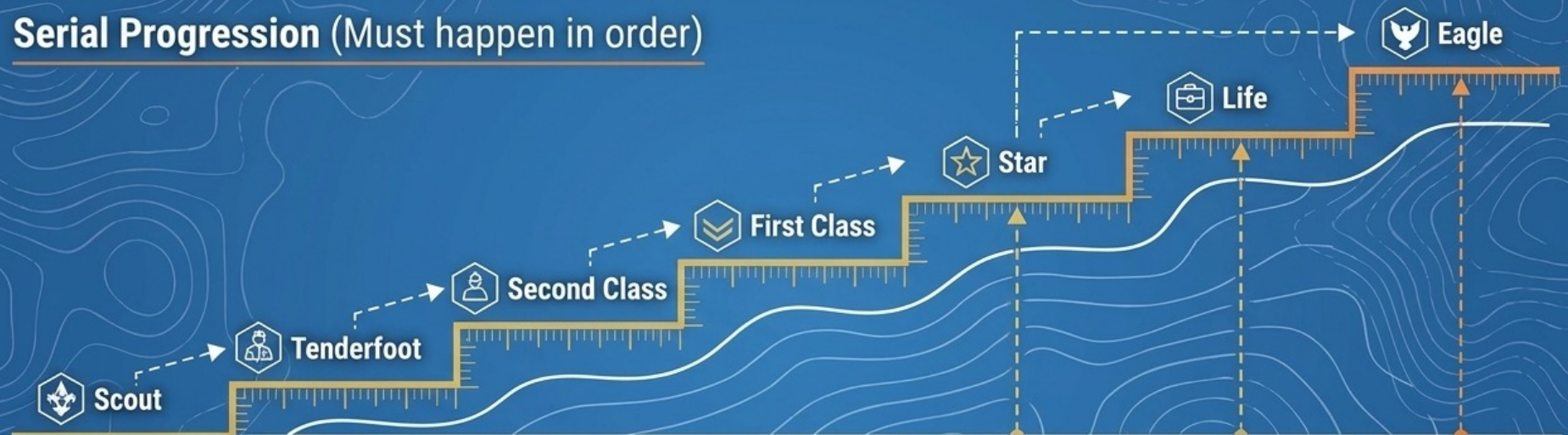
The Scout is Recognized

- Immediate recognition at meetings, followed by formal Courts of Honor.
- Parent Role: Attend ceremonies to celebrate their growth and confidence.

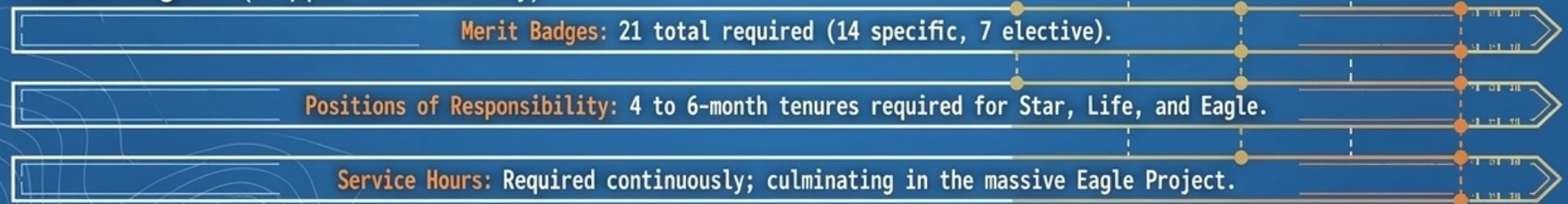


The Master Blueprint: Serial vs. Parallel Advancement

Serial Progression (Must happen in order)



Parallel Engines (Happen concurrently)

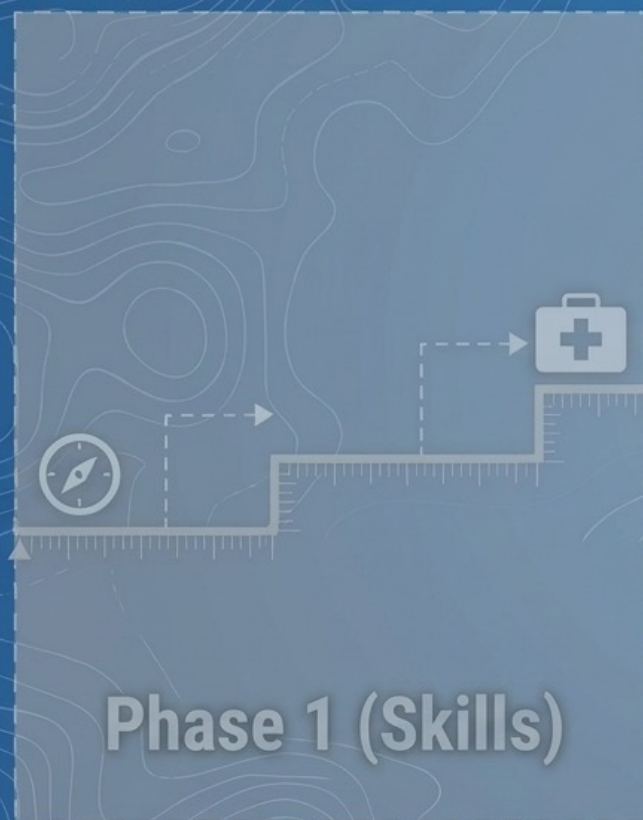


Phase 1: The Trail to First Class

[Target: 12-18 Months]



Phase 2: The Shift to Leadership (Star & Life)



★ Star Scout

Star Scout Requirements

- ☐ **Time:** Active for 4 months as a First Class Scout.
- ☐ **Leadership:** Serve 4 months in a Position of Responsibility.
- ☒ **Merit Badges:** Earn 6 badges (4 must be Eagle-required).
- ☒ **Service:** 6 hours of service.

🦅 Life Scout

Life Scout Requirements

- ☐ **Time:** Active for 6 months as a Star Scout.
- ☐ **Leadership:** Serve 6 months in a Position of Responsibility.
- ☐ **Merit Badges:** Earn 5 more badges (3 must be Eagle-required; 11 total).
- ☐ **Service:** 6 hours of service (3 must be conservation-related).

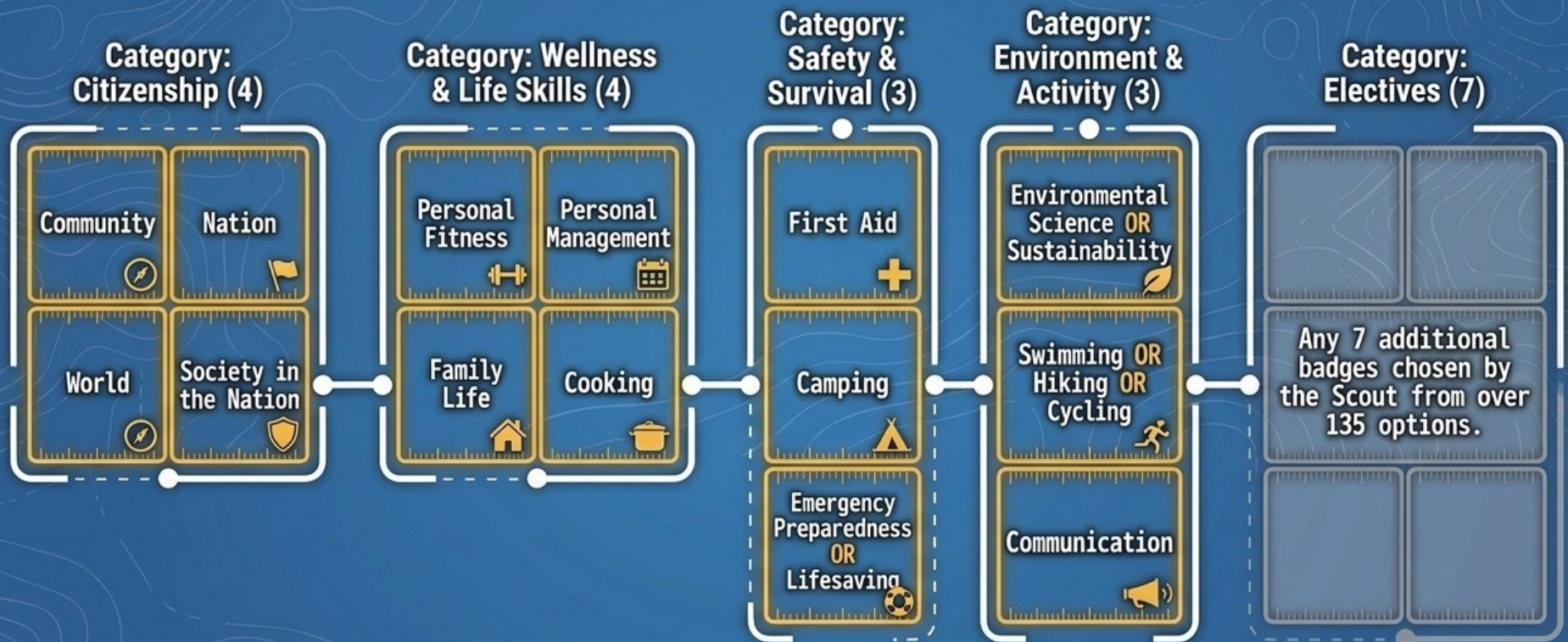
Parent Note: This is where Scouts often stall. Help them manage their time and track their merit badge progress, but insist they communicate directly with their unit leaders to secure leadership roles.

The Merit Badge Anatomy: The Blue Card Process



YPT Mandate: A Scout must ALWAYS have a buddy (parent, peer, or leader) at every meeting. NO one-on-one contact is ever permitted.

The 21-Badge Eagle Dashboard



Note: OR badges mean earning one fulfills the requirement; earning the alternative counts as one of the 7 electives.

Defining Active and Leadership

The 3 Tests of Active Participation

- ① Scout is registered. ⚙️ -----
- ② Scout is in good standing (not suspended). ⚙️ -----
- ③ Scout meets the unit's reasonable expectations (or alternative outside positive endeavors explain a lower level of activity). Scouting is year-round; troops taking summer off cannot penalize the Scout.

Positions of Responsibility

Approved 🦅	⚠️ Not Approved for Eagle ⚠️
Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Scribe, Den Chief, Webmaster, Outdoor Ethics Guide, etc.	Assistant Patrol Leader, Bugler.

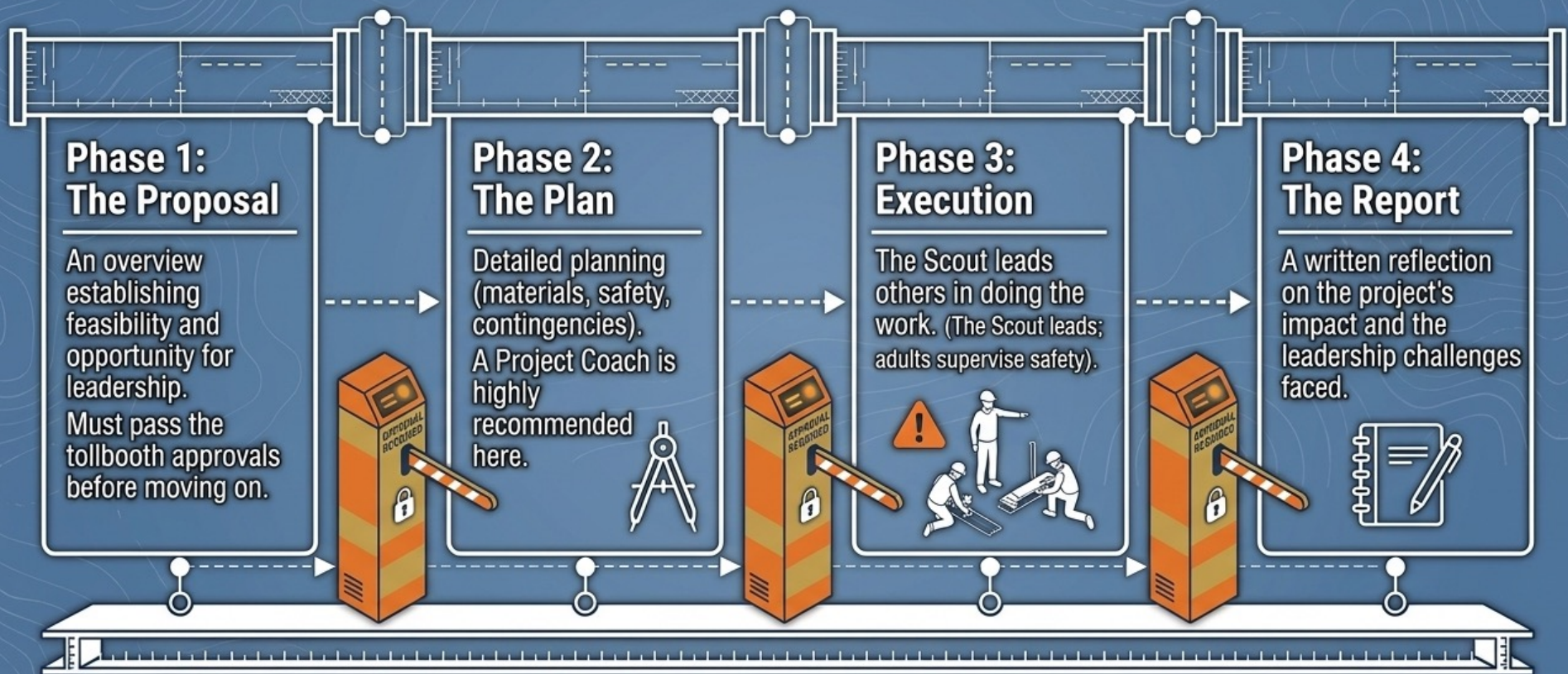
⚠️ **Rule: Responsibilities must be met.**
If a Scout fails to fulfill the role,
the time does not count.

The Eagle Summit: The 6 Pillars

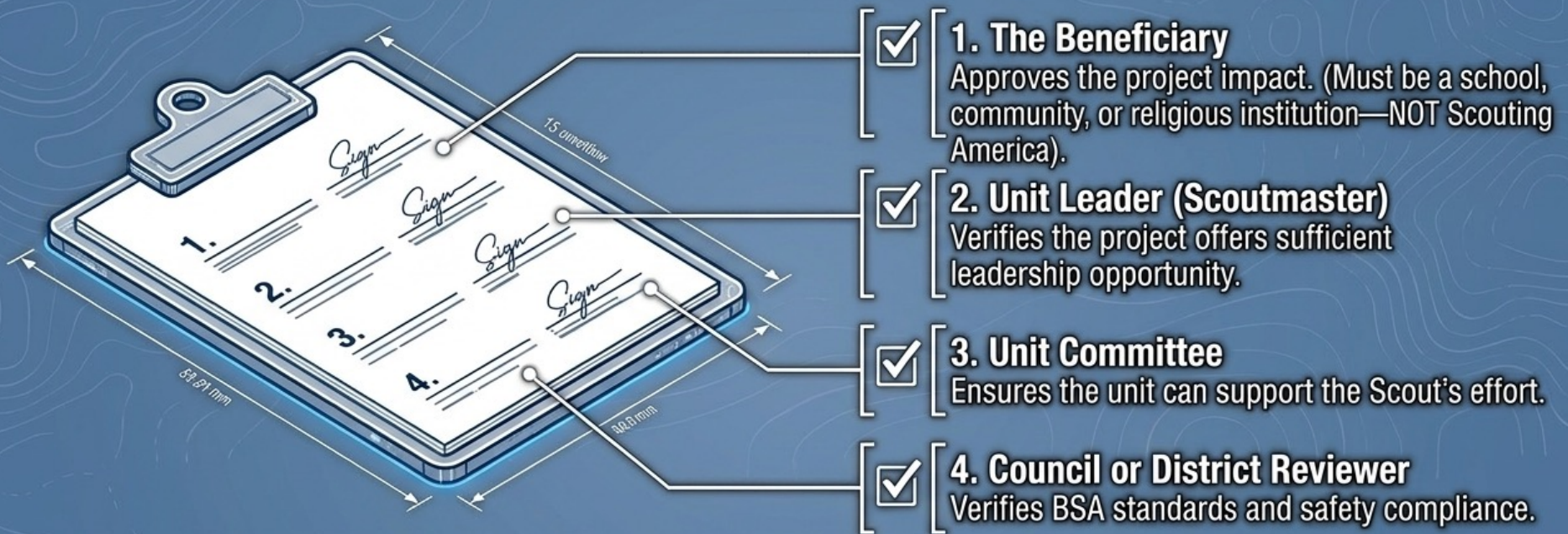


⚠ The Golden Rule: ALL six pillars must be completed BEFORE the Scout's 18th birthday. (The Board of Review may occur after).

The Eagle Project Phases: The Tollbooth Model



Proposal Approval Gates: Who Signs and When



STOP. Do not raise a single dollar, buy a single nail, or begin any physical work until **ALL FOUR** signatures are on the Proposal. Doing work beforehand invalidates the project.

Executing the Project: Leadership vs. Liability



The Scout's Domain (Leadership)

- Directing the volunteers (minimum of 2 helpers required).
- Managing the schedule and workflow.
- Making decisions and solving problems on-site.

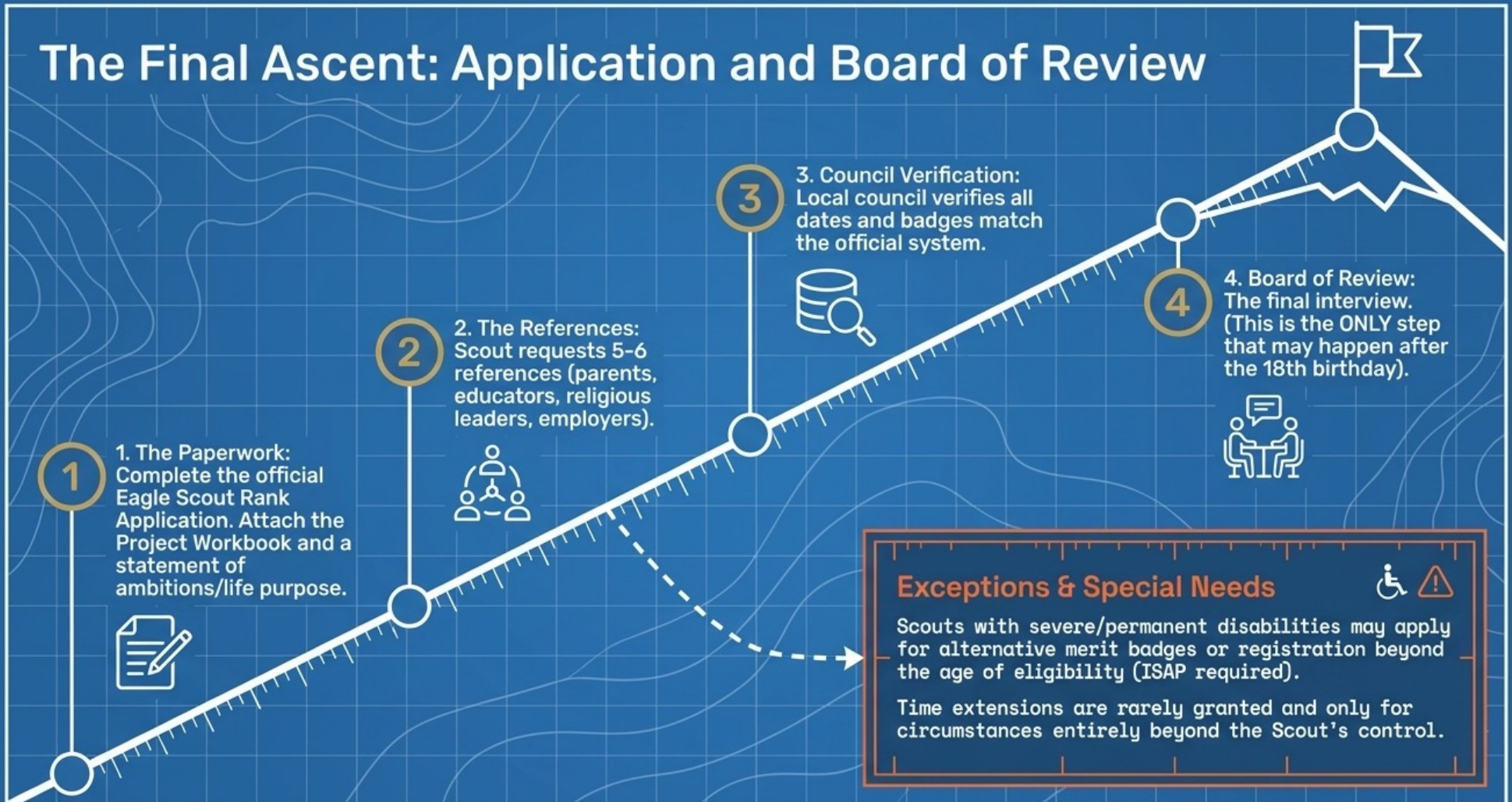
Parent rule: Do not overshadow the Scout. Let them struggle, let them lead.

The Adult's Domain (Risk Management)

- Minors cannot be held responsible for safety or liability.
- Adults must enforce the SAFE Checklist (Supervision, Assessment, Fitness and Skill, Equipment and Environment).
- Ensure tool usage guidelines are followed (e.g., age restrictions on power tools).

Parent rule: Step in immediately if there is a safety hazard or YPT violation. Otherwise, step back.

The Final Ascent: Application and Board of Review



The Parent's Trail Master Checklist

Foundation (Ages 11-13)

- [✓] Complete **YPT**/Cyber Chip with Scout.
- [✓] Ensure attendance for First Class outdoor skills.
- [✓] Help Scout track Rank requirements in their book.

Momentum (Ages 13-15)

- [✓] Encourage Scout to secure a Leadership Position.
- [✓] Support Merit Badge scheduling (ensure **Buddy System**).
- [✓] Track 14 Eagle-required badges.

The Summit (Ages 15-17.9)

- [✓] Ensure Project Proposal gets 4 signatures **BEFORE** work begins.
- [✓] Provide **safety**/tool supervision during Project Execution.
- [✓] Ensure **ALL** requirements and Scoutmaster Conference are done **BEFORE 18th birthday**.
- [✓] Step back. Watch them soar.

Care of Westwood Troop 3 Parent Group

