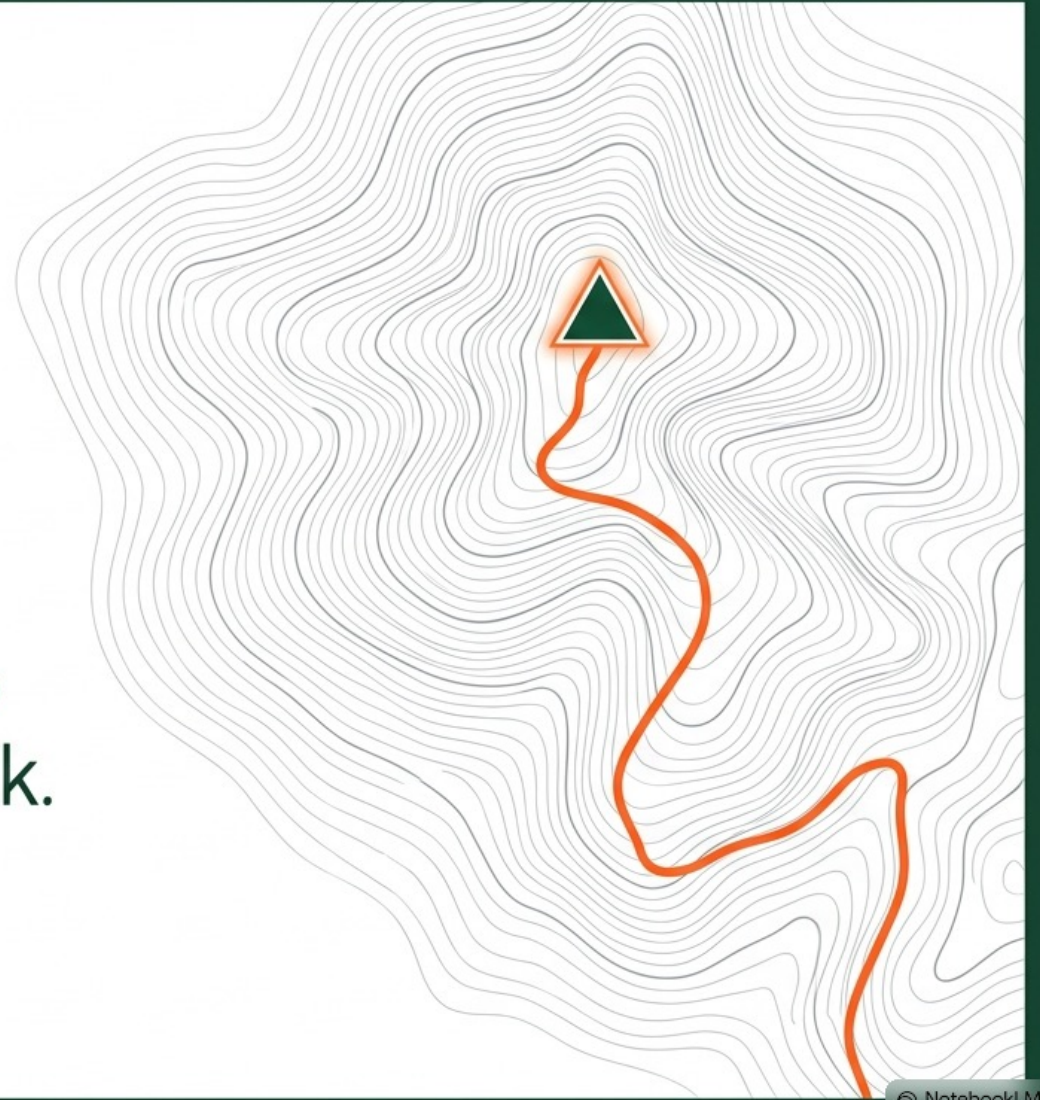


The Trail to Eagle

A Parent's Roadmap to
Scouting's Highest Rank.



Establishing the Guardrails and Guidance



The Parent's Role: Basecamp Support



- ☒ **Mentor and monitor safety.**
- ☒ **Enforce Youth Protection:** Ensure 2-deep adult leadership at all times; strictly no one-on-one contact.
- ☒ **Guide digital safety** (Cyber Chip).
- ☒ **Support, but do not sign off** on requirements.

The Scout's Role: Leading the Expedition

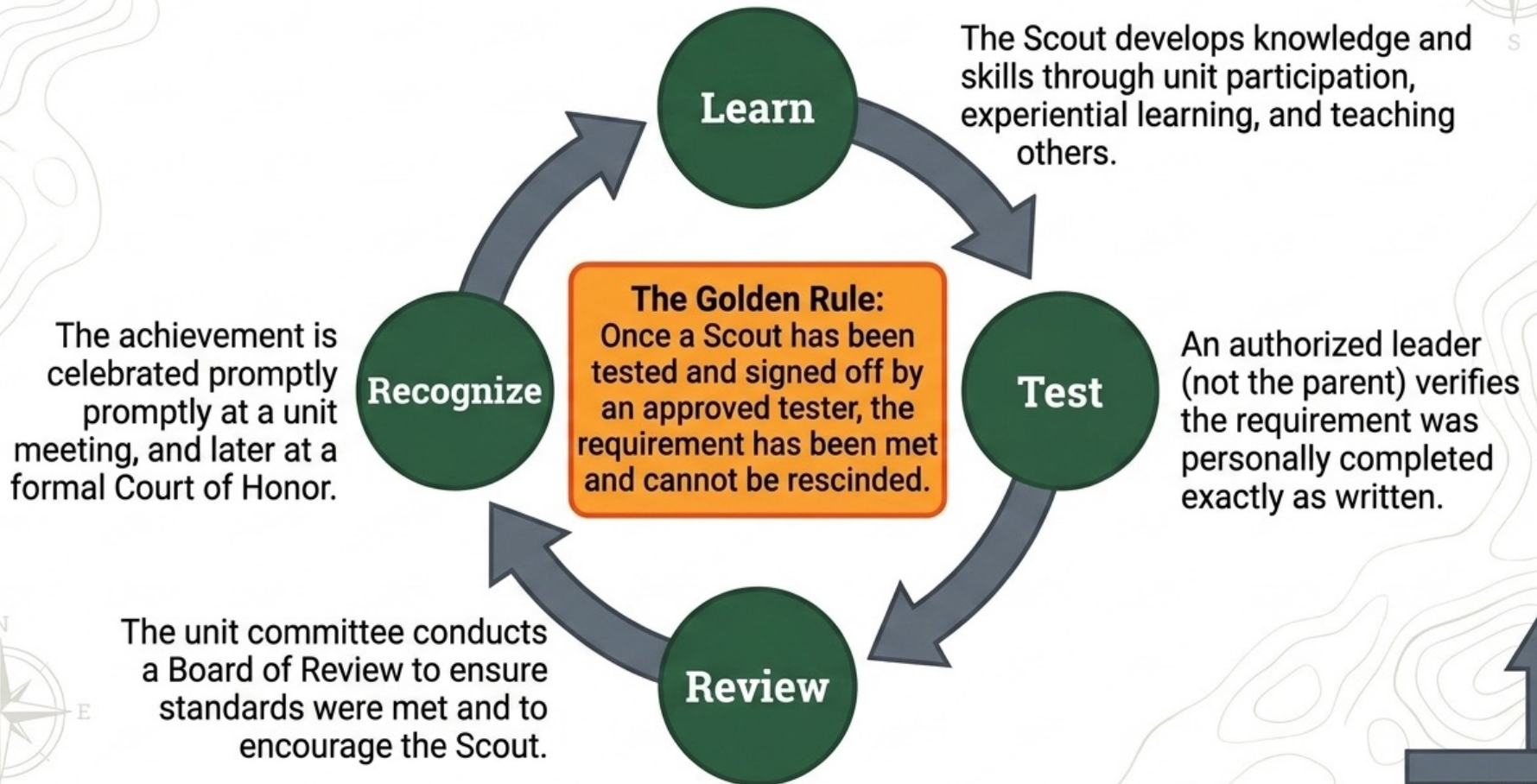


-  **Do Your Best** — the core metric of effort.
-  **Lead the work** and **initiate advancement** sign-offs.
-  **Communicate directly** with unit leaders and merit badge counselors.

Youth Protection Begins With YOU.
Advancement is youth-led, but parent-supported.



The Four Stages of Advancement



The Journey Blueprint: Serial Steps & Parallel Tracks



The Eagle journey is not just climbing stairs; it is weaving a rope. While ranks are awarded sequentially, a Scout is continuously building a portfolio of badges, service, and leadership that spans their entire Scouting career. Work done on day one can fulfill requirements years later.



Merit Badges



Leadership



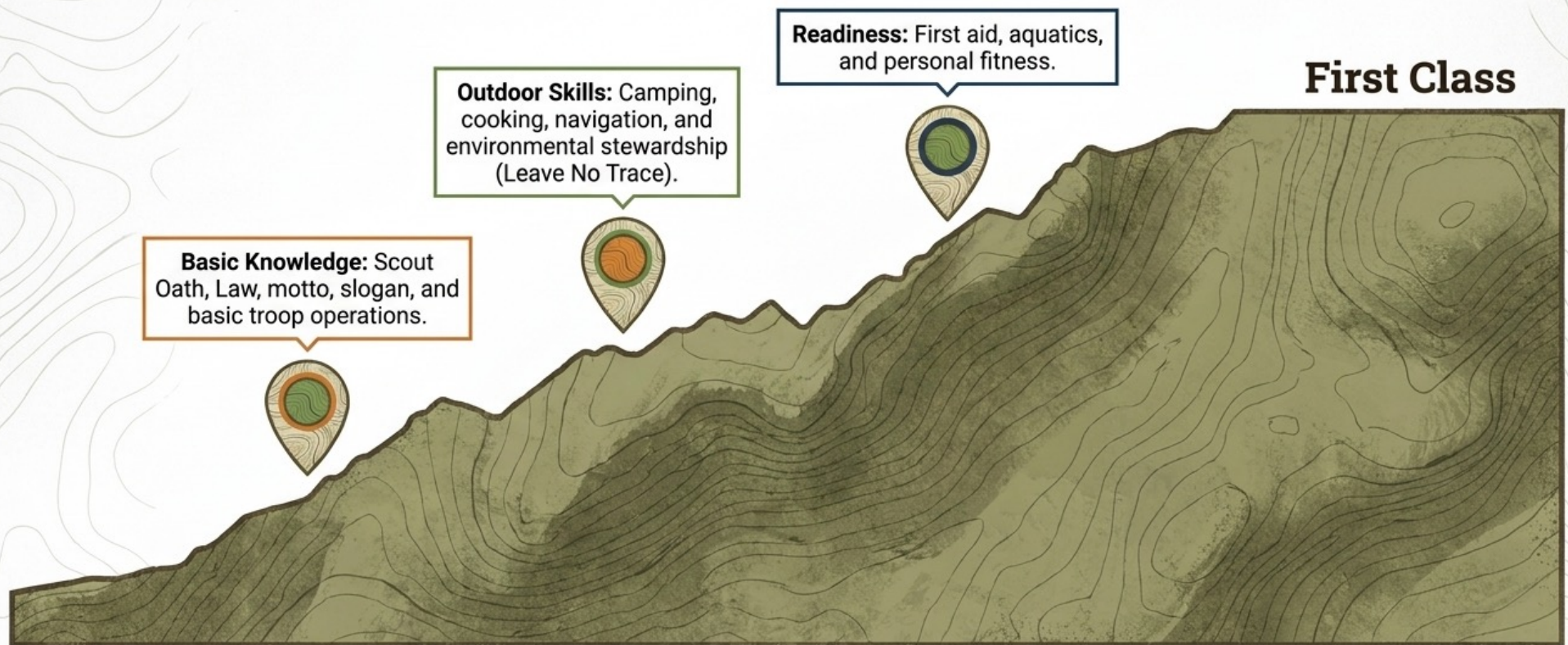
Service



Scout Spirit

The Learner Phase: Scout to First Class

The goal of a well-rounded unit is to help a Scout achieve First Class within 12 to 18 months of joining. Requirements for these early ranks may be worked on simultaneously, but the ranks must be earned in strict sequence.



The Leader Phase: Star & Life

The focus shifts from passing outdoor skill tests to guiding others and taking responsibility for the unit's success.



Star Rank

- 🌲 4 months of active participation.
- 🌲 Serve 4 months in an approved Position of Responsibility.
- 🌲 Earn 6 Merit Badges (4 must be Eagle-required).
- 🧭 6 hours of approved service.



Life Rank

- 🌲 6 months of active participation.
- 🌲 Serve 6 months in an approved Position of Responsibility.
- 🌲 Earn 5 Merit Badges (3 must be Eagle-required).
- 🧭 6 hours of approved service (at least 3 must be conservation-related).
- 🌲 Use the Teaching EDGE method to instruct a younger Scout.

Parallel Track 1: The Merit Badge Portfolio

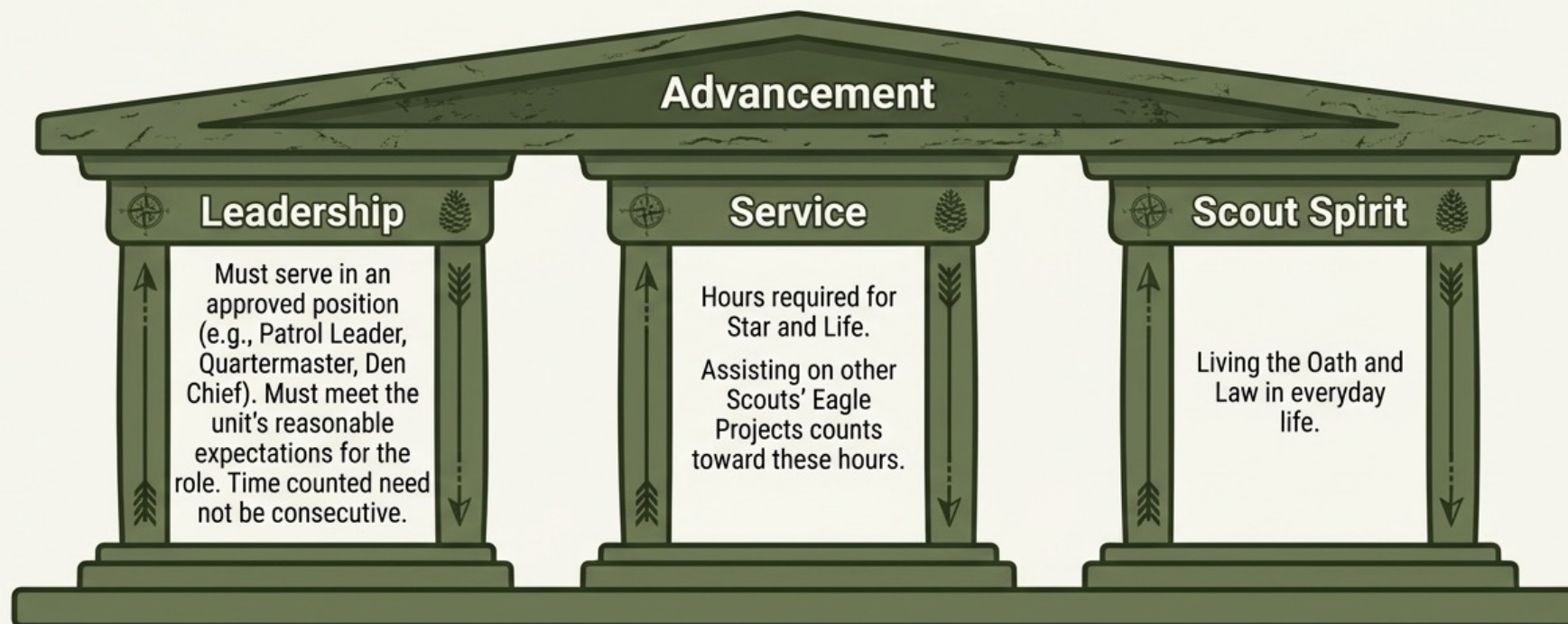
21 Total Badges Required for Eagle. **14 Specific Requirements.** **7 Electives** of the Scout's Choice.



First Aid	Citizenship in the Community	Citizenship in the Nation	Citizenship in the World	Citizenship in Society	Communication	+	+
Communication	Cooking	Personal Fitness	Personal Management	Camping	Family Life	+	+
[Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving]	[Environmental Science OR Sustainability]	[Environmental Science OR Cycling]	[Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling]	+	+	+	+

The Blue Card Process: The Scout must have a unit leader discussion before beginning work with a registered, approved Merit Badge Counselor.

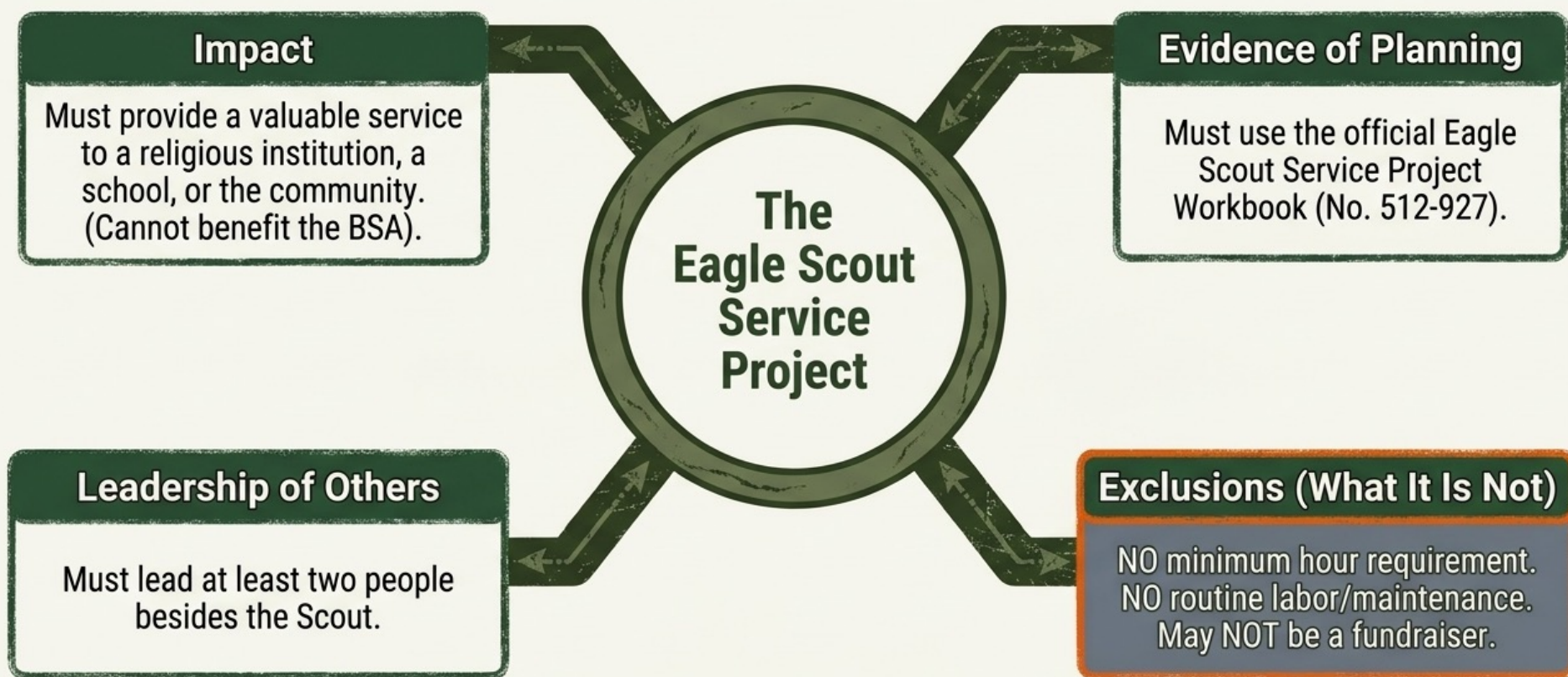
Parallel Tracks 2, 3 & 4: Leadership, Service & Spirit



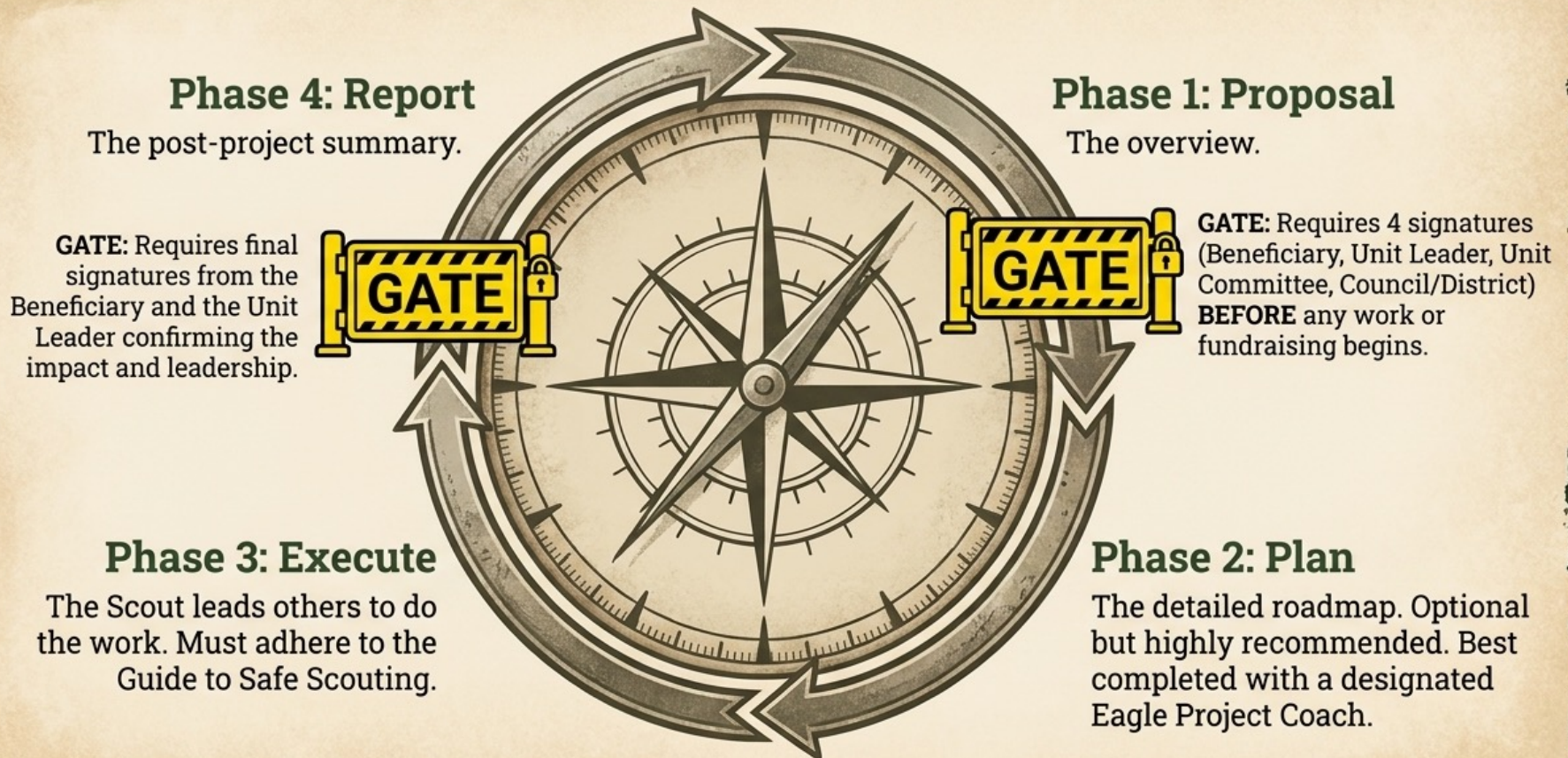
Active Participation: Defined as having a sufficiently positive influence in the unit. A Scout balancing outside activities (sports, academics) can still meet this requirement if they maintain their registration and meet reasonable, pre-communicated unit expectations.

The Summit: The Eagle Scout Service Project

"While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project..."



The Project Lifecycle: Navigating the Workbook



Funding & The Beneficiary Relationship

The project belongs to the Scout. The benefit belongs to the community.

The Beneficiary



The Beneficiary: The Scout is the project manager; the beneficiary is the client. The Scout must provide the beneficiary with the Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project information sheet.

Funding

Fundraising Rules:

Fundraising is only allowed to secure materials to facilitate the project, not to raise cash for a charity.

The Application Gate:

A formal Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application is required **UNLESS** all funds come directly from the Scout, their family, their unit, or the beneficiary organization itself.



The image shows a 'Fundraising Application' form for Eagle Scouts. It includes the Eagle Scout logo at the top left and a circular seal at the top right. The form has several sections with headings: 'Project Information', 'Fundraising Information', 'Application Information', 'Scoutmaster/Unit Information', and 'Scoutmaster/Unit Signature'. Each section contains various fields for text entry, some with checkboxes. At the bottom, there are lines for 'Scoutmaster/Unit Signature' and 'Scoutmaster/Unit Name'. The form is titled 'Fundraising Application' in the top right corner.

Surplus: Any leftover funds or materials must be turned over to the beneficiary.

The Paperwork Trail: Applications & References

**The 18th
Birthday**

The Hard Deadline

All requirements
(including the project
execution and the
Scoutmaster conference)
MUST be completed
before the
Scout's 18th birthday.

The Application

Must use the **exact**,
current BSA Eagle Scout
Rank Application.

Attach a statement of
Ambitions and Life
Purpose, and a list of
leadership/honors.

The References

Must secure **5 to 6 references**
(Parents/Guardians, Religious,
Educational, Employer, and
two others). Completed
references are strictly
confidential. They go directly
to the council or review
board, never to the Scout.

The Final Gate: The Board of Review

The Ultimate Review. Unanimous approval required.



**The 18th
Birthday**

Timing:

This is the **ONLY** requirement that can be completed after the 18th birthday. It can occur up to 24 months after the birthday, provided all other work was finished prior.



Composition:

Comprised of unit committee members and at least one district/council representative not affiliated with the unit.

The Standard:

Evaluates the Scout's character, project impact, and leadership.
Not a retest of knot-tying or First Aid.

The Outcome:

Requires unanimous approval.
If disputed or denied, the Scout has the right to a formal appeal process.

The Parent's Master Dashboard

Rank	Date Achieved	MBs Earned (X/21)	Leadership Months	Service Hours
Scout	_____	_____ ☐	_____ ☐	_____ ☐
Tenderfoot	_____	_____ ☐	_____ ☐	_____ ☐
Second Class	_____	_____ ☐	_____ ☐	_____ ☐
First Class	_____	_____ ☐	_____ ☐	_____ ☐
Star	_____	_____ ☐	_____ ☐	_____ ☐
Life	_____	_____ ☐	_____ ☐	_____ ☐
Eagle	_____	_____ ☐	_____ ☐	_____ ☐

Eagle Apex Checklist



Proposal:
4 Signatures
secured.



Execute:
Project
finished.



Report:
Beneficiary &
Leader signed.



Admin:
References requested &
Ambitions statement written.



Final:
Eagle Application
verified by Council.

Beyond the Summit

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle. The rank is a state of being, not just an award.

Eagle Palms: Scouts can continue to earn Bronze, Gold, and Silver Palms for every 5 additional merit badges earned, demonstrating continued leadership and service.

The ultimate goal of the advancement trail is not the medal on the uniform. It is the personal growth, character, and leadership that the young adult will carry into society for the rest of their life.



Care of Westwood Troop 3 Parent Group

