



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BALTIMORE AREA COUNCIL

Higher Education - Scholarship Program - Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients

HB1253

Values and character are the bedrock of our community and country. Everyday social and peer pressures force too many youths to make poor character and value decisions. The Boy Scouts of America is a movement which has as its aim and purpose, character building and citizenship training. The Baltimore Area Council believes it to be a movement that helps youth become masters of their powers, helps them get along with other people, and helps them find a worthy use for their skills. Scouting provides a values compass for youth, and this is why we believe that every youth needs to have the opportunity to join Scouting. Help us fulfill that commitment. The values and character taught by Scouting are based on our cherished Scout Oath and Law.

Scouting does so much for Maryland youth. We provide them fun and safe activities both during the school day and during the critical non-school hours. We offer them a framework of caring and supportive adults to help develop and guide their moral compass. We provide an opportunity to learn new skills and **help ordinary kids become extraordinary adults**. Every child has potential within them, and what our programs seek to do is to unlock it.

Eagle is the highest and most coveted award in Scouting, and it is the last major step in the advancement program, which can take years to achieve. Only 6% of participants in Boy Scouts achieve this rank, showing the true dedication and hard work of these eagles. These young people who achieve their Eagle have accepted and live by the obligations listed below.

- **The first obligation** of an Eagle Scout is to live with honor, which to an Eagle is sacred. Honor is the foundation of character.
- **The second obligation** of an Eagle Scout is loyalty, without loyalty, all character lacks direction. An Eagle is loyal to his ideals.
- **The third obligation** of an Eagle Scout is courage. Courage gives all character force and strength. Trusting in God and with faith in his fellowman, the Eagle faces each day unafraid and seeks his share of the world's work to do.
- **The final obligation** of an Eagle Scout is service. The habit of the daily Good Turn must take on new meaning and blossom forth into a life of service. The Eagle protects and defends the weak and the helpless. He aids and comforts the oppressed and the unfortunate. He upholds the rights of others while defending his own. His code of honor is based upon the belief that real leadership must be founded upon real service.

In 2019 Maryland produced 1,037 Eagle Scouts, ranking 19th in the nation. Eagle Scout service projects contribute an average of 139.8 volunteer hours. Maryland Eagle Scouts contributed \$3,686,653.22 to the Maryland economy through their hard work.

Since 1912, the Eagle Scout rank has represented a milestone of accomplishment—perhaps without equal—that is recognized across the country and even the world. Those who have earned the Eagle Scout rank count it among their most treasured achievements. “Eagle Scout” is not just an award; it is a state of being. Those who earned it as youth continue to earn it every day as adults. That is why an Eagle Scout **is** an Eagle Scout—not was. **By investing the continuing education of our Eagle Scouts through scholarships, we are preparing them to be leaders in Maryland and America.** Together we can prepare Maryland youth – for life.

Prepared. For Life.™

