

Eagle References & Letters of Recommendation

(Guide to Advancement 9.0.1.3 and 9.0.1.7)



Function	Old	New (January 1, 2025)
Responsible for requesting and following up	Council advancement committee members or designee	Scout
Number of references	Six (five if not employed)	Four
Can the current unit leader (Scoutmaster, Advisor, Skipper) or Committee Chair serve as a reference?	Not preferred	No. Their signature on the application is the endorsement.
Can the parent/guardian serve as a reference?	Not preferred	Strongly discouraged
Religious Recommendation	Strongly recommended. If not affiliated, parent/guardian provides	Allowed
Method	Council determines methods of contact: letter, form, or phone call	Councils choose the method letter, email, online form, etc.
Electronic submissions	Discouraged	Allowed only if confidentiality at all stages is guaranteed.
Can Scout collect?	Yes	Yes, but only if in a sealed envelope; otherwise sent to a designated unit, district, or council adult.
Impact on Scout if references not obtained	If after a reasonably diligent effort no response can be obtained from any references, the board of review must go on without them. It must not be postponed or denied for this reason, and the Scout shall not be asked to submit additional references or to provide replacements.	If after diligent effort four recommendations are not received, the board of review can go forward without them. If the Scout chooses to go forward, the board may ask about their efforts, but may not deny advancement based only on lack of references.
Disposition	Letters destroyed after Board	Letters destroyed after Board