

Parallel Paths to Goals

On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation, honoring the Eagle Scouts of the Boy Scouts of America and a new Eagle.

The path to becoming an Eagle Scout and wearing the coveted Eagle badge has similarities to the one we took to become "Qualified in Submarines" and wear our symbol, the "dolphins". As Submarine Veterans we saw this as a means to recognize such scouts and show our support for the Boy Scouts of America and thus, instituted this recognition program.

Setting and reaching goals in the Submarine Service and Scouting are similar. There is the desire to be the best of the organization. In the case of (name), it is Scouting. In the case of a Submariner, it is the United States Navy and service aboard a nuclear submarine. To reach either goal, a long period of dedicated work and study is required.

As a new scout, a young man joins a troop, entering as a Tenderfoot and begins to learn the basics of Scouting. In the case of the potential submariner, a young man must join the Navy and be outstanding in what he does to get accepted for Submarine School; he will be physically and mentally examined before getting into Submarine School where he will learn the fundamental principles of submarines in a classroom.

Nine weeks of school generally reduces the size of his graduating class because it is not an easy curriculum to finish. Upon completion he will be assigned to an operating submarine where the final challenge begins. He has made the equivalent of the passage to a First Class Scout.

The potential submariner begins his quest in earnest by first qualifying as a watch stander in some area and becoming a useful member of the crew. Like a scout earning merit badges, the sailor qualifies within his own department as well as learning systems and jobs of other crew members.

As he works to earn the designation of "Qualified in Submarines" and become a wearer of the "Dolphins," it is as the transition from First Class to Star to Life scout. Until the potential sub-sailor completes the qualification process he spends most of his free time studying: recreation and movies are at a premium; He also works against a time limit of approximately six to nine months. A scout must complete the requirements prior to his eighteenth birthday.

Like the sailor, as the Scout progresses through Star and Life in his quest for Eagle, he becomes a more useful member of his troop, often providing critical leadership and motivation to newer scouts.

After completing all their requirements, both the potential submariner and the prospective Eagle Scout face a board of review, the final test before being deemed worthy to enter their elite brotherhoods. If these individuals had not set the strict goal of becoming a Submariner or an Eagle Scout, and stuck to it, reaching the goal would not have been possible. They kept their eyes on the goal and attained it, just as (name) has.

The brotherhood of the "Phin" and the brotherhood of Eagles will last a lifetime. Membership in these brotherhoods opens doors difficult for others to even find. An employer often stops looking when he finds a member of their "brotherhood"; they know they have found someone who can get the job done and can get along with people.

Others will be watching you. Be a leader. Set the example and the pace.

Congratulations, (name), you have earned the Eagle Scout Award through your personal dedication, motivation and diligence. The United States Submarine Veterans commend you for this and wish you great success in all of your future endeavors.