

ART OF THE EAGLE

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This year the Boy Scouts of America celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Eagle Scout Award. On August 21, 1912, Arthur Eldred received a letter from the BSA naming him the first to reach Scouting's highest rank. Today, more than two million Scouts have worn an Eagle pin.



First Eagle Pin



Eagle Scout Arthur Eldred



Today's Eagle Pin

Artists have been showing the world what it means to be an Eagle Scout ever since. In thousands of illustrations, paintings, and sculptures, and mementos they have given visual meaning to Eagles doing what Eagles do - practicing leadership, being of service to others, and living by the values of Scouting.

EAGLE'S FIRST LOOK

Three years after Arthur Eldred received his award, an Eagle appeared on the cover of Boys' Life magazine. It was the first widely-distributed depiction of an Eagle Scout. His high-collared uniform jacket included two rank emblems (Life came before Star in those days) and the shoulder patch of an assistant senior patrol leader. The only other adornment on his uniform was an Eagle Scout pin.



Boys Life magazine – July 1915

Also on the cover was a letter from President Woodrow Wilson. He wrote:

"It is fine to have the boys of the country organized for the purposes the Boy Scouts represent, and whenever I see a group of them, I am proud of their manliness and feel cheered by the knowledge of what their organization represents."

BLUE DOG EAGLE

Nearly a century after that Boys' Life cover, famed artist George Rodrigue brought a very different vision to the subject. Growing up in New Iberia, Louisiana, George loved the outdoors and spent all the time he could at the Evangeline Area Council's Camp Thistlethwaite, rising to the rank of Eagle.



George Rodrigue at Camp Thistlethwaite



Mr. Rodrigue at work in his studio

His interest in art also began when he was young, and he pursued it with great determination. His close observation of the countryside and culture of his beloved Louisiana have been his subjects through a lifetime of painting.

Long a fixture in the New Orleans art scene, Mr. Rodrigue's Blue Dog paintings are known throughout the world. One of them, Eagle with Neckerchief features a Blue Dog neckerchief slide.



Blue Dog Eagle

Through the George Rodrigue Foundation for the Arts, Mr. Rodrigue has shared his passion with young people and supported a variety of art education programs. In recognition of his professional achievements and advocacy of the arts, he has been recognized by the BSA national council of as a Distinguished Eagle Scout. For more information on Eagle Scout and artist George Rodrigue, visit <http://www.wendyrodrigue.com>.



George Rodrigue photos courtesy of <http://www.wendyrodrigue.com/2011/04/distinguished-eagle-scout.html>

Receiving the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award

EAGLES EARNING THEM ALL

Clay Wood of Jackson, Ohio's Troop 5048 is one of an estimated 250 Scouts who earned 21 merit badges to become an Eagle, then went on to complete the requirements for all the rest of them, too. It's an achievement that requires tremendous dedication and hard work to master merit badge subjects ranging from American Business to Woodwork.



Clay Wood

Eagle Scout Wood says that the Scuba Diving merit badge was the most demanding for him. Another challenge was figuring out how to wear the 126 merit badges he had amassed.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Scouting has had a major role for two generations of the Imhoff family. Daniel, Kurt, and Bob are all Eagles, and so is their Scoutmaster dad Carl. Kristen Imhoff, the boys' mother, has been a big part of their success. "I care about character and integrity, and Scouting plays into that," she says.



Kristen, Daniel, Kurt, Bob, and Carl Imhoff

In fact, every Eagle Scout has found his advancement helped along with the support of families, troop leaders, merit badge counselors, and others showing the way. At scoutstuff.org, Eagles can find terrific gifts to express their gratitude to those who helped make it all possible.



Eagle Charm



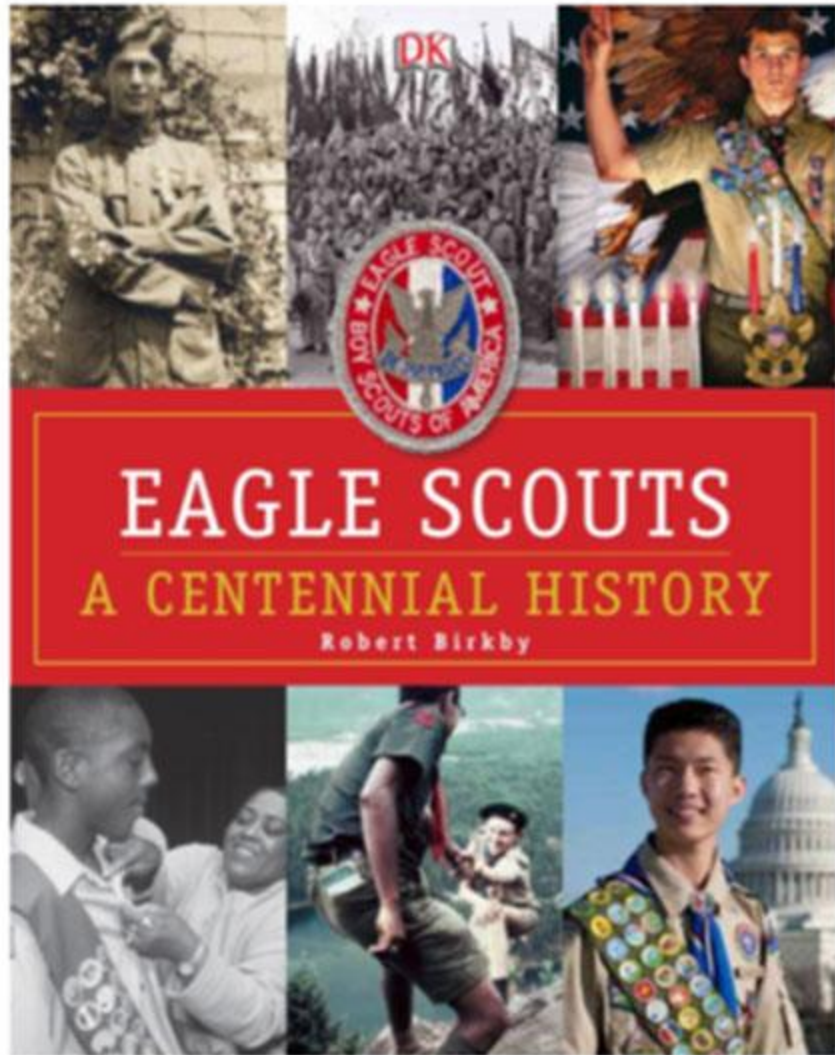
Eagle Mentor Pin



Eagle Parent Bumper Sticker

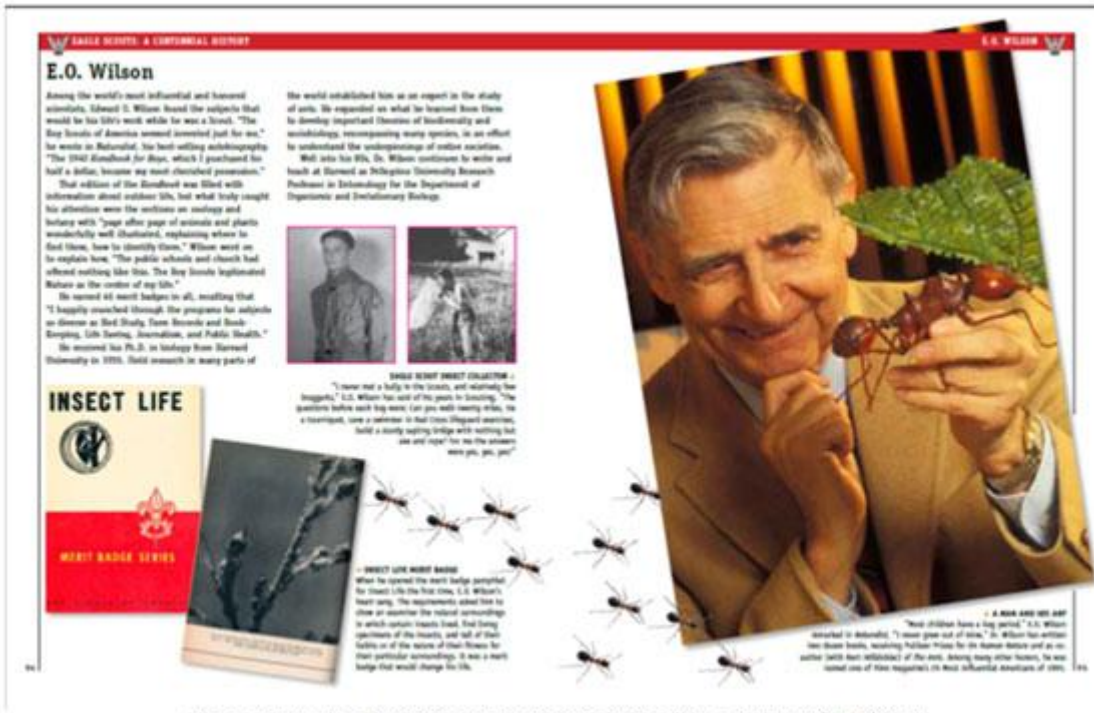
EAGLE SCOUTS - A CENTENNIAL HISTORY

Want to learn more about the first hundred years of the Eagle award? *Eagle Scouts - A Centennial History* is a new book written just for you. With vintage photographs, historic images, and the finest art work, the fully-illustrated volume explores the first century of Scouting's highest rank and celebrates the achievements of those who have worn the badge. And now you can create your own personalized book jacket featuring six of your own photos. [Commemorate](#) the achievement of the Eagle Scout in your life today.



Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History

One of many Eagles featured in the book is E.O. Wilson. As a boy, he was inspired by Boy Scout Handbook pages on plants and animals. He credits Scouting with giving him the direction and encouragement that led to his career as a scientist and world-renowned expert in the study of ants.



Pages discussing Dr. E.O. Wilson in *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*

I never met a bully in the Scouts, and relatively few braggarts," Dr. Wilson wrote of being a Scout. "The questions before each boy were: can you walk twenty miles, tie a tourniquet, save a swimmer in Red Cross lifeguard exercises, build a sturdy sapling bridge with nothing but axe and rope? For me, the answers were yes, yes, yes!"



1912-2012 Centennial Eagle Scout Emblem

In addition to stories of remarkable people, Eagle Scouts documents the development of the Eagle rank. Though there have been many variations over the years, the appearance of the pin and the patch, like the meaning of the award itself, has stood the test of time.



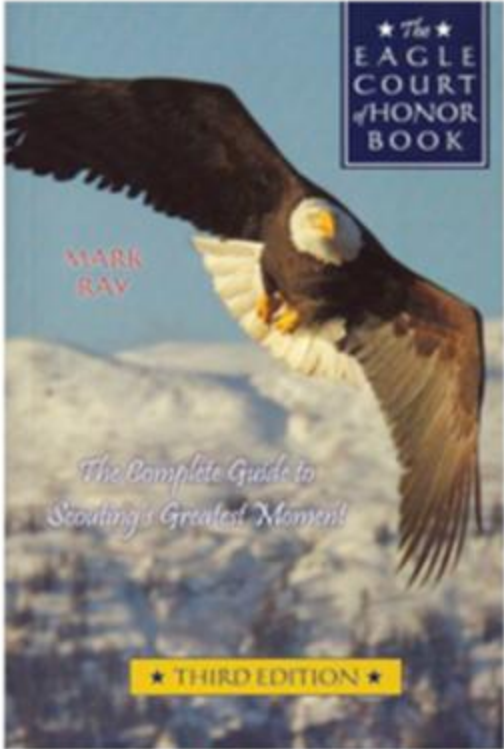
Embroidered rank emblems and square knots, as shown in *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*

In celebration of the Eagle Scout award, the BSA has put together a framed collection of meticulously rendered copies of all the Eagle Scout embroidered patches. It can be a perfect presentation for new Eagle Scouts as well to those who earned the BSA's highest rank in years gone by.



Eagle Scout Centennial Insignia Collection

Troop leaders and families preparing to celebrate the arrival of new Eagles can turn for ideas to the pages off the latest edition of *The Eagle Scout Court of Honor*. Like the Eagle Scout Centennial Insignia Collection, it's available from www.scoutstuff.org.



Eagle Court of Honor, Third Edition

(This edition of the *Be Prepared Newsletter* was developed and written by Robert Birkby, author of the current editions of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fieldbook* and upcoming *Eagle Scouts*, a new book celebrating the 100 year history of the Eagle Scout award.)