

After additional consideration the BSA has announced changes to the Eagle Palm requirements that were effective August 1, 2017. The revised requirements read as follows:

"Effective August. 1, 2017 (Revised October 2017).

After successfully completing your Eagle Scout board of review on or after August 1, 2017 and being validated as an Eagle Scout by the National Service Center, you will be entitled to receive an Eagle Palm for each additional five merit badges you have completed before your Eagle Scout board of review beyond those required for Eagle. In addition, all current Scouts who completed their Eagle board of review and who had not passed their 18th birthday before August 1, 2017 are entitled as well. For these Palms only, it will not be necessary for you to complete the requirements stated below.

After becoming an Eagle Scout and receiving the Eagle Palms you were entitled to, you may earn additional Palms by completing the following requirements:

1. Be active in the Boy Scouts of America for at least three months after becoming an Eagle Scout or after the last Eagle Palm was earned. *
2. Since earning the Eagle Scout rank or your last Eagle Palm, demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God and how you have lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life.
3. Continue to set a satisfactory example of accepting responsibility or demonstrating leadership ability.
4. Earn five additional merit badges beyond those required for Eagle Scout or your last Eagle Palm. **
5. While an Eagle Scout, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

You may wear only the proper combination of Eagle Palms for the number of merit badges you earned beyond the rank of Eagle Scout. The Bronze Palm represents five merit badges, the Gold Palm 10, and the Silver Palm 15.

Notes: For Varsity Scouts working on Boy Scout requirements, replace "Scoutmaster" with "Varsity Scout Coach." For Venturers working on Boy Scout requirements, replace "Scoutmaster" with crew Advisor." For Sea Scouts working on Boy Scout requirements, replace "Scoutmaster" with "Skipper."

*Eagle Palms must be earned in sequence, and the three-month tenure requirement must be observed for each Eagle Palm.

**Merit Badges earned any time since becoming a Boy Scout may be used to meet this requirement.

What has changed since August 1?

The requirement has been modified to allow current Scouts who earned the Eagle Scout rank and had not yet turned 18 years old before August 1, 2017 to immediately apply for Eagle Palms as well. Only the additional merit badges earned before the Scout's Eagle board of review may be considered for this option, if they have not already been applied to a previously awarded Palm.

Answers to your questions about the changes

Following are some questions and answers regarding this revision to the August 1, 2017 requirements. Additional questions and answers regarding the original change can be found in my July 10, 2017 article: "The way Scouts earn Eagle Palms has changed in a big way." ([Make this a hot link??](#)) These were provided by the National Boy Scouting Subcommittee.

- Q:** Can an Eagle Scout who successfully completed his board of review before August 1, 2017 but passed his 18th birthday on or after August 1, 2017 apply for Palms under the new provision?

A: Yes. Any Eagle Scout who completed his board of review before August 1, 2017 but had not passed his 18th birthday before August 1, 2017 is eligible to receive Palms under the revised requirements.
- Q:** If a Scout earned Eagle rank before August 1, 2017, and then turned 18 years old before August 1, 2017, can he apply for Palms under the new provision?

A: No. Any Eagle Scout who turned 18 years old before August 1, 2017 is not eligible to receive Eagle Palms under the new provision.
- Q:** Can merit badges earned after a Scout's Eagle board of review, but before August 1 be applied toward receiving Palms immediately?

A: No. Only merit badges earned before a Scout's Eagle board of review can be used in applying for Eagle Palms under the new provision. Any merit badges earned after a Scout's Eagle board of review can only be used to earn Palms by completing the five requirements listed above.
- Q:** How many additional Palms would a Scout be entitled to under the new provision if he earned Eagle rank at the age of 16 on February 1, 2016, and he had completed 50 additional merit badges at the time of his board of review?

A: Assuming he had remained continuously active and earned Palms in the

normal manner under the previous requirements, he would be eligible to immediately receive four more Palms. That is based on counting 30 merit badges toward six Palms during the 18 months from February 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017.

- **Q:** Using the previous example, if a Scout had earned an additional 20 merit badges after his Eagle board of review, how many Palms would he be eligible to receive on August 1, 2017?

A: He would still only be eligible to receive four more Palms. The 20 additional merit badges he earned could be applied toward additional Palms by completing the five requirements listed above.