

THE SILVER EAGLE:
A HISTORY OF EAGLE SCOUTS IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, 1908-2024

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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the national history of Eagle Scouts from 1910 to 2024 and details the first individuals that earned the award in the 1910s. The chapters are split into two major sections into the national history and 1910s Eagle Scouts. Two of the major reoccurring themes in the history of Eagle Scouts involve the concepts of microcosm and representation. Eagle Scouts share a distinctive connection to American society, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Scouting Movement in the United States. At the heart of major events and stories, Eagle Scouts participate as significant actors and leaders that influence the activities and outcomes throughout the course of history. This thesis demonstrates the significance and historical reach of Eagle Scouts by exploring the group's impact on American society in the national history and how these individuals became crucial to the Boy Scouts of America's activities in the 1910s.

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Introduction

Eagle Scouts are a distinctive group of individuals in the history of the Scouting Movement in the United States with deep connections to American society. These connections and alumni include a U.S. President,¹ astronauts that have broken planetary barriers,² and a legion of everyday citizens with testimonies that harken back to a youth spent in mundane meetings or weeklong summer camps.³ Reminiscing adults are only part of the equation for the history of Eagle Scouts. Youth play an even more vital role for Eagle Scout history through the creation of new stories and legacies that reverberate throughout the rest of their lives. Eagle Scouts in the modern age predominantly refer to a youth that has successfully progressed through rank advancements, completed topical merit badges, and lead a service project to benefit their community, all before the age of eighteen.

The history of Eagle Scouts traces its roots to the very formation of the Scouting Movement in the late 1900s and early 1910s. Since those decades, Eagle Scouts and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) matured and changed side-by-side in a complex relationship integrally tied to changes in American society. In this relationship, the history of Eagle Scouts is a microcosm of the BSA's story and the movement's connection to American society with Eagle Scouts being significant actors that influence the direction of the overall narrative. This thesis

¹ Bryan Wendell, "How many U.S. presidents were involved in Scouting in their youth?" *Aaron on Scouting* (formerly *Bryan on Scouting*), February 21, 2022, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2022/02/21/how-many-u-s-presidents-were-involved-in-scouting-in-their-youth/>; Bryan Wendell, "Remembering Gerald R. Ford, our only Eagle Scout president (so far)," *Aaron on Scouting*, February 16, 2015, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/02/16/gerald-ford-eagle-scout-president/>; and "Eagle Scouts Welcome Gerald Ford Home," *Scouting*, March-April 2007, <https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0703/a-ford.html>.

² "Astronauts who were youth in the BSA," *NASA Glenn Research Center*, accessed June 27, 2024, <https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/space/education-outreach/nasa-bsa-path-to-exploration/astronauts-who-were-youth-in-the-bsa/>; and "Fact Sheet: Scouting and Space Exploration," *Boy Scouts of America*, February 2010, 1-10.

³ Bryan Wendell, "Eagle Scout Class of 2019: Behind the largest Eagle class ever," *Aaron on Scouting*, February 24, 2020, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/02/24/eagle-scout-class-of-2019-the-numbers-behind-the-largest-eagle-class-ever/>; and Zig Ziglar, "Foreword" in *Eagle Scouts in Action: True Stories of the Accomplishments of EAGLE SCOUTS* (Dallas: Brown Books, 1998), ed. by H. M. "Smoky" Eggers.

traces both the long national history of Eagle Scouts from 1910 to 2024 and the award's origins from 1908 to 1917.⁴

This thesis is broken down into two major story arcs that cover four chapters and two appendixes. First, Chapters One and Two and Appendixes A and B define and explore the early history and boundaries of Eagle Scouts, primarily in and around the 1910s. The second half of this thesis, in Chapters Three and Four, reconstructs the major national events and histories of Eagle Scouts and the BSA from 1910 to 2024 with a specific focus on incorporating ethnic, gender, and period-defining narratives. These chapters and appendixes cover a wide variety of history so the best way to navigate this thesis is through time. Most of the chapters run in a chronological format and discuss different themes and groups as they emerge or are relevant in any year or decade. The chapters stop at major transitional times for both the BSA and Eagle Scouts, and the author has included these timeframes in the chapter titles for easier navigation.

As this thesis is meant to count towards the partial completion of a master's degree, the author has placed special emphasis on presenting the historiography of Eagle Scouts. Or simply how history has already been told, repeated, challenged, and expanded over time. History is not static in a textbook but changes over time with people and their viewpoints, interpretations, political motives, product ownership, and many other variables. Eagle Scout history is equally fluid as it emerges in avocational journals, blog posts, books, centennial celebrations, museums,

⁴ In May of 2024, the BSA announced its intention to change the name of the organization to Scouting America. For the purposes of this thesis, I will continue using "BSA" and "Boy Scouts of America" rather than the new "Scouting America" name. Historically, the BSA had the same name, except for a short period in the 1970s, for well over a century and most primary sources will reflect this distinction. I will be using the "BSA" naming for this thesis but any research and histories including the post-2024 time period will need to address the name change. For name change sources, see: Aaron Derr, "What our organization's name change means – and doesn't mean – to Scouts and leaders," *Aaron on Scouting*, May 7, 2024, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2024/05/07/what-our-organizations-name-change-means-and-doesnt-mean-to-scouts-and-leaders/>; and "The Boy Scouts of America has a new name -- and it's more inclusive," *CBS News*, May 9, 2024, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/boy-scouts-of-america-bsa-scouting-america-name-change/>.

and many other historical venues and writings. In other cases, the historiography is vague, sometimes nonexistent, or locked within regional history books that are difficult to access or find. This thesis attempts to coalesce these scattered sources into a single resource, but some histories will, inevitably, not be covered due to time, distance, and financial constraints.

Historiography of Eagle Scouts

In the academic sphere, Eagle Scouts are not well-represented in historical scholarship. Instead, Eagle Scouts are often left to social science research for thematic studies and controlled experiments.⁵ To the author's knowledge, this thesis is the first major attempt to chart and understand the national history of Eagle Scouts through an academic lens. This lack of historical academic research is not because of a lack of material or subjects as there have been well over two million Eagle Scouts across a history that spans well over a century.⁶ The history also encompasses multiple wars and cultural upheavals, intersections of geography, ethnicity, gender,

⁵ Benjamin R. Nevin, "A Study of the Relationship Between Boy Scout Experience and the Commissioned Air Force Officer" (thesis, Air Force Institute of Technology, Air University, 1985); Bernard Goodly, "Leadership Development Within the Eagle Scouts: An Investigation of the Influence of Servant Leadership Values" (dissertation, Capella University, 2008); Billy Gregory, "Servant Leadership and Female Eagle Scouts" (dissertation, University of Massachusetts Global, 2023); Bradford P. Datson, "Case Studies of Eagle Scouts For Evaluation of Guidance Factors in the Boy Scout Program" (master's thesis, Claremont College, 1935); Bud Fredericks, "Tim Becomes an Eagle Scout," *Exceptional Parent* 17, no. 2 (1987): 22-23 and 25-27; Edward C. Polson, Young-II Kim, Sung Joon Jang, Byron R. Johnson, and Buster Smith, "Being Prepared and Staying Connected: Scouting's Influence on Social Capital and Community Involvement," *Social Science Quarterly* 94, no. 3 (2013): 758-776; Frederick Rohm, "Eagle Scouts and Servant Leadership," *Servant Leadership: Theory & Practice* 1, no. 1 (2014): 68-90; Kevin Randy Moesser, "Birth Order and Its Effect on the Attainment of the Eagle Scout Status" (master's thesis, Utah State University, 1980); Judith Kleinfeld and Anne Shinkwin, "Getting Prepared: Nonformal Education in Boy Scouts," *American Educational Research Association*, (1983): 1-41; Marlene Walk, Ruodan Zhang, and Laura Littlepage, "'Don't you want to stay?' The impact of training and recognition as human resource practices on volunteer turnover," *Nonprofit Management and Leadership* 29, (2019): 509-527; Matthew Houdek, "'Once an Eagle, always an Eagle?': symbolic divestment, recuperative critique, and in-house protests against the anti-gay BSA," *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 14, no. 1 (2017): 48-65; Michael A. Olivas, "Reflections on Academic Merit Badges and Becoming an Eagle Scout," *Houston Law Review* 43, no. 1 (2006): 81-124; Richard Charles Eichacker, "Industrial Art Merit Badges Earned by Two Iowa Eagle Scouts" (master's thesis, Iowa State University, 1961); Robb Wilmot, "Factors for Success and Barriers, Youth Achievement in Community-Based Organizations: A Study of Scouting" (dissertation, Johns Hopkins University, 2024); Thomas A. Ulmer, "Scouting in the Schools for the Deaf," *American Annals of the Deaf* 92, no. 3 (1947): 187-214; Sung Joon Jang, Byron R. Johnson, and Young-II Kim, "Eagle Scouts: Merit Beyond the Badge," *Baylor University*, 2012; and Young-Kim, Sung Joon Jang, and Byron R. Johnson, "Tying Knots With Communities: Youth Involvement in Scouting and Civic Engagement in Adulthood," *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 45, no. 6 (2016): 1113-1129.

⁶ Wendell, "Eagle Scout Class of 2019," 2020.

and class, and thousands of available primary sources in newspapers, archives, and community collections. Avocational histories and scholars dominate the field of Scouting in America and only a select number of national-level academic books are available on the topic.⁷

The general state of the field also deeply affects the history of Eagle Scouts as the eight major publications can be divided into three categories: (1) people-based histories by Alvin Townley; (2) material culture histories by Dr. Terry Grove; and (3) two institutional-positive books that overview the history of Eagle Scouts. Since individual Eagle Scouts are at the heart of the history of this group, manuscripts routinely structure the narratives of books by telling individual stories informed by larger patterns in history. Alvin Townley used this approach in writing two major books, *Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts* and *Spirit of Adventure: Eagle Scouts and the Making of America's Future*.⁸ Townley tells personalized stories, more expansive but not too dissimilar from other publications such as books from the National Eagle Scout Association, that help to ground the history of Eagle Scouts in practical experiences of the individuals. While excellent references for specific histories, Townley's books do not attempt a comprehensive, or critical, analysis of the national history of Eagle Scouts.

In regard to the national history of Eagle Scouts, Michael Malone's *Four Percent: The Extraordinary Story of Exceptional American Youth* and Robert Birkby's *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History* are the best available general histories of Eagle Scouts but feature a mostly

⁷ Benjamin Jordan, "Boy Scouts of America: A Centennial History, and: *The Scouting Party: Pioneering and Preservation, Progressivism and Preparedness in the Making of the Boy Scouts of America* (review)," *The Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth* 5, no. 2 (2012): 343-347.

⁸ Alvin Townley, *Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2007); and Alvin Townley, *Spirit of Adventure: Eagle Scouts and the Making of America's Future* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2009).

pro-BSA interpretation of events and narratives.⁹ Social, racial, and gender conflicts in and around the BSA are distinctly lacking in both books. The last set of books covering Eagle Scout history were researched and written by the late Dr. Terry Grove. Dr. Grove's books focused on the material culture of Eagle Scouts and the award's memorabilia while also presenting some historical perspectives highly relevant to the field. Dr. Grove's books included, in order of publication, *A Comprehensive Guide to the Eagle Scout Award: "Twentieth Century Edition"*, *Eagle Scout Award Rank Cards, 1912 to Present*, *100 Years of the Eagle Scout Award*, and *Eagle Scout Award: A Pictorial History*.¹⁰ These works form the core of the books dedicated to the history of Eagle Scouts. However, as stated earlier, many aspects of the historiography of the field are diffused across a variety of publications, platforms, and venues.

To start with, the International Scouting Collectors Association's (ISCA) *Journal of Scouting Memorabilia and History* is an excellent resource for BSA material culture and has acted as an avocational platform to publish short historical articles. Dr. Grove and David C. Scott, a well-known author of Scouting history, published several articles in the journal that provide greater historical context to several important events and people. The articles by Dr. Grove and Scott are referenced in Chapters One and Two. Adjacent to the ISCA journal is publications from the National Eagle Scout Association such as directories and short biographies of Eagle Scouts compiled into large, multi-region volumes, along with several discontinued

⁹ Michael S. Malone, *Four Percent: The Extraordinary Story of Exceptional American Youth* (Dallas: WindRush Publishers, 2015); and Robert Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History* (New York: DK Publishing, 2012).

¹⁰ Dr. Terry Grove, *100 Years of the Eagle Scout Award* (self-published, 2012); Dr. Terry Grove, *A Comprehensive Guide to the Eagle Scout Award – "Twentieth Century Edition"* (self-published, printings and copyrights from 1991 to 2012); Dr. Terry Grove, *Eagle Scout Award: A Pictorial History* (self-published, 2019); and Dr. Terry Grove, *Eagle Scout Award – Rank Cards: 1912 to Present* (self-published, 2017). The *"Twentieth Century Edition"* book merged into *100 Years of the Eagle Scout Award* as a revised edition with additional information and historical research, see: Grove, *100 Years*, 9.

magazines.¹¹ These sources provide specific histories but do not have the same level of impact or knowledge as the other scholarship featured above.

While staying at national-level publications, but transitioning towards more general histories, the BSA has an extensive literature collection that has produced several major manuscripts related to the organization's history. There are four major historical books from the BSA that follow two major publishing conventions: (1) manuscripts for jubilee events or 25-year celebrations; and (2) works appealing to a semi-public audience in the form of coffee-table books. Out of the four books, Robert Peterson's *The Boy Scouts: An American Adventure* and Chuck Wills' *Boy Scouts of America: A Centennial History* are the best historical sources published by the BSA. These two books are the most up-to-date, approved histories of the organization that include just enough detail to provide high-level overviews of major events, themes, and people, but they often lack critical analysis.¹² In regard to the other two books, one is *The Golden Anniversary Book of Scouting* published in 1959 and is an excellent resource for understanding the post-Second World War changes in the BSA and core programs.¹³ The other book, William D. Murray's *The History of the Boy Scouts of America* released in 1937, is considered the first official history of the organization. Due to the nature of how Murray's book was researched and written, scholars need to be careful while citing the information within and should cross-reference for additional verification.¹⁴

¹¹ Please reference Footnotes 179-180 and the connected paragraph for the NESA books and magazines and a more in-depth discussion of using NESA literature as sources.

¹² Chuck Wills, *Boy Scouts of America: A Centennial History* (DK Publishing, 2009); and Robert W. Peterson, *The Boy Scouts: An American Adventure* (New York: American Heritage, 1984).

¹³ R. D. Bezucha, *The Golden Anniversary Book of Scouting* (New York: Golden Press, 1959).

¹⁴ William D. Murray, *The History of the Boy Scouts of America* (New York: Boy Scouts of America, 1937). According to Harold White, Museum Program Specialist for the National Scouting Museum and editor of *Artifact of the Week*, weekly history videos on BSA and Scouting content, William D. Murray, while researching for the 1937 history, conducted interviews, similar to oral histories, with prominent figures of the BSA and included those first-hand accounts in the manuscript. However, due to a lack of cross-referencing and fact-checking, these first-hand accounts and memories created inaccuracies compared with other historical documentation. While Murray's history

Stepping down to regional- and local-level manuscripts, such histories are extremely useful for pinpointing and expanding certain stories and narratives, but these sources come with several flaws when used for a national-level study. First, the historical study of Scouting in America lacks an expansive and up-to-date bibliography for the dozens, if not hundreds, of books, articles, and other sources. *Paxtu - The International Web Site for the History of Guiding and Scouting* held the best available bibliographies, up to the early 2010s, for Scouting in America. The website shut down in early 2024 with no good replacement known to the author.¹⁵ The lack of bibliographies leads into the second problem associated with regional and local manuscripts, decentralized access and incomplete catalogues. Scouting history lacks a dedicated research center and location to coalesce the majority of available scholarship at all levels.¹⁶ Also, with a large gap between major academic publications, Scouting history is defined as a field of expansive knowledge with no structure to integrate the findings together outside of individual efforts. The passion for the field is self-evident through the dozens of historical groups and independent publication efforts, but there are only minimal national-level efforts to promote research outside of avocational circles.¹⁷

is an important reference, scholarship should be wary and validate information from other, more recent manuscripts or from prominent Scouting primary sources such as *Boys' Life*, *Scouting*, or the BSA Annual Reports.

¹⁵ Paxtu published several bibliographies covering a range of Scouting and Guiding, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides, in the late 2000s and early 2010s. An updated comprehensive bibliography for the 2011-2024 scholarship is not readily available. Additionally, even with the WayBack Machine from the Internet Archive, several snapshots are missing from the Paxtu bibliographies. The author managed to print off paper copies of most of the bibliographies prior to the website shutting down.

¹⁶ The National Scouting Museum has the Seton Memorial Library with major BSA publications and a wealth of primary source materials but includes just a small collection of local and regional histories on Scouting. For more information on the first and second locations of the National Scouting Museum, see: Darwin P. Kelsey, "Scouting for State and Local History: The National Museum of the Boy Scouts of America Documents the History of Scouting and Serves as a Resource for Scouting Material," *History News* 41, no. 6 (1986): 31-36.

¹⁷ The centennial of the Scouting and Guiding Movements in 2008 initiated a significant new wave of scholarship that shifted the foundation of Scouting history and continues to influence historical research at the time of this thesis. In 2008, a symposium was held that brought together Scouting and Guiding scholars from across the world that set the foundation for crucial works, such as: Benjamin R. Jordan, *Modern Manhood and the Boy Scouts of America: Citizenship, Race, and the Environment, 1910-1930* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2016); Eduard Vallory, *World Scouting: Educating for Global Citizenship* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012); and *Scouting Frontiers: Youth and the Scout Movement's First Century*, eds. by Nelson R. Block and Tammy Proctor

Eagle Scouts appear in history throughout all of these interconnected webs of books, biographies, articles, manuscripts, etc. However, the scattered nature of the various interpretations and arguments related to Eagle Scouts have not been thoroughly explored or compiled prior to this thesis. Unfortunately, the author had to leave out many regional- and local-level sources due to time and expense. The materials gathered in this thesis pertaining to national- and state-level histories present the most up-to-date knowledge and new findings as of early 2025. Compared to the other books and articles discussed above, this thesis contains various histories that advance and consolidate interpretations across the spectrum of the field. Historiographies for specific topics will be discussed as appropriate rather than in one large section. The core of this thesis may be individual Eagle Scouts, but the author wishes to explore the interconnected national histories that are produced through the shared and unique experiences of an extraordinary group of people.

Conclusion

The first two chapters in this thesis explores the foundation of the history of Eagle Scouts and the Scouting Movement in the United States from 1908 to 1917. These chapters deal more with geographies, politics, and structural components of Eagle Scouts and the BSA compared to the second half of this thesis. Chapters One and Two do not exhaustively chronicle the narrative or the history of Eagle Scouts. Rather, the chapters explore the crucial elements of the history of Eagle Scouts with representative examples of various stories and individuals. In the second half

(Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009). The symposium also recruited older Scouting scholars such as: David Macleod, *Building Character in the American Boys: The Boy Scouts, YMCA, and Their Forerunners, 1870-1920* (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1983); Jay Mechling, *On My Honor: Boy Scouts and the Making of American Youth* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2001); and Timothy Parsons, *Race, Resistance, and the Boy Scout Movement in British Colonial Africa* (Ohio University Press, 2004). This symposium was a foundational event for Scouting and Guiding historical field that also signaled a wider revitalization of Scouting-related histories from multiple authors and approaches. For more on the symposium, see: *Scouting Frontiers*, xxviii-xxix.

of this thesis, the chapters provide an overview of the long national history of Eagle Scouts and their connections to the BSA and American society.

Chapter One

The Development of the Eagle Scout Award, 1908-1911

This chapter explores the conceptual development of the Eagle Scout Award and the rise of the Boy Scout Movement in the United States from British origins. These two narratives intertwine since without the BSA there would be no Eagle Scout Award. Without a movement, there would be no one to become Eagle Scouts. The earliest form of the Eagle Scout Award was known as Wolf Scouts, which originated from the first British Boy Scout handbook in 1908 written by Robert Baden-Powell. Americanization of the Wolf Scout Award transformed it into the Eagle Scout Award and this process coincided with the establishment and growth of the BSA.

In the early 1900s, British General Baden-Powell returned to England from the Boer War in South Africa and discovered youth using his *Aids to Scouting* pamphlet to play games and go on adventures in the style of military scouts. Becoming interested in these youth and the burgeoning youth movements of the time, Baden-Powell developed the Scheme of Scouting and published *Scouting for Boys* in 1908.¹⁸ The Scheme of Scouting simply refers to the general guidelines in *Scouting for Boys* and Baden-Powell's thoughts and ideas on the matter. Baden-Powell's ideas and literature spread rapidly through the globe and especially through English-speaking areas and Western civilization.

It was hard, if not impossible, for just one man to organize, maintain, and regulate a global idea that spread within months of the original publication date. In this regard, Scouting was molded to fit local cultures and contexts, which created unique natures of the movement all

¹⁸ Eduard Vallory, *World Scouting: Educating for Global Citizenship* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), 5-13; and "Scouting's History," *World Organization of the Scouting Movement*, accessed August 3, 2024, <https://www.scout.org/who-we-are/scout-movement/scoutings-history>.

across the globe. Regulation of Scouting came from local men, women, and youth that took up the program as a grassroots movement. In later years, national organizations provided oversight and regulation of the movement.¹⁹ In this interconnected web of growth, the United States experienced a proliferation of Scouting organizations and groups from 1908 to 1910. This led to the rise of the Boy Scouts of America, the consolidation of the movement in the U.S., and the development of the Eagle Scout Award. To illustrate how Scouting came to America, the next paragraph describes a generic story that resembles other narratives that occurred in the late 1900s.

On a return voyage to the United States from England, an American carried copies of the 1908 edition of *Scouting for Boys*. This individual could have also met with Scouting officials in London, maybe even Baden-Powell himself. In New York City, the ship sailed into the harbor, and the American went back to their hometown or place of business with a new idea in hand. The stories behind how Scouting came to the United States in 1908 and 1909 often feature an individual travelling to England. This individual obtains materials on Scouting, in-person or via mail, and travels back to the United States to establish a local Boy Scout group or incorporate a state or national organization.

Out of the various Scouting origin stories, William D. Boyce's narrative, related to the BSA's founding, is the most significant for the history of the BSA and Eagle Scouts. Boyce's story and its significance is often attributed out of hindsight rather than historical analysis of the

¹⁹ Tammy M. Proctor, "Introduction: Building an Empire of Youth: Scout and Guide History in Perspective," in *Scouting Frontiers: Youth and the Scout Movement's First Century* (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009), xxvi-xxxviii; and Vallory, *World Scouting*, 13-21. For more on Baden-Powell, see: *An Official History of Scouting* (London: Octopus Publishing Group, 2006); Colin Walker, *The Dawn of the World Scout Movement* (Ferrybridge: Write Books CPR Ltd, 2008); Harold White, "Artifact of the Week - Scouting's Founding Documents," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, June 28, 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4HFkM6jrRU>; Harold White, "Baden Powell - Artifact of the Week," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, February 3, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-u2mpV4iRQ>; and William Hillcourt, *Baden-Powell: The Two Lives of a Hero* (self-published, 1964).

time period. Hindsight inflates the BSA's origin story and future significance in American society to the point that it drowns out other contemporary narratives. The BSA's rise to dominance was not a clear-cut matter but rather a messy endeavor that started late compared to other organizations and groups of the time. Boyce's narrative and historiography will be covered later in this chapter. In the interim, there are three important histories to understand the context behind Boyce and the BSA: (1) the state of U.S. youth movements prior to 1910; (2) competing Scout organizations and groups; and (3) the development of the Wolf Scout Award.

U.S. Youth Movements, 1870-1920

With the end of the U.S. Civil, new industries and urban development transformed the nation and gave rise to novel concerns among white middle-class men. The concerns around youth manifested into the idea known as the "Crisis in Masculinity." From 1870 to 1920, the lifeways of youth changed through increased self-assertion that coalesced around exploring new ways of playing and identity formation during adolescence. Men and women initiated a semi-organized effort, or intervention in some interpretations, to direct and influence the character development of youth through new movements and organizations. Due to gender identity at the time, the organizations and movements split along the lines of the sexes, boys with men and girls with women. Since the Boy Scouts predominantly involved the relationship between men and boys at the time, the rest of this discussion will focus on males and masculinity. The style and methods of each organization, movement, and leader differed, sometimes drastically, even though they worked towards similar goals. David Macleod describes the various approaches of white middle-class men and their youth organizations in *Building Character in the American Boy: The Boy Scouts, YMCA, and Their Forerunners, 1870-1920*. Among the largest U.S. youth movements that connect to the BSA's origin and growth, the most important are Ernest

Thompson Seton's Woodcraft Indians, Daniel Carter Beard's Sons of Daniel Boone, and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).²⁰

Ernest Thompson Seton and his Woodcraft Indians share a unique history with the Scouting Movement. Seton's literature influenced Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys*, and Seton wrote the interim scout handbook for the BSA in 1910 until the official *Boy Scouts Handbook* was published in 1911. Seton travelled extensively throughout North America and wrote several books related to his experiences, research, and philosophy. The Woodcraft Indians, founded by Seton in 1901, emphasized youth learning character development through practicing and playing versions of romanticized American Indian culture and traditions. The programs and methods for the Woodcraft Indians was published in several books, mainly the *Birch Bark Roll* in 1906, that Baden-Powell later drew on for his Scouting literature. Seton would later have a contentious relationship with Baden-Powell and the Scouting Movement, but he is still accredited as a founder of the BSA and introducing American Indian elements into the movement. As the BSA began developing its own brand of Scouting in 1910, Seton's connection with Baden-Powell made him a promising individual to recruit to establish the credibility and reach of the organization.²¹

²⁰ Benjamin R. Jordan, *Modern Manhood and the Boy Scouts of America: Citizenship, Race, and the Environment, 1910-1930* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2016), 11-2; David I. MacLeod, "Act Your Age: Boyhood, Adolescence, and the Rise of the Boy Scouts of America," *Journal of Social History* 16, no. 2 (1982): 3-20; David I. Macleod, *Building Character in the American Boy: The Boy Scouts, YMCA, and Their Forerunners, 1870-1920* (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1983), 44-50; Jeffrey P. Hantover, "Sex Role, Sexuality, and Social Status: The Early Years of the Boy Scouts," (dissertation, University of Chicago, 1976); Jeffrey P. Hantover, "The Boy Scouts and the Validation of Masculinity," *Journal of Social Issues* 34, no. 1 (1978): 184-195; and Mischa Honeck, *Our Frontier is the World: The Boy Scouts in the Age of American Ascendancy* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2018), 20-31.

²¹ Brian Morris, "Ernest Thompson Seton and the origins of the Woodcraft movement," *Journal of Contemporary History* 5, no. 2 (1970): 183-194; Harold White, "Artifact of the Week – Seton Library," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, September 6, 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEHqae-NfAY>; Harold White, "Ernest Thompson Seton – Artifact of the Week," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, February 19, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TT5BZXmcn1M>; Philip J. Deloria, "Natural Indians and Identities of Modernity," in *Playing Indian* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998), 95-127; and William Farley, "Troops and

Daniel “Dan” Carter Beard established the Sons of Daniel Boone in 1905 around the motif of frontier American settlers and personas. Dan Beard was a famous illustrator for several major publications and authors before joining the BSA. Beard eventually merged his organization into the BSA and reoriented his time and energy to Americanize the Boy Scouts program away from the idea’s British origins. Unlike Seton, Beard fully incorporated himself and his organization into the BSA. Beard became the National Scout Commissioner for close to thirty years and maintained a platform of pro-American and pro-settler ideas throughout his tenure. The differing ideologies between Beard, Seton, and other major BSA leaders created tensions in the organization that boiled over in 1915 with Seton leaving the movement. Beard is also the only known person to be awarded a gold Eagle Scout Medal in 1922 for being an Eagle Scout himself and for his contributions to the BSA. The Americanizing efforts championed by Beard helped to establish the nature and symbology of the Eagle Scout Award.²² Besides for Seton’s and Beard’s connections to the BSA, the Young Men’s Christian Association is extremely important to the initial growth of the Scouting Movement in the United States.

The Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) is one of the oldest youth organizations in the world with origins in England in the 1840s. New member associations formed around the world in subsequent decades. In a similar structure to the BSA, the YMCA operated a central national entity with independent associations at the grassroots level. These

Tribes: Masculinity, Playing Indian, and the Social Politics of Ernest Thompson Seton’s Expulsion from the Boy Scouts of America,” *Connecticut History Review*, 60, no. 2 (2021): 54-66.

²² Allan Richard Whitmore, “Beard, Boys, and Buckskins: Daniel Carter Beard and the Preservation of the American Pioneer Tradition” (dissertation, Northwestern University, 1970); Grover Batts and Thelma Queen, “Daniel Carter Beard: A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress,” Manuscript Division: Library of Congress, 2007; Harold White, “Daniel Carter Beard - Artifact of the Week,” *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, February 4, 2022, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fe_EVHiM4Yw; James E. West, “National Council News [Dan Beard’s Gold Eagle Scout Medal Ceremony],” *Boys’ Life*, November 1922, 34; and William Victor Kahler, “An Historical Analysis of the Professional Career of Daniel Carter Beard, 1850-1941” (dissertation, Texas A&M University, 1975).

long-term experiences, national-to-local structures, and youth education interests coalesced to drastically influence the fledgling BSA in 1910. The YMCA propelled the BSA to organize and consolidate the various Scouting movements into a single entity and ideology prior to America's entrance into the First World War. While the YMCA's contributions to the BSA in later decades was not as substantial, this organization is one of the major entities involved in youth education in the United States from 1870 to 1920. The YMCA's specific contributions to the BSA in the 1910s will be discussed later in this chapter.²³

While other organizations influenced the growth of the early BSA, the above three groups and leaders demonstrate the landscape of Western civilization youth movements that the BSA worked with in the early 1910s. The BSA and Scouting Movement did not establish youth movements but instead rose to prominence on the foundations laid by previous organizations. The Boy Scouts would grow throughout the 1910s and become a leader in the field of leisure education and youth character development for several decades.

Returning to the topic of masculinity, the key characteristic of existing Boy Scout scholarship is the study of white middle-class men that had capability of forming and funding these large organizations. Academic interpretations related to Boy Scouts do not cover the attitudes and actions of youth that participated in the programs. This paradox, of studying predominantly men in a youth movement, needs to be recognized as the study of Eagle Scout history necessitates balancing the youth and adult perspectives. A youth earns the Eagle Scout Award, but an adult carries it forward in life. The rest of this chapter will, out of necessity, be a narrative of white middle-class men and the struggles of forming the leading organization for youth in the United States. Youth take center stage in the next chapter as the first Eagle Scouts

²³ Jordan, *Modern Manhood*, 21-3; and Macleod, *Building Character*, extensively covers the history of the YMCA and its association with the BSA in his book.

emerge and become paragons of Scouting.

Early Boy Scout Organizations and Groups

Funding and outreach were the primary differences among the many individual, regional, and national Boy Scout groups and organizations that emerged between early 1908 to early 1910. A single voice could only reach so many people, but a written thought could influence considerably more individuals across various communities and regions. This created two typical pathways an adult or youth could use to develop the concept of Scouting in their communities. First, individuals could focus their efforts on a local setting and establish groups in their community. Second, people could leverage their wealth and influence, such as owning major newspapers, to reach a greater audience and establish a formal organization. Many individual Boy Scout groups were established in local communities without formal national oversight or regulation between 1908 and 1909. However, these groups often disbanded after some time or were absorbed into national organizations competing for market capital over the movement. National and regional organizations competed with each other for membership and funding but lacked an overall advantage to absorb each other prior to 1910. From 1908 to 1909, Boy Scouts was an idea and not a consolidated organization or ideology. The diverse and numerous groups and organizations that sprang up around that idea demonstrate the fluid nature of early Boy Scout history.

The BSA prefers to stay neutral in discussions and research into the first Boy Scout troops in the nation, both formally chartered units and pre-1910 groups. Validating a definitive claim to the oldest Boy Scout troop in the nation is difficult with the rapid appearance and disbandment of individual groups claiming to be Boy Scouts.²⁴ Through the efforts of scholars

²⁴ Bryan Wendell, "What was the first Scout troop in the U.S.? The answer isn't so simple," *Aaron on Scouting* (formerly *Bryan on Scouting*), March 28, 2019, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/03/28/what-was-the-first->

and scout historians, a considerable, but scattered, historiography is available on pre-1910 local Boy Scout groups. In one of the more famous examples, Myra G. Bass from Burnside, Kentucky, returned from England with Boy Scout literature and started a group in her local community in 1908.²⁵ Another famous pre-1910 Boy Scout group originated from Pawhuska, Oklahoma, under the direction of Reverend John F. Mitchell in 1909 with the British model of Scouting. Into the modern day, the local community claims Mitchell's Boy Scouts were the first in the nation but other pre-1910 narratives dispute this claim.²⁶ From 1908 to 1909, several other Boy Scout groups started in other states with similar origins of bringing literature back from England, being mailed pamphlets and books, or reading about Scouting in newspapers. With these resources, adults and youth gathered together around the country under the Boy Scout idea.²⁷

[troop-in-the-united-states-the-answer-isnt-so-simple/](#); Barclay M. Bollas, "First Scout Troops: 1 Out Of 100 Still Thrive," *Boy Scouts of America*, 1976, 1-5; and George W. Ehler, "Subject: The First Troop Organized Under The Boy Scouts of America," letter to Mr. O. D. Sharpe, dated November 12, 1940. Also see: Robert Peterson, "The Way It was: The BSA's 'forgotten' founding father," *Scouting*, October 1998, <https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/9810/d-wwwas.html#:~:text=Not%20a%20charismatic%20figure,first%20year%20without%20a%20stumble>.

²⁵ See Footnote 146. Another Boy Scout group supposedly formed in Frankfort, Kentucky, in 1908, see: Holly McClurkin, "Original Boy Scout troop reportedly started in Frankfort," *The State Journal*, May 18, 2018.

²⁶ Beth M. Stephenson, "Oklahoma Boy Scout troop to mark centennial," *The Oklahoman*, September 21, 2013; Bryan Painter, "Pawhuska museum evokes Boy Scouts' state origins," *The Oklahoman*, November 23, 2009; Linda D. Wilson, "Scouting," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, January 15, 2010, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=SC011>; and Roseanne McKee, "First Boy Scout Troop in America celebrates 110 years," *Examiner-Enterprise*, September 12, 2019. The Osage County Historical Museum in Pawhuska, Oklahoma, contains extensive exhibits on the 1909 group.

²⁷ For additional information on pre-1910 BSA Boy Scouts, see: David C. Scott, "'We're Number 1': Unraveling the Mystery behind the Boy Scouts of America's First Troop(s)," *International Scouting Collectors Association Journal*, September 2017, 14-18; and William D. Murray, *The History of the Boy Scouts of America* (New York: Boy Scouts of America, 1937), 21-23. For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in California, see: "100 Years of Scouting in Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council," *SVMBC BSA*, Video, December 10, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuC67YGEYwY>; Kevin Howe and Monterey Herald, "As century mark approaches for scouting, pacific grove troop stakes an older claim," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 31, 2010; "Orange Troop No. 1 at Camp Riley (1916-1917)," *Scouter*, Forum, July 16, 2019, <https://www.scouters.com/topic/31378-orange-troop-no-1-at-camp-riley-1916-1917/?tab=comments>; and "Scouting firsts lost in history?" *Scouter*, Forum, November 27, 2017, <https://www.scouters.com/topic/29559-scouting-firsts-lost-in-history/page/2/>. For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in Illinois, see: Elizabeth D. Schafer, "Scouting," *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, circa 2004-2005, <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/1127.html>. For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in Louisiana: see Bob Ross, "Local scouting officials kick off centennial celebration of Boy Scouts program," *The Times-Picayune*, March 16, 2009. For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in Mississippi: see Brett Campbell, "12 local Boy Scouts earn Eagle," *The Daily Leader*, March 2, 2023. For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in Missouri, see: National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, "Central Webster Historic District," circa 1980s, Item Number 8, Page 2, <https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Central%20Webster%20HD.pdf>; and Webster Groves Historical Society, "Defining Moments: Central Webster Historic Walking Tour," 2006, 1-20,

Determining the first pre-1910 Boy Scout group provides a good intellectual debate. However, for the history of Scouting's development in the United States, examining similarities and patterns between stories and narratives is much more important for historical interpretation. It is among the commonalities of various experiences that the roots of the BSA and the Scouting Movement in America can be better understood beyond singular origin stories. The two central ideas and actions linking the pre-1910 Boy Scout groups is the usage of the early British model of Scouting and adapting the scheme to local conditions. With interest growing in the new Boy Scout idea, professional organizations quickly sprang up to organize and regulate the movement across the nation and in various states.

Regional Boy Scout organizations, often focusing on a singular state, were less common than local Scouting groups and lacked the societal impact of national entities. State-level

<https://www.webstergrovesmo.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3915/-Defining-Moments---Central-Webster>. The author did not have the opportunity to read the following two sources, but they probably have relevant information for Boy Scouts in Missouri: Ann Morris, *Scouting - A History of Troop 301* (Webster Groves: Boy Scout Troop 301, 1985); and Tom Cooper, Emma DeLooze-Klein, and Deborah Ladd, *Images of America: Webster Groves* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2015). For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in New York, see: "History of Scouting in the Baden-Powell Council," *Baden Powell Council of the BSA*, circa 2019-2024, <https://www.bpcouncil.org/about/history/>. For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in Pennsylvania: see *On My Honor: The Hawk Mountain Council Story...1908-2010* (Stephen Henning and Company Heritage Books, 2009); and Patrick J. Broderick, "The First 300: Troop Bala One," *The Lower Merion Historical Society*, <https://lowermerionhistory.org/home/full-text/contents/bala-troop-one/>. For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in Tennessee, see: Dan E. Pomeroy, "Boy Scouts of America, Tennessee," *Tennessee Encyclopedia*, October 8, 2017, <http://tnency.utk.tennessee.edu/entries/boy-scouts-of-america-tennessee/>; Ray Ezell, "Boy Scouting Appears in Knoxville, Tennessee, 1909-1917," *History of Scouting in East Tennessee*, January 4, 2020, <https://historyofscoutingeasttennessee.wordpress.com/2020/01/04/boy-scouting-appears-in-knoxville-tennessee-1909-1917/>; and Wilbur F. Creighton, Jr., and Leland R. Johnson, *Boys Will Be Men: Middle Tennessee Scouting Since 1910* (Nashville: Middle Tennessee Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1983), 37. For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in Texas, see: "First Scout Troops in Texas," *West Texas Scouting History*, November 23, 2019, https://www.westtexascoutinghistory.net/troops_first-1910.html; "History of the Longhorn Council," *Scouting America Longhorn Council*, accessed September 8, 2024, <https://www.longhorncouncil.org/our-history#:~:text=1917,Edwin%20Snead%20of%20Waco%2C%20Texas>; and Will Oliver, "Huntsville Scouts date back to 1909," *The Item*, January 13, 2010. For pre-1910 Boy Scouts in Vermont, see: "Barre Boy Scout Collection, 1909-1985: BHC 12-13," *Vermont Historical Society*, <https://vermonthistory.org/documents/findaid/BarreBoyScouts.pdf>; "First Boy Scout Troop in America: Barre, Vermont," <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=143765>; "History of Scouting in Vermont," <https://scoutingmonument.weebly.com/history-of-scouting-in-vermont.html>; and "No. R-336. House concurrent resolution commemorating the Boy Scouts of America's centennial anniversary and the establishment of Boy Scouting in Vermont (H.C.R.244)," *Vermont Legislature*, circa 2009-2010, <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2010/Docs/ACTS/ACTR336/ACTR336%20As%20Adopted.pdf>.

organizations do offer unique insights into the consolidation of Scouting in the United States throughout the 1910s. The most successful and long-lasting regional organization was the Rhode Island Boy Scouts, who directly competed with the BSA until 1917 when both entities consolidated.²⁸ These regional groups created market competition in a geographical area and demographic. This competition could inhibit the growth of a national organization's brand of Scouting if left unaddressed. In many instances, state-level organizations attached themselves to a larger sponsor institution which resembled later BSA councils. These larger institutions included national Scouting organizations, the YMCA, the LDS Church, and other groups.²⁹ The historiography of competing Scouting organizations during this time period is understudied in a similar way to pre-1910 Boy Scout groups. Since the BSA consolidated the movement under one banner, histories tend to hyperfocus on one main narrative, origin story, and organization. By studying the diverse set of regional Scouting organizations and their nature, these narratives shed light on a complex history in how the Scouting Movement organized and spread throughout the United States.

The term "Organized Scouting" refers to the national and local process of creating new units, absorbing existing groups, or forming councils in a geographical area to regulate the movement and associated membership according to a specific brand and idea of Scouting.³⁰

²⁸ *25 Years of Scouting in Rhode Island, 1910-1935* (Providence: Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1935); and J. Harold Williams, *Scout Trail 1910-1962: History of the Boy Scout Movement in Rhode Island* (Providence: Rhode Island Boy Scouts and Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1964).

²⁹ Other state-level Scout organizations include the New England Boy Scouts, the California Boy Scouts, the Peace Scouts of California, the Big Brother Military Scouts in Indiana, and the Polish National Alliance Scouts of Chicago. For more on the BSA's competitors, see: Charles Steenkolk, "Scouting and Civilization: The Identity Building Process for the Boy Scouts of America, 1910-1913" (undergraduate thesis, University of Oregon, 2016); Jordan, *Modern Manhood*, 24-5; Macleod, *Building Character*, 146-7; and Mark Ray, "Special Events: Team of Rivals," *Scouting*, January-February 2010, <https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/1001/a-events.html>.

³⁰ In Creighton and Johnson, *Boys Will Be Men*, the authors discuss the idea of "Organized Scouting" that involves the creation of new units, generating communal interest in the movement, and establishing local councils in a given area. Troops and groups outside of council jurisdictions were considered unorganized and did not receive the same level of professional support as in-council Boy Scouts. Organizing continued well into the 1920s and 1930s as councils grew, consolidated, and established their geographic boundaries.

Organizing meant bringing scattered membership and ideas under professional guidance by representatives of a national organization. For the BSA, these professionals organized councils to oversee a specific geographical region. Being under the umbrella of a national organization provided legitimacy, literature support, and ideological and practical advice for local groups. Non-organized Boy Scout groups only had limited guidance from the British handbook and possibly some short exchanges, predominantly by mail, with Scouting leadership figures. Boy Scout groups had several options available for national Scouting organizations prior to the formation and consolidation of the BSA. Pre-BSA Scouting organizations included the American Boy Scouts (later the United States Boy Scouts), the Boy Scouts of the United States, the National Scouts of America, YMCA-sponsored groups, the YMMIA Scouts of the LDS Church, and other institutions.³¹

Perhaps the most infamous direct competitor of the BSA was the American Boy Scouts (ABS) with similar origins and potential. Incorporated by Californian William Randolph Hearst in June of 1910, this newspaper owner used his extensive networking for the ABS to compete on the national stage against the BSA. William D. Boyce, who initially formed the BSA, was also a newspaper business owner. Due to political instability among the national leadership of the ABS, Hearst left the organization in December of 1910. After a trial with the BSA forced the ABS to change its name to the United States Boy Scouts in 1913, the organization lost all legal ability to the use of "Scout" terminology after another court case with the BSA in 1919.³² All of the various Scouting organizations operating in the country often confused the average citizen with

³¹ Refer to Footnote 29. For the YMCA's connection to Scouting, see: Macleod, *Building Character*, 146-159. For the LDS Church's Scouting organization, see Footnote 144.

³² "Oakland-Piedmont Council History, 1910 - 1921," *San Francisco Bay Area Council History*, <https://www.sfbac-history.org/OAC-History.html>; and Robert W. Peterson, *The Boy Scouts: An American Adventure* (New York: American Heritage, 1984). 52-3.

who was who and what the idea of *Boy Scout* actual meant. These institutions crafted various approaches and supplemental ideas to the Boy Scout Scheme first penned by Baden-Powell, but the movement rapidly consolidated under a single umbrella in the early 1910s.

By the end of the 1910s, the BSA dominated the Scouting Movement in America after absorbing or defeating the other Scouting organizations throughout the country. This national-level market dominance by the BSA was formed into a brand rather than a specific product. Under the initial 1908 scheme by Baden-Powell, Scouting was designed to supplement existing groups with patrols operating within an institution's structure rather than organize as standalone organizations.³³ As the movement gained popularity and more standalone groups appeared, individuals began to incorporate organizations to direct and regulate the grassroots movement. In the United States context, the BSA partnered with charter organizations in local communities to supply volunteers and recruit youth members while the National Council concentrated on the national movement and processes.³⁴ The BSA operated a brand, but local communities created the final product, turning boys into men.³⁵ Eagle Scouts emerge within this brand as the finest products of the organization that can be used in marketing and political settings to further the objectives of the BSA.

The Silver Wolf: Predecessor of the Eagle Scout Award

Prior to William D. Boyce's incorporation of the BSA in 1910, the last element of the pre-history of the Eagle Scout is its English predecessor, the Silver Wolf Award. In the original 1908 edition of *Scouting for Boys*, the Silver Wolf originated as the Wolf badge of honour,

³³ Hillcourt, *Two Lives of a Hero*, 289-90 and 300-2.

³⁴ E. S. Martin, "A Double-Barrelled Social Agency: The Boy Scouts of America," *Social Forces* 4, no. 1 (1925): 94-7.

³⁵ John Calvin Phillips, "Selling America: The Boy Scouts of America in the Progressive Era, 1910-1921" (master's thesis, The University of Maine, 2001).

which "will be given as a reward for very special distinction in scouting; not more than one will be granted in a year." The Wolf Award symbolized Baden-Powell's and Seton's wolf epithets that they received from South African and North American indigenous cultures.³⁶ Baden-Powell's concept of badges of merit, a rewording of the 1908 language, and his ideas around Scouting rapidly developed as he revised subsequent editions of *Scouting for Boys*.³⁷ Starting in the 1909 edition, Baden-Powell introduced the Silver Wolf Award for earning a certain amount of proficiency badges; another way to describe badges of merit. This edition served as the basis for the BSA handbooks and Americanization of the program.

The two programs in England and the United States deviated starting from this 1909 juncture but followed a similar trajectory in the development of "super merit badges," or simply awards higher than the First-Class Rank. For the British context, the trio of awards for the highest badges of merit became the King's (or Queen's) Scout, the All-Round Cords, and finally the Silver Wolf as the highest award. In the initial American version, first put forward by Seton in 1910, the awards were the Life Scout, Star Scout, and Wolf Scout in ascending order. The main difference between the British and U.S. contexts was the retranslation of *Scouting for Boys* for an American audience by Seton.³⁸ Further revisions of Seton's 1910 handbook for American audiences would transform the Wolf Scout into the Eagle Scout but that history will be covered later in this chapter. The rise of the BSA would definitively transform the British model of Scouting and lead to the origins of the Eagle Scout Award.

³⁶ Robert Baden-Powell, *Scouting for Boys: The Original 1908 Edition* (Garden City: Dover Publications, 2007 reprinting), 39.

³⁷ Hillcourt, *Two Lives of a Hero*, 280-3 and 301-2; and Vallory, *World Scouting*, 10-2.

³⁸ Ernest Thompson Seton, *Boy Scouts of America: A Handbook of Woodcraft, Scouting, and Life-craft* (New York: Boy Scouts of America, 1910); and William Hillcourt, "The Rank is Established," *Eagletter*, July 1993, 1-4.

Formation of the Boy Scouts of America

In the fall of 1909, William D. Boyce, an American businessman, was lost in London, due to a thick fog in the area, while searching for a specific building and office. Boyce received assistance from a young lad, probably in his teenage years, who promptly brought to Boyce to his destination. After the youth refused a tip from Boyce, the young man proudly proclaimed himself a Boy Scout of Baden-Powell. This proclamation piqued Boyce's interest. The youth guided Boyce to the Boy Scout headquarters in London and Boyce returned to the United States with literature and materials on the movement. This encounter led to Boyce incorporating the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910, in Washington, D.C.³⁹ The narrative of the Unknown Scout and W. D. Boyce is the most cited origin story for the BSA, except for maybe Baden-Powell himself. Against the larger historical backdrop, Boyce's story is just a single moment that ties into three larger narratives: the birth and spread of Scouting, how Scouting consolidated in the United States, and Boyce's purpose in London during 1909. The first two narratives have been discussed at length so the next paragraph will focus on Boyce's larger journey in 1909.

While Boyce and the Unknown Scout is widely cited, individuals have debated the validity and details of the story since the early 1910s. The story is first told by Boyce from memory in newspaper interviews in the 1910s after the BSA gained popularity and significance in American society. Due to the variables created by remembrance, the story was spread and retold numerous times through multiple speakers. This changes the story ever so slightly upon each new narration and reinterpretation of the events. A primary fluctuation created by these narrations is *when* Boyce encountered the Unknown Scout in 1909. Some stories cite a spring

³⁹ Robert Peterson, "The Man Who Got Lost in the Fog," *Scouting*, October 2001, <https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0110/d-wwwas.html>.

timeframe while others maintain a fall encounter. Research by David C. Scott, a prominent Scouting scholar, places the most likely date sometime in December of 1909 due to Boyce's return from Africa.⁴⁰ Why was Boyce returning from Africa?

Even though the Unknown Scout encounter is the most retold aspect of the history, it is just a single moment in a larger journey undertaken by Boyce in 1909. Boyce's original goal in 1909 was to successfully lead a photographing expedition to Africa. After failing to produce any meaningful results from the expedition, Boyce waited for a ship in London in December of 1909 to return to the United States. With Boyce's coincidental encounter with the Unknown Scout, the keen businessman saw an opportunity in the growing popularity of the Boy Scout Movement. After all, Boyce was in London, the center of the growing movement, where he could collect all the literature and merchandise on Scouting he needed. Upon returning home and on the recommendation of friends, Boyce incorporated the BSA in Washington, D.C., on the morning of February 8, 1910. This firmly established the organization on a national scale rather than as a regional or local group.⁴¹

The fledging organization gained the attention of Edgar M. Robinson, an official from the YMCA. Since the YMCA focused on youth education, Robinson saw the market potential in the growing Boy Scout Movement. The YMCA sponsored several informal Boy Scout troops in local chapters at the time, so Robinson was somewhat familiar with the movement. In the BSA, Robinson saw the potential of a national organization to become a leader in youth character

⁴⁰ David C. Scott, "Is the Boy Scouts of America Really Founded upon a Myth? [Part 1]," *International Scouting collectors Association Journal* 16, No. 3 (September 2016): 26-29; and David C. Scott, "Is the Boy Scouts of America Really Founded Upon a Myth? Part 2: The Deconstruction of W.D. Boyce's Fog Story," *International Scouting Collectors Association Journal*, December 2016, 29-32.

⁴¹ Harold White, "William D Boyce - Artifact of the Week," *Nat!ScoutingMuseum*, Video, February 3, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMkMwK178iY>; Peterson, *An American Adventure*, 31-2, Scott, "Founded upon a Myth? [Part 1]," 26-29; and Scott, "Founded Upon a Myth? Part 2," 29-32.

development across the entire country.⁴² Boyce agreed to turn administrative and practical control of the BSA's operations to Robinson and the YMCA. To consolidate the movement, Robinson and the YMCA assembled key youth movement figures of the time for a meeting in June of 1910. These leaders and groups included Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, and other major organizations. The topic at hand was the future of the Boy Scout Movement in the United States. Seton, Beard, and other organizations agreed to merge into the Boy Scouts of America and fill positions in the National Council.⁴³ This agreement established the BSA as the major Scouting organization in the nation at the time.

The Development of the Eagle Scout Award

As previously mentioned, Seton drafted the interim handbook for the BSA based on the British version of *Scouting for Boys*, which he retitled as *Boy Scouts of America: A Handbook of Woodcraft, Scouting, and Life-craft*.⁴⁴ This revision kept the Wolf Scout as the highest award, but it was a distinctly Seton interpretation of Scouting. The book provided a template, but the organization quickly sought to Americanize the program and literature with the hiring of James E. West as first Executive Secretary (later renamed to Chief Scout Executive) in January of 1911. West and the BSA established committees for various activities and programs with a common theme of establishing an American version and brand of Scouting. The Badges, Awards, and Equipment commission oversaw and led the effort to draft a new Boy Scout Handbook with suggestions and comments from Seton and Beard.⁴⁵ Scouting in America

⁴² Peterson, *An American Adventure*, 49-50; and Peterson, "'Forgotten' Founding Father," 1998.

⁴³ Jordan, *Modern Manhood*, 23-5; and Macleod, *Building Character*, 146-159

⁴⁴ Seton, *Boy Scouts of America: A Handbook* (1910).

⁴⁵ David C. Scott, "Ignored and Erased: Ernest Thompson Seton & the Eagle Scout Award," *International Scouting Collectors Association Journal*, March 2017, 12-14; Edward L. Rowan, *To Do My Best: James E. West and the History of the Boy Scouts of America* (Las Vegas and Charleston: Las Vegas International Scouting Museum, now the World Scouting Museum, 2005); Hillcourt, "The Rank is Established," 1993; and Harold White, "James E. West - Artifact of the Week," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, February 14, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hV21KXNZxbk>.

transitioned away from its British model and set the Eagle Scout Award on a path as a distinctively American status.

From the author's reading of the available scholarship and primary sources, the change from the Wolf Scout to Eagle Scout in the revised 1911 *Boy Scout Handbook* was a common recommendation but not implemented until right before publication. According to research by David C. Scott, Seton submitted a proposal to the committee in April of 1911 to replace the King's Scout as the first super merit badge with higher awards going in order of Hunter, Camper, Traveller, and then Athlete. The committee did not institute Seton's recommendation, instead maintaining the order of Life, Star, and Wolf Scout awards. After distributing proof copies of the handbook to various people across the nation in June of 1911, a common suggestion from these reviews was to change the Wolf Scout to either an eagle or another animal. In Scott's article, he cites that an individual proposed an eagle or lion to replace the wolf symbol. The eagle rose to prominence in the organization as it was, at Beard's suggestion, superimposed on a fleur-de-lis to provide an authentic American touch on the BSA's main symbol.⁴⁶ By the handbook's publication in August of 1911, revisions changed the Wolf Scout to Eagle Scout and set the stage for the first youth and adults to earn the award.⁴⁷

One lingering question among this history is did any youth or adult in the United States earn the Silver Wolf Award from either Seton's handbook or a British manual? It is unlikely due to several issues. To the author's knowledge, there has been no primary source evidence put forward to even suggest someone earned the Silver Wolf Award. The lack of a consolidated organization, focus on activities rather than advancement, and recency of the movement from

⁴⁶ "Americanizing the Scout Badge," *Boys' Life*, May 1912, 40; Hillcourt, "The Rank is Established," 1993; "Memorandum of the Design of the Eagle Badge," *Boy Scouts of America*, May 1951, courtesy of the BSA National Archives; and Scott, "Ignored and Erased," 14.

⁴⁷ *Boy Scouts of America: The Official Handbook for Boys* (New York: Boy Scouts of America, 1911), 43.

1908 to 1911 created distinctive barriers to earning the award. Merit badges also represented a massive obstacle to earning the award with little to no infrastructure or resources to help scouts working on them. The movement needed time to establish itself in various communities and create structures to award these high honors. These challenges did not stop ambitious scouts aiming for the highest awards in the organization. A short time later in 1912, the first Eagle Scouts emerge in the nation. The next chapter chronicles a small sample of the first Eagle Scouts from 1912 to 1917 and overviews the major narratives associated with the award.

Chapter Two

The First Eagle Scouts in the United States, 1912-1917

Beyond numbers and later historical significance, the first Eagle Scouts were foremost the men and youth in their local communities. These individuals bore a distinctive mark apart from their fellow scouts that slowly grew into a greater national status as the BSA continued to expand in the 1910s and beyond. Apart from certain outliers, such as Daniel Carter Beard, the first Eagle Scouts typically earned the award at the local level with available resources in their communities. It was through the actions of the National Council that the award became elevated above regular First-Class Rank scouts. Specifically, the Life, Star, Eagle, and Lifesaving awards became marks of high honor as portrayed in media campaigns, in the *Boys' Life* magazine, newspaper articles, and major national events. If the BSA was a brand, then these high-ranking individuals became the organization's finest products that could be displayed to the world as paragons of the movement. For individual Eagle Scouts, achieving the award indicated personal ambition of the youth or adult in Scouting programs and a desire for accomplishments. Becoming an Eagle Scout in the 1910s was not a uniform process but differed dramatically depending on local conditions and resources. This chapter traces the first Eagle Scouts in the nation from 1912 to 1917, delving into their major themes, narratives, individuals, and relationships. This chapter is not an exhaustive treatise but an overview of Eagle Scout history and the first generation that earned the award.

The year of 1917 was an important time for both Eagle Scouts and the BSA due to the U.S. entrance and preparation for the First World War. During this war, the BSA reoriented the organization and its activities to assist in the home front.⁴⁸ Individual Eagle Scouts marched off

⁴⁸ Robert W. Peterson, *The Boy Scouts: An American Adventure* (New York: American Heritage, 1984). 89-94. Also see Footnotes 127-130 for other secondary sources covering the BSA's activities in the First World War.

to fight in the trenches and ships, but the larger conflict transformed the BSA and Scouting Movement to embrace new ideas and attitudes.⁴⁹ Against this backdrop of deep changes and individual stories, the narrative for this chapter ends towards the last months of 1917. The BSA begins to transition its media and coverage to wartime activities and Eagle Scouts are no longer a major focus of magazines such as *Boys' Life*. Appendix A tracks the list of Eagle Scouts published in *Boys' Life* from 1912 and 1917 and briefly explores problems associated with those records. Appendix B extends beyond the 1910s and attempts to establish a baseline interpretation for the first Eagle Scouts from each state. The best place to begin to explore the earliest Eagle Scouts is the first person to officially earn the award, Arthur Rose Eldred.

The First Three Eagle Scouts

Arthur Eldred was born in August of 1895 in Brooklyn, New York, before his mother and brother relocated the family to Oceanside, N.Y. Eldred grew up in Oceanside and joined a local Boy Scout group in the nearby Rockville Centre postal area. There has been some contention over whether Eldred became an Eagle Scout in Rockville Centre or in Oceanside.⁵⁰ In practical terms, these two small hamlets are roughly only a couple of miles apart, which is an easy distance for a fit young adult to travel in the early 20th century. Moving back to the larger narrative, the state of New York and surrounding regions became the epicenter for the production of Eagle Scouts. Several elements contributed to the large amount of Eagle Scouts in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey throughout the 1910s. The BSA's headquarters was located in New York City. New waves of migration, economic opportunities, and other social developments

⁴⁹ Eduard Vallory, *World Scouting: Educating for Global Citizenship* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), 21.

⁵⁰ Gary Twite, "The BSA's First Eagle Scout: Arthur Rose Eldred," February 2005, https://www.eaglescout.org/history/first_eagle.html; Seth Blau, "Oceanside lays claim to the first Eagle Scout," *Long Island Herald*, January 3, 2020; and Seth Blau, "Oceanside lays claim to first Eagle Scout (Part Two)," *Long Island Herald*, January 8, 2020.

reinvigorated major cities and communities in the northeast region. Boys could access greater and more diverse resources, needed for merit badges, advancement, and local courts of honor, as compared to other regions in the country.⁵¹ It is within this economic boom and proximity to the BSA's powerbase that Arthur Rose Eldred became the first official Eagle Scout in 1912. Eldred's story and the larger history of Eagle Scouts are all interconnected during 1911 and 1912 in a way that shows how local members affected the national politics of the organization.

The events surrounding Arthur Eldred's achievement of the Eagle Scout Award would never be repeated in the BSA's history as it exemplifies one of the earliest interactions between national and local Scouting. Eldred became a First-Class Scout in March of 1911 and worked on merit badges for the remainder of 1911, aiming for the BSA's highest honor. In the early days of the organization, scouts could go straight from First-Class to Eagle Scout without earning the in-between awards. Earl Marx became the first individual to go from First-Class, Life, Star, to Eagle while other scouts skipped straight to the highest award.⁵² With Eldred's proximity to the headquarters of the BSA in New York City, roughly 24-mile journey by train, the National Council decided to review him in-person. Eldred's examination was set for January 31, 1912, due to Eldred's troop already being in New York City for another event.

Baden-Powell arrived in New York City on January 31, 1912, during a global trip promoting the fledging Boy Scout Movement. Troop 1 of the Rockville Centre was one of the few fully uniformed units in the immediate area, so they were invited to greet Baden-Powell upon arrival. Eldred attracted Baden-Powell's eye through the numerous merit badges on his sleeve and they exchanged a short conversation on the dock. After the ceremony, Eldred went to

⁵¹ *Sixth Annual Report of the Boy Scouts of America* (New York: Boy Scouts of America, 1916), 40.

⁵² David C. Scott and Terry Grove, "The First Eagle Scout Award," in *Eagle Scout Award: A Pictorial History* (proof copy, 2019), 23.

the BSA headquarters and received an examination from Chief Scout Executive James E. West, National Scout Commissioner Daniel Carter Beard, Chief Scout Ernest Thompson Seton, National Court of Honor Secretary Arthur R. Forbush, and Commodore Wilbert E. Longfellow who had ties to the Red Cross and lifesaving organizations. After Eldred completed one of the most stressful reviews of any scout in the history of the BSA, the National Council postponed final approval until the National Court of Honor's next monthly meeting.⁵³

Historical research from David Scott, with assistance from Dr. Terry Grove, identified a sixth potential individual present for Eldred's afternoon examination on January 31, 1912: Baden-Powell. Scouting's Founder was undoubtedly in the area, and Scott cites a newspaper from Vermont that explicitly stated Baden-Powell witnessed Eldred's review. This aspect of the history should be cited with caution as just a small evidence base supports Baden-Powell attending Eldred's examination. More research is needed to further strengthen the argument. The more publicized event was Scout William Waller, holder of a Bronze Lifesaving Medal, who carried and delivered a letter from President Taft to Baden-Powell.⁵⁴ Once Baden-Powell's visit to the United States ended in March of 1912, the National Court of Honor convened and formally approved Eldred's application for the Eagle Scout Award sometime around March 29, 1912.⁵⁵ The National Council pushed a widespread media campaign promoting Eldred's

⁵³ Michael S. Malone, *Four Percent: The Extraordinary Story of Exceptional American Youth* (Dallas: WindRush Publishers, 2015), 20-32; Scott and Grove, "The First Eagle Scout Award," 13-5; and Twite, "The BSA's First Eagle Scout," 2005.

⁵⁴ "Boy Greets Baden-Powell. Young Scout Hero Commended for Life-Saving. British General Who Founded the Order for Training of Boys in Self-Reliance and Woodcraft Arrives in this Country for a General Inspection of Their Many Organizations," *The Evening Post*, January 31, 1912; David C. Scott, "Mystery Solved: Arthur Eldred and the First Eagle Scout Award," *International Scouting Collectors Association Journal* 17, no. 2 (2017): 10-4; and Scott and Grove, "The First Eagle Scout Award," 14-15.

⁵⁵ Scott and Grove, "The First Eagle Scout Award," 18.

accomplishment in April of 1912, but the BSA did not fully sort Eldred and other Eagle Scout applicants until August-September of 1912.⁵⁶

In modern times, the approval date for a youth to become an Eagle Scout is determined upon completion of their Board of Review. The author's Eagle Scout was recorded as May 14, 2015, which was the date of his Board of Review. He celebrated his ceremonial Court of Honor in August of 2015. The local council held its Eagle Scout recognition ceremony nearly a year later in April of 2016. In the BSA's early history, this process and methodology did not exist yet and functioned in a different way. Scouts completed requirements and received review examination before a local Court of Honor (a committee of review rather than a ceremony in later years). The local Court of Honor would send the application for the Eagle Scout Award to the National Court of Honor for final approval. Due to this approval system established by the National Council, it creates a conflict of interpretation of *when* an individual becomes an Eagle Scout. It is out of this conflict that some may claim Roy D. Young of St. Paul, Minnesota, as the first Eagle Scout in the nation rather than Eldred.

Roy Young may have completed all the requirements for the Eagle Scout Award by November of 1911, but the local council did not send his application to the national headquarters right away. This allowed Arthur Eldred's and Earl Marx's paperwork to arrive first to the National Council. Young became the third nationally recognized Eagle Scout in the BSA with

⁵⁶ "First Eagle Scout," *The Post-Star*, April 16, 1912, 4; "First Eagle Scout Named. Honor Goes to Arthur Eldred of Rockville Centre, L. I.," *The New York Times*, April 15, 1912, 2; and Scott and Grove, "The First Eagle Scout Award," 16. In support of Scott and Grove's primary source evidence for Eldred's approval being in March of 1912, there are two additional pieces from *Scouting* pointing towards that month. In the first edition of *Scouting* on April 15, 1913, a short piece describes: "In the first three months of 1912, 102 merit badges, one eagle scout badge and four bronze medals were issued to scouts." First piece of evidence: "Boy Scouts Win Hundreds of Badges For Good Service," *Scouting*, Volume 1, Number 1, April 15, 1913, 8. The second piece of evidence describes: "The National Court of Honor has awarded 494 merit badges as compared with 25 for April, 1912. In April, 1912, no Eagle, Star or Life badges were issued, whereas this month three Scouts qualified for these awards and in addition, one secured the Life and Star badges." Second piece of evidence: Arthur R. Forbush, "A Month's Development. Some Of Our Problems," *Scouting*, Volume 1, Number 3, May 15, 1913, 7.

Eldred as the first and Marx as the second. This debate of *when* an individual becomes an Eagle Scout is a perpetual problem in historical primary sources for the period. Does an individual become an Eagle Scout by the date recorded in their handbook, when local newspapers proclaim their approval by the local Court of Honor, or by the date of approval of the National Court of Honor? The National Council was aware of the flaws in the system, and of Young's delayed application, but the organization decided to retain final approval at the national level. This is because the National Council designed the Eagle Scout Award and other high honors to be earned by exceptional individuals, not en masse. The BSA aimed for all scouts to earn the First-Class Rank, but only a select few for high awards. This desire to control the high honors at the national level led to the names recorded in *Boys' Life* being listed by national approval rather than by dates in the handbook or the local Court of Honor.⁵⁷

The first nine months of 1912 featured proactive individuals becoming Eagle Scouts while the National Council slowly responded to these applications over time. During the summer of 1912, Early Marx of Jacksonville, Florida, submitted his application to the National Court of Honor and his handbook requirements were dated July 12, 1912. Marx's paperwork arrived at the national headquarters prior to Young's application. After the summer months and into August of 1912, the national council decided to formalize an official list of Eagle Scouts through letters and telegrams sent to the Eagles themselves. James E. West sent the first letter to Eldred on August 21, 1912, that stated: "It gives me great pleasure [...] to formally notify you that you have been awarded the honor of being the first Eagle Scout of the Boy Scouts of America." Earl Marx was informed by telegram from James E. West of his status as an Eagle Scout in September of 1912.⁵⁸ Due to medals not being created yet for the Eagle Scout Award, Eldred did not receive

⁵⁷ Scott and Grove, "The First Eagle Scout Award," 13-27.

⁵⁸ Scott and Grove, "The First Eagle Scout Award," 18-9.

his Silver Eagle until Labor Day of 1912. As more applications for the Eagle Scout Award arrived in the latter half of 1912, the National Council formally established the *Boys' Life* list that recorded the names of each individual that earned the award. Appendix A presents the names recorded in *Boys' Life* with some historical analysis of the list as a primary source and other additional information found by the author in historical newspapers.

Arthur R. Eldred's history best shows the complexity, in both the National Council and local setting, behind the emerging group of Eagle Scouts in late 1911 and the first half of 1912. The Eagles that followed Eldred, Marx, and Young did not deal with the same technical errors, but their stories and extraordinary experiences are the driving force behind the growth and significance of the award. The narrative of the first Eagle Scouts transitions from national-local interactions in the organization to more diverse narratives based on geographical factors and timing of major events. This chapter will only present a selection from the hundreds of potential stories of Eagle Scouts from 1912 to 1917. Subsequently, this chapter focuses more on themes, processes, and major events rather than the everyday stories of individuals. From encounters to U.S. Presidents to American territories, Eagle Scouts emerged across the nation and influenced the growth and image of the BSA.

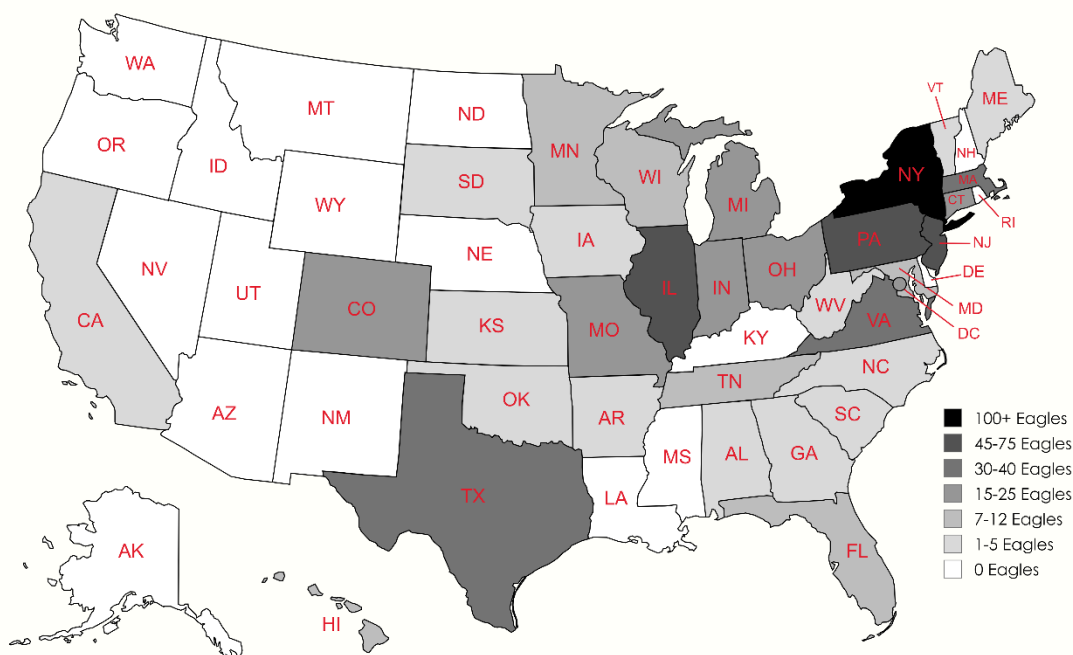
Geography of Eagle Scouts: Overview

In June of 1913, William Elmo Merrem of Shiner, Texas, became an Eagle Scout and probably the first west of the Mississippi River. There were two other contenders for the first Eagle Scout west of the Mississippi that appear in September of 1913, James P. Murphy from Broadland, South Dakota, and Edward L. Bowles from St. Louis, Missouri.⁵⁹ Refer to Appendix B under the Missouri section for a further discussion on the first Eagle Scout west of the

⁵⁹ See Appendix A.

Mississippi River. In a statement from Merrem in January of 1914, he reflected on his journey and provided advice for aspiring Eagle Scouts: “To those of my comrades who are ambitious to win the Eagle badge I will say, ‘Go in to win.’ A little grit, determination, perseverance and close application to the scout manual will finally win out, and when you are called upon to stand the test you will ‘Be Prepared.’”⁶⁰ Geography factors heavily into the early distribution and history of Eagle Scouts. A breakdown of the 1912-1917 Eagle Scout distribution reveals close parallels to the spread of the Scouting Movement in the United States.

Map 1 is a distribution of the Eagles from the *Boys’ Life* list by state and density which reveals several geographical features of the early Eagle Scouts. The majority of Eagle Scouts



Map 1: Distribution of March 1912 to October 1917 Eagle Scouts

⁶⁰ “Eagle Scouts,” *West Texas Scouting History*, February 3, 2016, https://www.westtexasscoutinghistory.net/award_eaglepage.html#:~:text=Arthur%20R.,on%20Labor%20Day%20in%201912; Elmo Merrem, “How I Did It,” *Shiner Gazette*, Volume 21, Number 21, January 29, 1914, 4; Elmo Merrem, “How I Did It,” *The Southwestern Scout*, Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1914; Rye Druzin, “103 years of Eagle Scout tradition,” *Victoria Advocate*, April 6, 2016; and “[Various Short News Segments],” *Temple Daily Telegram*, Volume 7, Number 187, May 26, 1914, 4.

came from the New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey regions with additional high distributions along the northern East Coast states, the Rust Belt, and Texas. Western states with lower populations and isolated from economic hubs, centered on New York, did not produce Eagle Scouts until the late 1910s and throughout the 1920s. The rural and southern states east of the Mississippi River follow a similar trend with much smaller populations of Eagle Scouts compared to their northern counterparts. A curious oddity is Rhode Island that probably involved the Rhode Island Boy Scouts organization that created competition for the BSA in the region until 1917. The earliest Rhode Island Eagle Scout the author was able to identify was James J. Deery in 1919.⁶¹ States without any Eagle Scouts would begin producing some in the late 1910s and into the 1920s. For a discussion of the first Eagle Scouts in each state, see Appendix B. Geography is crucial for understanding the activities of early Eagle Scouts as proximity to certain areas enabled scouts to participate in major events and with national leaders.

Geography of Eagle Scouts: The District of Columbia

The Eagle Scouts with a close connection to national politics and the U.S. government came from Washington, D.C. The earliest known Eagle Scouts from D.C. appear in February of 1914 with Norris B. Gaddess, Fred Reed, G. T. Smallwood, James D. Eggleston, and Cleon Throckmorton. Around February 12, 1914, these Eagles, accompanied by E. S. Martin, the Scout Commissioner for Washington, D.C., Chief Scout Ernest Thompson Seton, BSA President Colin H. Livingstone, Chief Scout Executive James E. West, and National Scout Commissioner Daniel Carter Beard, went to the White House for the Fourth Annual Meeting of the National Council.

⁶¹ *25 Years of Scouting in Rhode Island, 1910-1935* (Providence: Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1935); and J. Harold Williams, *Scout Trail 1910-1962: History of the Boy Scout Movement in Rhode Island* (Providence: Rhode Island Boy Scouts and Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1964).

The First Lady from 1913 to 1914, Ellen Axson Wilson, met with the scouts from D.C. and presented the Eagle Scouts with their medals, pinning them on each youth.⁶²

President Wilson would continue receiving scouts, accompanied by national and local BSA leadership, and awarding Eagle Scout medals in the White House on several occasions. On February 11, 1915, probably during the Fifth Annual Meeting of the National Council, the President gave Eagle Scout medals to Samuel Hardy, Edward Pardoe, Edward Sheiry, Lawrence T. Prentice, Francis (Frank) W. Watson, and Clinton Allard. Wilson also presented scout H. A. Gatley with a Bronze Medal for life saving.⁶³ In the following year for the Sixth Annual Meeting of the National Council, on February 10, 1916, Raymond Scaggs received his Eagle Scout medal from President Wilson.⁶⁴ Eagle Scouts and U.S. Presidents have a much longer history than what is presented in this thesis. The main point is that this relationship started with the first Eagles in the 1910s, especially through Washington, D.C. Eagle Scouts.⁶⁵

The relationship between President Wilson and Eagle Scouts extended beyond D.C. and into other states. One of President Wilson's earliest encounters with Eagle Scouts came on December 28, 1912, in his hometown of Staunton, Virginia. The President pinned the Eagle

⁶² "Boy Scout Movement Loses a Good Friend," *Boys' Life*, September 1914, 17; "Eagle Scouts at the White House," *Boys' Life*, April 1914, 25; and "Ellen Axson Wilson," *About the White House: First Families*, accessed September 1, 2024, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/first-families/ellen-axson-wilson/>.

⁶³ "Get Badges from President," *Boys' Life*, March 1915, 15. Reportedly, Eagle Lawrence T. Prentice could not attend but later received his badge and congratulations letter from President Wilson. Prentice primary source: "Honored by President Wilson," *Boys' Life*, April 1915, 22.

⁶⁴ "President Greet Scout Council: And Presents an 'Eagle to a Scout—' Birthday Celebrated by Scouts Everywhere," *Boys' Life*, March 1916, 21.

⁶⁵ For more on Eagle Scouts and U.S. Presidents, see Bryan Wendell, "Scouts and presidential inaugurations have a long, fascinating past," *Aaron on Scouting* (formerly *Bryan on Scouting*), January 16, 2017, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/01/17/scouts-and-presidential-inaugurations-have-a-long-interesting-past/>; "Handbook of Boy Scouts Given [To President]. Presentation Made at Same Time Convention Is Opened," *The Daily Alaska Empire*, April 10, 1928, 1, available at *Chronicling America*; John I. Dean, "Scouting in America: 1910 – 1990" (dissertation, University of South Carolina, 1992), 232; Malone, *Four Percent*, discusses various Eagle Scouts and U.S. Presidents; "President Asks Scouts For 'National Good Turn,'" *The Daily Alaska Empire*, March 3, 1934, 4, available at *Chronicling America*; Robert Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History* (New York: DK Publishing, 2012), 76; and "Truman with Group of Eagle Scouts," *Harry S. Truman Library and Museum*, February 8, 1950, <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/photograph-records/73-3252>.

Scout medal on Fred E. Woodson, who later marched in the local parade celebrating the President's return to the town. Fred Woodson became Virginia's first Eagle Scout in 1912 and the 19th Eagle in the nation, followed closely by J. Levering Early of Staunton, VA, who was the 20th Eagle in the U.S.⁶⁶ On December 30, 1914, Eagle Scouts Dudley, Denny, and Morton, along with scouts Jackson, Johnson, Eubank, Delouze, Grant, and Pyle, from Richmond, Virginia, visited the White House. They meet with President Wilson and also toured around Washington, D.C.⁶⁷ Eagle Scout Goold Norman Bull from New York City was approved by President Wilson, upon the special "recommendation of Secretary Daniels," to fill one of the "vacancies at large at the Naval Academy." Bull was seventeen years old in 1916 when approved after passing tests as a candidate.⁶⁸

Throughout 1916, New York City Boy Scouts planned a massive rally and decided to invite President Wilson to speak at the event. New York City Boy Scouts gathered close to eight thousand signatures from local scouts for the petition. Five scouts, one from each borough of Greater New York, delivered the signatures and speech to President Wilson at the White House on December 26, 1916. One of the five scouts included Martin Benjamin Freeman, an "Eagle Scout and Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 1, Flushing, (Queens Borough)." At some points during the visit, Freeman carried the book of signatures from the New York City Boy Scouts. The five scouts went sightseeing around the capital, "were guests of Mr. Colin H. Livingstone, President of the National Council," had dinner at the University Club, and met with other scouts

⁶⁶ "Central: High School Students Going Into The Harvest Fields To Toughen Muscles For Athletics Next Year," *Muskogee Times-Democrat*, June 22, 1914, 1; Linda D. Wilson, "Scouting," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, January 15, 2010, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=SC011>; and Ray Ezell, "Who Were Virginia's First Eagle Scouts?" *Central Virginia Boy Scouting Preservation Project*, April 2, 2020, <https://historyofscoutingva.wordpress.com/2020/04/02/who-were-virginias-first-eagle-scouts/>.

⁶⁷ "With the Scouts Afield," *Boys' Life*, February 1915, 24.

⁶⁸ "Eagle Scout Got What He Went After," *Boys' Life*, November 1916, 51.

from Washington, D.C.⁶⁹ Eagle Scouts became integral youth and young adult representatives for the BSA that demonstrated some of the finest products of the movement and organization to national leaders.

Geography of Eagle Scouts: The Territory of Hawaii

Continuing with the influence of geography, the first Eagle Scout from a state came from New York and the first from a district came from Washington, D.C. The last major Federal land-designation, territories, did not produce any Eagles until 1916 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Scout Commissioner James A. Wilder, uncle of a later Hawaiian Eagle Scout, spoke in January of 1916 on the condition of the Boy Scout Movement in Honolulu. He expressed a need for a scout to earn the Eagle Scout Award by the end of the year.⁷⁰ Commissioner Wilder's call would be answered by several scouts who were already working on merit badges in 1915 and 1916. As with other aspects of Eagle Scout history, the first Eagle Scout from Hawaii seems straightforward from the *Boys' Life* list: Alatau T. Wilder of Honolulu in December of 1916. An in-depth historical examination of Hawaiian history reveals a more complex narrative than what is presented in *Boys' Life*. This narrative returns to one of the primary conflicts in historical interpretations for this topic: when does an Eagle Scout earn the award?

Going into local newspapers reveals two candidates that both claim the status of the first Eagle Scout in Hawaii: Leo de Roo and Alatau T. Wilder. An individual named Leo de Roo of Troop V, the "Queen's Own" or "Honolulu Fifth," is listed in the September 1917 Eagle class in *Boys' Life*. Local newspapers place Roo earning the award in July of 1916.⁷¹ Several possibilities

⁶⁹ "How 8,000 Scouts of New York Invited the President to Their Rally," *Boys' Life*, February 1917, 32.

⁷⁰ "Boy Scout Leader Reviews Movement At Central Union: Commissioner Wilder Delivers Interesting Address At Special Sunday Night Exercises," *Hawaiian Gazette*, January 4, 1916, available at Chronicling America; and "More Leaders Of Boy Scouts Needed Here," *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, January 3, 1916, available at Chronicling America.

⁷¹ This footnote organizes the primary sources by date rather than alphabetically to show progression over time. This is the same format as Appendix B. Primary sources: "With Hawaii's Alert Boy Scouts: Troops News & Notes, Here & elsewhere," *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, May 25, 1916, available at Chronicling America; "Here is Boy Scout Troop

can account for the discrepancy. First, there were two individuals named Leo de Roo living in Honolulu and both achieved the Eagle Scout Award at different times. Second, something happened with Roo's application to the National Court of Honor that delayed the official certification until much later. Third, Roo somehow failed his inspections after review and had to redo the work to achieve the Eagle award. Without a deep dive into council and local records, understanding the discrepancy in the dates of Roo's Eagle Scout history is difficult. Before finishing the requirements for his Eagle Scout Award in July of 1916, Leo de Roo wrote an article describing how he earned his merit badges: "The one and most important factor in securing these badges is to be persistent. That is, to pick out a certain badges and stay with it until you get it. If you fail, study again, but under no circumstances give up or try for another badge until you get the one that you started out to get. To stick is part of the scouting game."⁷²

Alatau Wilder became an Eagle Scout, according to local newspapers, sometime around late October of 1916 with Troop 1 of Honolulu. A newspaper article covered Wilder's early Scouting history in November of 1916. Wilder went to live in Washington, Connecticut, in 1915, before joining a troop in New York City. He later returned to Honolulu in June of 1916 and completed the requirements for the Eagle Scout Award.⁷³ In the latter months of 1920, the

of Real 'Alerts',” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, June 15, 1916, available at Chronicling America; “Live News of Scout Troops,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, June 29, 1916, available at Chronicling America; “Boy Scouts of Hawaii in Action: Leo De Roo, Winner of Life, Star and Eagle Scout Honor,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, July 20, 1916, available at Chronicling America; and “Boy Scouts Are On Duty During Funeral Hours: Troop V, ‘Queen’s Own,’ Has Honor of Marching in Long Procession,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, November 19, 1917, available at Chronicling America.

⁷² “On Merit Badges. By Star and Life Scout Leo de Roo, Troop V.” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, June 29, 1916, available at Chronicling America.

⁷³ This footnote organizes the primary sources by date rather than alphabetically to show progression over time. This is the same format as Appendix B. Primary sources: “With Hawaii’s Alert Boy Scouts: Troop News & Notes, Here & elsewhere: Scout Notes,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, July 27, 1916, available at Chronicling America; “Boy Scouts of Hawaii in Action: Scout Notes,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, October 5, 1916, available at Chronicling America; “Boy Scouts of Hawaii in Action: Scout Notes,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, October 19, 1916, available at Chronicling America; “Notes,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, October 26, 1916, available at Chronicling America; and “Good Record Is Made By Scout Here and Abroad: Alatau Wilder,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, November 2, 1916, available at Chronicling America.

National Council ran a story countrywide featuring Wilder, attending Oxford University in England at the time, who penned a message for fellow scouts about earning merit badges.

In order to win more than the usual number of merit badges there seems to me to be several qualities which a scout should cultivate in order to master successfully the different requirements. I believe that perseverance is the most valuable characteristic that will help a scout to be the proud possessor of numerous badges.

Ambition is another important quality for the aspiring 'badge hog.' Scouts should have 'go ahead' enough to tackle a badge which may seem way beyond their powers at first. By learning how to pass the requirements which seem too difficult at the start, a great deal of knowledge which a scout would never have otherwise may be obtained. Reading books on the subjects and merit badge pamphlets, asking questions and getting direct information from men who make their living by the subject are ways by which a scout may master the requirements. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions from your teachers at school.⁷⁴

According to 2010s Hawaiian newspaper articles, local consensus regarding the first Eagle Scout in Hawaii favors Wilder rather than Roo. The author could not find a definitive resource that analyzes the history in-depth.⁷⁵ Scouting in Hawaii is a fascinating case study as it is at the intersection of indigenous studies, interracial relations, U.S. imperialism, and other histories spanning across the entire 20th century.⁷⁶

Eagle Scout Award: Age Relationship, Processes, and National Significance

In other regards, Eagle Scouts represent a curious oddity in relation to the membership statistics of the BSA during the 1910s. In short, Eagle Scouts were old. While both adults and youth could earn the award, the average age of Eagle Scouts typically ranged from fourteen to

⁷⁴ Alatau T. Wilder, "Has Most Scout Merits," *Stoughton Daily Courier*, October 15, 1920, 6.

⁷⁵ "Boy Scouts in Hawaii celebrate 10,000th member of Eagle rank," *Honolulu Star Advertiser*, May 2, 2015, courtesy of the Hawaii State Library in Honolulu, Hawaii.

⁷⁶ For more on Scouting in Hawaii, see: Alice Kim, "Scouting in Hawaii," *Hawai'i Digital Newspaper Project*, <https://hdnpblog.wordpress.com/historical-articles/scouting-in-hawaii/>; Bryan Wendell, "Hawaiian Boy Scouts stitch their place in history," *Aaron on Scouting*, November 21, 2012, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2012/11/21/hawaiian-boy-scouts-stitch-their-place-in-history/>; Fred E. Woods and Anita Manning, "An Extraordinary Troop: The Boy Scouts Program at Kalaupapa," *The Hawaiian Journal of History* 53, (2019): 83-105; *Troop 10 70th Anniversary* (Honolulu: Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1986); and *Troop 10 75th Anniversary, 1917 - 1992: 75 Years of Service to Kaimuki's Youth* (Honolulu: Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1992).

nineteen. The majority of BSA youth membership joined and left between the ages of twelve and fourteen.⁷⁷ Determining the age of each Eagle Scout is somewhat difficult and tedious for over 600 individuals between 1912 and 1917. The first three Eagles ranged from sixteen- to eighteen-years-old, commonly cited figures, but *Boys' Life* neglected to include ages for most of the individuals. From the author's reading of historic newspapers for Appendix B, the fourteen to nineteen range represented the best average for the spectrum of age. In combination with the minimum age requirement history, discussed in Chapter Four, the achievers of the Eagle Scout Award occupy a liminal space between early adolescence and adulthood that differed from the standard membership of the organization.⁷⁸ Comments on scouts who became Eagle Scouts at the age of twelve or thirteen often note how young they are, which seems to point towards a general perception between Eagle Scouts and age. The author has encountered this perception before, often as "he seems a little young," during his time in Scouting. This unique perception underscores how the Eagle Scout Award can be seen as the last step into adulthood but also how the process of earning the rank usually takes several years.

The process to become an Eagle Scout in the 1910s can be divided into two major phases with several branching paths that follow similar trajectories. For both phases, the 1911 edition of

⁷⁷ *A Study of Boys Becoming Adolescents: A Report of a National Survey of Boys in the 11 to 13 Year Age Range* (Ann Arbor and New Brunswick: The University of Michigan and Boy Scouts of America, 1960); *A Study of Boy Scouts and Their Scoutmasters: A Report of Four National Surveys* (Ann Arbor and New Brunswick: The University of Michigan and Boy Scouts of America, 1960), 111; David MacLeod, "Act Your Age: Boyhood, Adolescence, and the Rise of the Boy Scouts of America," *Journal of Social History* 16, no. 2 (1982): 3-20; and Matthew Finn Hubbard, "A Cartographic Depiction and Exploration of the Boy Scouts of America's Historical Membership Patterns" (masters' thesis, University of Kansas, 2016).

⁷⁸ Bryan Wendell, "What was the average age of 2016 Eagle Scouts?" *Aaron on Scouting*, March 3, 2017, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/03/03/what-was-the-average-age-of-2016-eagle-scouts/>; Bryan Wendell, "This is how the average age of Eagle Scouts in 2017 compared to previous years," *Aaron on Scouting*, February 22, 2018, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/02/22/average-age-eagle-scouts-dipped-slightly-2017/>; Daniel Carter Beard, *Boy Heroes of Today: Boy Scout Gold Honor Medal Awards* (New York: Brewer Warren & Putnam, 1932); and Kevin Randy Moesser, "Birth Order and Its Effect on the Attainment of the Eagle Scout Status" (masters' thesis, Utah State University, 1980). See Chapter Four for sources on age restriction discussions and the average age of Eagles in the 1940s and early 1950s.

the *Boy Scout Handbook* served as the navigational tool for completing rank requirements and earning merit badges. Scouts in the first phase completed the journey after earning the First-Class Rank, which qualified them for the second phase of earning merit badges. Only scouts that had achieved the First-Class Rank could go before the local Court of Honor to be evaluated for one of 57 topics covered by the merit badge system. The second phase had several pathways to the Eagle Scout Award, but there were two main routes in a practical sense. Scouts could go straight to the Eagle Scout Award after completing twenty-one separate merit badges. Individuals could also climb the various tiers of awards like ranks—Life, Star, then Eagle—by completing a set number of merit badges for each award, totaling up to twenty-one for Eagle.⁷⁹ For the first several years of the organization, the National Council did not make major changes to this process.

On October 1, 1914, the National Council decided to specify the requirements for Eagle Scout merit badges by establishing specific Eagle Scout Required Merit Badges. However, these changes were not fully announced until July and September of 1915 in the *Boys' Life* and *Scouting* magazines. The new required merit badges for Eagle Scout included “First Aid, Physical Development or Athletics, Life Saving, Personal Health, Public Health, Cooking, Camping, Bird Study, Pathfinding, Pioneering, Civics and any ten others.” Scouts were still required to complete the First-Class Rank to begin to work on merit badges, but they could still go straight to the Eagle Scout Award. Earning the awards in order was not changed until a later date.⁸⁰ After completing all the needed merit badges and standing for examination before a local

⁷⁹ *Boy Scouts Handbook: The Original 1911 Edition* (New York: Skyhorse Publishing and Boy Scouts of America, 2011), 23-43.

⁸⁰ Bryan Wendell, “This was the least-earned merit badge in BSA history,” *Aaron on Scouting*, September 28, 2018, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/09/28/this-was-the-least-earned-merit-badge-ever-and-the-reason-makes-total-sense/>; Bryan Wendell, “This is why some Eagles Scouts didn’t have to earn Life or Star badges,” *Aaron on Scouting*, November 29, 2018, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/11/29/this-is-why-some-eagle-scouts-didnt-have-to-earn-life-or-star-badges/>; “Life, Star and Eagle Requirements Changed,” *Boys' Life*, August 1915, 20; and

Court of Honor, a scout's application for Eagle Scout would be sent to the National Court of Honor to be evaluated and approved. These pathways to the Eagle Scout Award would be revised in subsequent years, but core aspects of the process established in these formative years still remain to the present day.

While each Eagle Scout travelled similar, but different, paths to the award, the available resources and infrastructure for each individual differed greatly depending on local communities and Scouting institutions. Scout councils operating in large towns or several communities could occasionally establish an apparatus of volunteers to teach or review merit badges. Washington, D.C. was known to operate a large system of examiners and "merit badge faculty," an early version of Merit Badge Counselors, to assist scouts to earn badges. D.C. Scouting was unique for having close access to government organizations with diverse skillsets and knowledge to cover many of the available merit badge topics.⁸¹ Other councils might assign affiliated members to cover a merit badge or rely on local adult volunteers to network to find qualified individuals for a specific topic.⁸² In the absence of a council or scoutmasters association, adult volunteers and scouts would have to find qualified individuals themselves to complete merit badges and some rank requirements.⁸³ Resources and infrastructure for scouts increased in subsequent years with more merit badge counselors, summer camps, day workshops, and merit badge pamphlets that

"Life, Star and Eagle Requirements Changed: Important Modifications Are Made in Athletic and Physical Development Tests," *Scouting*, Volume 3, Number 5, July 1, 1915, 1-2.

⁸¹ "Merit Badge Work Is Recognized Especially Valuable To The Boy. Washington, D.C., One of Many Cities Planning Particular Attention to It—System of Practical Instruction for Scouts and What It Means," *Scouting*, Volume 1, Number 14, November 1, 1913, 3; and "The Washington Merit Badge System: More Than Sixty Experts Give Time and Services to Local Council as Examiners and Instructors," *Scouting*, Volume 2, Number 22, March 15, 1915, 8.

⁸² Arthur L. Rice, "New Scout Features," *Scouting*, Volume 1, Number 4, June 1, 1913, 1.

⁸³ Frederick White, "This Scout Master Lets Other Men Help Him In His Work With His Boys. His Success Illustrates the Practicability of Bringing In Outside Assistance, With Various Good Results," *Scouting*, Volume 1, Number 18, January 15, 1914, 3.

started being published in 1919.⁸⁴ All of these geographical and human factors influenced the individual process to become an Eagle Scout. The national significance of the award often did not start with the individual but with how the larger organization portrayed the nature of the Eagle Scout Award.

Describing Life, Star, Eagle, and Lifesaving Award scouts as the finest products of the BSA might somewhat diminish the individual person, but this wording accurately relates the branding and media strategies of the organization. For special and high-profile events in the 1910s, the first choice among youth membership became Eagle Scouts or other high-honored scouts. These other individuals included Honor Scouts who received medals for putting themselves at risk for lifesaving or brave actions. William Waller, who greeted Baden-Powell on January 31, 1912, is an example of an Honor Scout who earned the Bronze Lifesaving Medal. Eagle Scouts and Honor Scouts ranked side-by-side in the *Boys' Life* lists and represented the culmination of the potential of Scouting programs and character education, the organization's finest products. Eagle Scouts proliferated to such a point that they supplanted Honor Scouts in terms of significance in later decades. But during the 1910s, they had equivalent prestige that would later form the basis for the significance of the Eagle Scout Award in the organization and in American society.⁸⁵ The Eagle Scout Award and Honor Scouts also had equivalent peers in other organizations.

In comparison to the Eagle Scout Award, the highest accolades in the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (Girl Scouts for short) and Camp Fire Girls have not received the same level of recognition in American society. From 1916 to 1919, the Girl Scouts' highest award was

⁸⁴ For more on merit badge pamphlet history, see: John Smilek, "Merit Badge Pamphlets From Concept to Virtual Catalog Part One," *Boy Scout Memorabilia Collection* YouTube Channel, Presentation, February 18, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=fELkquF--8g>.

⁸⁵ For Lifesaving Award histories, see Beard, *Boy Heroes of Today*, 1932.

the Golden Eagle of Merit before being changed to Golden Eaglet from 1919 to 1939. Then the award changed names several times: First Class Rank from 1938 to 1940; Curved Bar Award from 1940 to 1963; First Class Award from 1963 to 1980; and finally, the Gold Award from 1980 to the present day. These name changes, combined with the longevity of the Eagle Scout Award, causes the Girl Scouts' highest award to not be as recognizable in American society even though the two accolades are comparable in nature. Eagle Scouts and Boy Scouts were also much more prolific for the first few decades of both organizations compared to their Girl Scout counterparts. This probably contributed to a greater media, community, and national presence for Eagle Scouts over time.⁸⁶ In contrast to the BSA's and Girl Scouts' highest awards, the Camp Fire Girls seemed to favor ranks of knowledge on various subjects that culminated in the Torch Bearer rank.⁸⁷ The Camp Fire Girls' award might be more comparable to an academic degree rather than an accolade that has an inherent associated status. While equal by design, these awards are not equivalent by nature, national significance, or presence in American society.

Conclusion

It is hard to summarize the early history of Eagle Scouts, but in a simple way the 1910s established the relevance and significance of Eagle Scouts. As the other chapters and appendixes will show, this history extends far beyond the 1910s and grows to encompass, or at least tie into, the major narratives of the BSA and communities across the nation. The geography of the physical space and human element dominated the early history of Eagle Scouts so much because

⁸⁶ "100 Years of Gold: The Highest Award in Girl Scouting," *Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho*, circa 2016; "Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Gold Award," *Girl Scouts Nation's Capital and Washington Business Journal*, 2016; and "Girl Scout Golden Eaglet," *Vintage Girl Scout Online Museum*, circa 2012, available through the WayBack Machine. For a concise history of the Girl Scout's highest award, see the posters created by Mary Winslow and Mel Squires, available at Ann Robertson, "Celebrating Our Golden Girls," *Girl Scout History Project*, April 29, 2016, <https://gshistory.com/2016/04/29/celebrating-our-golden-girls/>. To the author's knowledge, there is no dedicated manuscript on the history of the Girl Scouts' highest award.

⁸⁷ Jennifer Hillman Helgren, "Inventing American Girlhood: Gender and Citizenship in the Twentieth-Century Camp Fire Girls" (dissertation, Claremont Graduate University, 2005).

it was individuals living in a certain area that earned the award. These areas were not equal in resources or infrastructure and featured many different cultures, experiences, attitudes, and other elements that created such diversity across the history of Eagle Scouts. Factoring in the relationship between Eagle Scouts and the National Council, the history and its narratives become even more varied by branding strategies, connecting with global leaders, and comparisons with other organizations. All of these narratives and themes tie back into a central point: the individual Eagle Scouts themselves. Without people becoming Eagle Scouts and experiencing Scouting, the stories driving the narratives and histories would not exist in their present form. The stories in this thesis only tell a small selection of the available experiences of Eagle Scouts across decades of history.

Interim

While the first two chapters of this thesis delved into specific time periods for the history of Eagle Scouts, Chapters Three and Four shifts the focus to exploring the long national history of the group. Many of the connecting elements of the history of Eagle Scouts continue to develop beyond the 1910s, but the patterns between the two eras substantially changed. For instance, the 1910s established the foundation of the Eagle Scout Award and its connection to the BSA and American society. In the longer perspective of the national history, the political, societal, and economic elements of American society inform and define the narratives of Eagle Scouts to a greater degree. Chapters Three and Four reflect this distinction by focusing more thematically on narratives of gender, ethnicity, societal connections, and other topics. The chapters still follow a broad chronological order, but each section and paragraphs are more thematic in nature. Eagle Scouts and the BSA already had extensive connections across American society in the 1910s. These connections and Eagle Scouts' influence on American society only deepened with time as the award was revised and individuals continued making lasting impacts.

Chapter Three

An Overview of the History of Eagle Scouts, 1910-1945

Chapters One and Two thoroughly discuss the development of the Eagle Scout Award and the individuals that achieved the distinction in the 1910s, so this section will briefly summarize the history. The Eagle Scout Award derived its structure and placement as the highest badge of merit through British origins that was Americanized by the founders of the BSA. To earn the award, scouts had to initially earn the First-Class Rank before completing twenty-one merit badges to qualify as Eagle Scouts. Rather than a rank, the Eagle Scout Award represented a “super merit badge” that ascribed onto a scout a status akin to an “all-round perfect scout,” as printed in the 1911 handbook. This differed from the First-Class Rank which represented the completion of the basics of Scouting and “the ideal scout.”⁸⁸ Eagle Scouts became placed apart from other scouts, along with other distinctions such as lifesaving, and received special recognition through reference on “The Honor Roll” in *Boys’ Life*, elaborate award ceremonies, and the award being a distinctive title. The adolescents and young adults that became Eagle Scouts embodied the potential of youth and the last step before graduating into adulthood. Eagles completed the highest degree in Scouting and the status followed them throughout adulthood.

Malone, in *Four Percent*, devotes the entire first chapter exploring this recognition and significance of Eagle Scouts. In many ways, these individuals did personify and represent the best parts of Scouting.⁸⁹ But this positivity often overshadows the human element and the extreme nuance to the national story of Eagle Scouts. Aspiring Eagle Scouts and the award’s

⁸⁸ *Boy Scouts Handbook: The Original 1911 Edition* (New York: Skyhorse publishing, 2011, reprinting of the 1911 edition); Harold White, "Artifact of the Week - Adult Eagle Scouts," *NatScoutingMuseum*, Video, December 1, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Caf72uj3tvI>; and Robert Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History* (New York: DK Publishing, 2012), 22-3.

⁸⁹ Michael S. Malone, *Four Percent: The Extraordinary Story of Exceptional American Youth* (Dallas: WindRush Publishers, 2015), 1-18.

achievers often challenged the ideologies of the BSA in the same social, racial, and gender issues as the rest of the nation. This thesis celebrates the importance and significance of Eagle Scouts in American history, but it also challenges positivity overwhelming historical interpretations and arguments. The history of Eagle Scouts and the BSA are intrinsically tied to American society, including both the light and dark sides of the nation's history.

The vast majority of Eagle Scouts from the 1910s were white males, both youth and adults, with little ethnic diversity until the 1920s. African Americans were the first to challenge the monoracial status of Eagle Scouts, but Blacks had distinct racial challenges and prejudice to overcome to earn the award. Prior to the 2020s, research on African American Eagle Scouts was inadequately researched or understood. The major interpretation centered on Edgar V. Cunningham, Sr, as the first Black Eagle Scout in the nation. Cunningham became an Eagle Scout in Waterloo, Iowa, during June of 1926. Major historical publications reiterated his claim as the first Black Eagle Scout, but no significant research was conducted to vet the overall history.⁹⁰ This interpretation stood for several decades until February of 2021 when Andy Dubill, historian from the Heart of America Council, relayed to Bryan Wendell, former author of the *Aaron on Scouting* blog, the history of Harry Cooper of Kansas City, Missouri. Cooper became a Black Eagle Scout in September of 1920, nearly six years before Cunningham.⁹¹ Due to

⁹⁰ Alvin Townley, *Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2007), 46-7; "Edgar V. Cunningham, Boy Scout born," *African American Registry*, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://aaregistry.org/story/edgar-v-cunningham-boy-scout-born/>; Malone, *Four Percent*, 100-1 and 205; Pat Kinney, "Effort to Document Nation's First Black Eagle Scout in Iowa," *The Carolina Times*, August 2, 2003, 3; "(Possibly) The First Black Eagle Scout: Edgar Cunningham," *Scouting 101*, Video, February 5, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EjZzkvwF64>; and "The First Black Eagle Scout in America," *African American Registry*, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://aaregistry.org/story/first-black-eagle-scout-awarded/>. The African American Registry (AAR) used to state that Edgar Cunningham was the first Black Eagle Scout prior to new historical material being made public in the early 2020s. The site should be considered a "Living History" that updates with new available information but lacks a clear paper trail for prior articles or postings. The WayBack Machine can be used to view the prior article on Edgar Cunningham by the AAR.

⁹¹ Bryan Wendell, "Meet Harry Cooper of Missouri, one of the first Black Eagle Scouts," *Aaron on Scouting*, February 15, 2021, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/02/15/meet-harry-cooper-of-missouri-who-is-believed->

Wendell's article on Harry Cooper, Brendan Kelly from the Leatherstocking Council in New York contacted Wendell. Kelly submitted evidence for an even earlier Black Eagle Scout, Hamilton Bradley of Rome, New York, in December of 1919.⁹² Avocational research pushed the interpretation in new directions but there are many facets of the history still to be discovered.

In the author's primary source research for pre-Cunningham African American Eagle Scouts, he found four other candidates that were reported in newspapers prior to 1926. *The New York Times* briefly reported, on October 23, 1921, that Samuel Jordan and Carl Robinson became the first Black Eagle Scouts in Louisville and "are the first of their race south of Mason and Dixon's line to wear the eagle badge."⁹³ A more substantial article was printed in *The Dallas Express* that explained the city was Louisville, Kentucky, Jordan and Robinson earned the award between October 1 and 12, 1921, and the newspaper speculated that "Louisville now possesses two-thirds of all the Negro Eagle Scouts in the entire United States, as officials of Louisville Council have a record of but one other Negro scout ever achieving the rank."⁹⁴ It is highly likely that *The Dallas Express'* assertion of only three African American Eagle Scouts in the nation is wrong due to the presence of Cooper and Bradley prior to 1921. Jordan and Robinson, however, are good candidates to be the first Black Eagle Scouts in the Upper South and below the Mason-

[to-be-the-first-black-eagle-scout/](#). Here is also a primary source the author found on Harry Cooper from 1925: Herbert Brady, "Boy Scout News," *The Chicago Defender*, November 7, 1925, 20.

⁹² Bryan Wendell, "New research reveals an even earlier Black Eagle Scout: Hamilton Bradley of New York," *Aaron on Scouting*, March 24, 2021, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/03/24/new-research-reveals-an-even-earlier-black-eagle-scout-hamilton-bradley-of-new-york/>; Chip Twellman Haley, "First black Eagle Scout in the country lived in Rome," *Rome Daily Sentinel*, May 16, 2021; and Kurt Banas, "Black History, and the American Boy Scout Movement, a story," *African American Registry*, accessed June 28, 2024, <https://aaregistry.org/story/the-african-american-boy-scout-movement-a-story/>.

⁹³ "Boy Scouts: Negroes Become Eagles," *The New York Times*, October 23, 1921, 80.

⁹⁴ "Two Negro Boy Scouts Win Eagle Mark," *The Dallas Express*, Volume 29, Number 1, October 15, 1921, 1. I am not the first to encounter Samuel Jordan and Carl Robinson. Ray Ezell, "The Diamond Jubilee of the First African-American Eagle Scout in Stonewall Jackson Area Council," *Central Virginia Boy Scouting Preservation Project*, February 3, 2022, <https://historyofscoutingva.wordpress.com/2022/02/03/the-first-african-american-eagle-scout-in-stonewall-jackson-area-council/>, also mentions Jordan and Robinson but fails to cite the primary sources from *The New York Times* and *The Dallas Express*.

Dixon Line. Moving west to Omaha, Nebraska, Joseph Dorsey reportedly became an Eagle Scout around June of 1924 and was described as a “First Class Eagle Scout” that became “the first colored scout in Omaha to receive [the] award.”⁹⁵ *The Chicago Defender* published several pieces on Herbert Brady, probably from the south side of Chicago, Illinois, who seems to be an African American that became an Eagle Scout sometime around late-1925 to January of 1926.⁹⁶ The author did not find any other African American Eagle Scouts, but he was unable to view many primary sources related to the Black experience. It is safe to say that Black Eagle Scouts emerged in the early 1920s with a central nexus in the Midwest region of the United States, which probably coincided with The Great Migration around the same time.

The larger history of African American Boy Scouts, in national-level academic publications, has not received a significant amount of scholarship and this limits how much it can inform Black Eagle Scout interpretations. For early African American Boy Scout history, Benjamin R. Jordan's *Modern Manhood and the Boy Scouts of America: Citizenship, Race, and the Environment, 1910-1930* is the best available academic manuscript. The prominent interpretation for early African American Boy Scout history splits the narrative into two distinct periods: (1) an unregulated, local-culture approach from 1908 to 1924; and (2) the national organizing efforts with the Inter-Racial Service (IRS) department beginning in 1925.⁹⁷ Still being a fledging organization in the 1910s, the BSA chose not to establish national policies regarding minority ethnicities in the movement but instead allowed local leaders and councils to determine

⁹⁵ “Awarded Highest Boy Scout Honor. Joseph Dorsey of Troop 23, Dr. Craig Morris Scout Master, Given Badge of First Class Eagle Scout,” *The Monitor*, June 6, 1924, 1.

⁹⁶ Herbert Brady, “Boy Scout News,” *The Chicago Defender*, November 7, 1925, 20; Herbert Brady, “Boy Scout News,” *The Chicago Defender*, January 23, 1926, 18; and “In Thrift Campaign,” *The Chicago Defender*, April 10, 1926, A7.

⁹⁷ Benjamin R. Jordan, “7. The Right Sort of Colored Boy and Man: African American Scouting,” in *Modern Manhood and the Boy Scouts of America: Citizenship, Race, and the Environment, 1910-1930* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2016), 194-213.

their own actions. This had diverse repercussions across the nation, but the most relevant themes include Jim Crow and Segregation, The Great Migration, and African American efforts to obtain political, economic, and social autonomy in American society. On-the-ground Black Boy Scout groups and troops began emerging in 1910 as reported in Enid, Oklahoma, and Brooklyn, New York.⁹⁸ The most famous examples of the pre-IRS era include the "first 'Negro Boy Scout' troop" from Elizabeth City, North Carolina, in 1911, the first official BSA chartered African American Troop 75 in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1916, and more Black Boy Scout troops in other parts of the nation during the early 1910s.⁹⁹ By 1924, national leaders of the BSA returned to the question of ethnic minorities in the organization and established the IRS to oversee the program and segregated councils. After this point, African American Boy Scouts rapidly developed throughout the country in the 1930s and 1940s, but there remains a lack of historical coverage of these topics in national-level manuscripts.¹⁰⁰ Black Eagle Scouts are present throughout these

⁹⁸ "Colored Boy Want To Be Scouts," *The Enid Daily Eagle*, Volume 9, Number 233, October 14, 1910, 6. The Scouting Movement in Enid, Oklahoma, initially formed under a rival organization to that of the BSA. Most the units merged into the BSA with the consolidation of Boy Scout-style organizations in the 1910s. Michael Freeman, "Black Boy Scout troops joined in Scouting's earliest days, though the first troop is difficult to pinpoint," *Aaron on Scouting*, February 23, 2021, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/02/23/black-boy-scout-troops-joined-in-scoutings-earliest-days-though-the-first-troop-is-difficult-to-pinpoint/>.

⁹⁹ "Black History" *African American Registry*; Dino Robinson, "The 'First' Colored Boy Scouts, Evanston, Illinois," *Shorefront Journal*, August 20, 2012, <https://shorefrontjournal.wordpress.com/2012/08/20/the-first-colored-boy-scouts-evanston-illinois/>; and Ray Ezell, "Review of Black Boy Scouting in Central Virginia, 1915-1949," *Central Virginia Boy Scouting Preservation Project*, July 17, 2020, <https://historyofscoutingva.wordpress.com/2020/07/17/review-of-black-boy-scouting-in-central-virginia-1915-1949/>.

¹⁰⁰ "Black History Month Profile: Savannah's 1st Black Boy Scout Troops," *WJCL News*, Video, February 24, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyL5vh3xmbI>; Chuck Wills, *Boy Scouts of America: A Centennial History* (DK Publishing, 2009), 74 and 79-80; Jayson Schlechty, "Tompson Jackson and Masfield's First African American Boy Scout Troop," *The Sherman Room at Mansfield/Richland County Ohio Public Library*, February 11, 2021, https://theshermanroom.wordpress.com/2021/02/11/thompson-jackson-and-mansfields-first-african-american-boy-scout-troop/#_ftn4; Leroy L. Fohler, "The Effectiveness of Scouting in City Areas of High Delinquency" (dissertation, New York University, 1949); Leslie M. Paris, "Children's Nature: Summer Camps in New York State, 1919-1941" (dissertation, The University of Michigan, 2000); Malone, *Four Percent*, 99-104; Mary Jacqueline Hebert, "Beyond Black and White: The Civil Rights Movement in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1945-1972" (dissertation, Louisiana State University, 1999); "Our History: Emerson James [First African American Vigil Honor Recipient]," *Boy Scouts of America: Order of the Arrow*, accessed June 29, 2024, <https://oa-bsa.org/history/emerson-james>; "Our History: John Brown," *Boy Scouts of America: Order of the Arrow*, accessed October 1, 2024, <https://oa-bsa.org/history/john-brown>; Ray Ezell, "At the End of the Segregation Era: a Black Boy Scout Troop in Orange, Virginia," *Central Virginia Boy Scouting Preservation Project*, March 30, 2019,

histories, but these narratives are often neglected for more popular Eagle Scout stories in the 1920s.

Eagle Scouts were still expanding throughout the United States in the 1920s, but several developments in the BSA and international Scouting Movement pushed the award and achievers into new heights of adventure and importance. For the first time in 1921, over 1,300 individuals became Eagle Scouts, and this marked the beginning of the expansion of the BSA after the First World War, improved availability of resources and organized local councils, war veterans joining the movement, and increased Eagle Scout presence across the country.¹⁰¹ Outside of regional and local activities, Eagle Scouts involved themselves with several major American events that enhanced the already popular image of the BSA, after their wartime contributions at home. In the national setting, with the establishment of the National Park Service in 1917, Eagle Scouts and other troops worked to build backpacking trails across several sites in the country during the mid-1920s and into the 1930s.¹⁰² Starting in 1928, Eagle Scouts ventured into the

<https://historyofscoutingva.wordpress.com/2019/03/30/at-the-end-of-the-segregation-era-a-black-boy-scout-troop-in-orange-virginia/>; Ray Ezell, "Black Boy Scouting in Knoxville, 1931-1946," *History of Scouting in East Tennessee*, September 29, 2021, <https://historyofscoutingeasttennessee.wordpress.com/2021/09/29/black-boy-scouting-in-knoxville-1931-1946/>; Ray Ezell, "The Diamond Jubilee of the First African-American Eagle Scout in Stonewall Jackson Area Council," *Central Virginia Boy Scouting Preservation Project*, February 3, 2022, <https://historyofscoutingva.wordpress.com/2022/02/03/the-first-african-american-eagle-scout-in-stonewall-jackson-area-council/>; Robert W. Peterson, *The Boy Scouts: An American Adventure* (New York: American Heritage, 1984), 98-100; "Segregated Scouting," *Chattanooga BSA History*, accessed June 29, 2024, <https://www.chattanoogabsahistory.com/segregated-scouting>; Wesley Curtwright, "Brief History of Boy Scouts of America in Harlem," *United States Works Projects Administration*, New York City, New York, circa 1936-1941, <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/29a44d00-75c1-0133-ac83-00505686d14e#/?uuid=29befd80-75c1-0133-327a-00505686d14e>; and William Wilson, "Camping Apart: A Case Study of African American Boy Scouts in Northeast Texas" (master's thesis, Texas A&M University, 2016).

¹⁰¹ See Appendix B for Eagle Scouts expanding throughout the country; Bryan Wendell, "Eagle Scout Class of 2019: Behind the largest Eagle class ever," *Aaron on Scouting*, February 24, 2020, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/02/24/eagle-scout-class-of-2019-the-numbers-behind-the-largest-eagle-class-ever/>; and Wills, *BSA: A Centennial History*, 74.

¹⁰² Barry Mackintosh, "The National Park Service: A Brief History," *National Park Service History eLibrary*, 1999, https://npshistory.com/publications/brief_history/index.htm; Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*, 64-5; James F. Kieley, "A Brief History of the National Park Service," *National Park Service History eLibrary*, originally published in 1940, reposted in 2016-2017, <https://npshistory.com/centennial/0216/index.htm>; and Tim Elder, "Boy Scouts of American and National Park System: Development of Bonds and Ideals early 1900's," *Eastern Kentucky University Undergraduate Research*, 2015, 1-19.

Minnesota and Canadian wilderness at Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness through Eagle Scout Canoe Trails. These early treks helped to open up the region as a High Adventure retreat for the BSA and the public.¹⁰³ Eagle Scouts also assisted in various local and council functions, events at capitals across the nation, and numerous other activities that this thesis cannot cover due to space and time constraints. The expansion of Eagle Scouts into various frontier areas culminated in international spaces with three global events in Europe, Africa, and Antarctica.

In the international setting in the 1920s, prior to the economic devastation of the Great Depression, the BSA set forth to demonstrate American supremacy abroad. The organization sent scouts on expeditions into frontier regions, areas that Westerners perceived as more primitive and less civilized, along with famous explorers in a two-fold plan for positive publicity and increasing membership through promoting the potential of youth and young adults. As centerpieces in this grand campaign, Eagle Scouts were selected to go on several expeditions and international events: (1) Commander Byrd's expedition to Antarctica; (2) the African Safari with Martin and Osa Johnson; and (3) and the USA contingent to the 1924 World Scout Jamboree. Paul Siple, an Eagle Scout (1923) from Erie, Pennsylvania, with fifty-nine merit badges, won a BSA contest to join Commander Byrd's expedition to Antarctica from 1928 to 1930, at the age of nineteen. After demonstrating proficiency during the length of the expedition, Siple joined Byrd a second time from 1933 to 1935 in another voyage and extended stay in Antarctica. Siple dedicated his life and career to the scientific study of Antarctica and subsequently became one of the most famous Eagle Scouts of his time.¹⁰⁴ Further north in Africa, the BSA sponsored several

¹⁰³ Dave Kenney, *The Far Northland: A Century of Wilderness High Adventure at Northern Tier* (Ely: Charles L. Sommers Alumni Association, 2023), 9 and 93; Donald Johnson, "Log of the First Wilderness Trails Canoe Trip," circa 1928, *Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base History Documents*, <https://www.holry.org/history/documents>; and "Wilderness Canoe Trips Boy Scouts of America," circa 1928, *Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base History Documents*.

¹⁰⁴ Aaron Derr, "This PBS doc on a 1920s-era Eagle Scout is must-see TV," *Aaron on Scouting*, May 23, 2024, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2024/05/23/this-pbs-doc-on-a-1920s-era-eagle-scout-is-must-see-tv/>; "Boy Scout With Byrd - Primary Sources," *Ohio State University: College of Arts and Sciences, History Teaching Institute*,

Eagle Scouts, Robert Dick Douglas, Jr., David R. Martin, Jr., and Douglas L. Oliver, on an exclusive safari with famous explorers Martin and Osa Johnson in the summer of 1928. The young men spent several months in Africa experiencing local wildlife, indigenous communities, and non-white cultures. Each scout spent time hunting local animals, including lions, and photographing the wildlife. After returning to the United States, the Eagle Scouts published a book on their adventure, carefully edited for content and message by the BSA, and continued on other expeditions in North America sponsored by the organization.¹⁰⁵

Antarctica and Africa appealed primarily to an American audience, but the larger International Scouting Movement began hosting grand events that provided invaluable opportunities to promote the American brand of Scouting, World Scout Jamborees (WSJ).¹⁰⁶ While initially started in 1920, the most significant WSJ for the BSA and Eagle Scouts came about with the 1924 WSJ in Denmark. The BSA recruited Eagle Scouts and trained other scouts to obtain the rank prior to embarkment so that the jamboree contingent included mostly of Eagle Scouts, one Life Scout, and one Star Scout. Besides the scouts performing well in the jamboree competitions, the preparation for the event prompted the BSA to introduce several important

<https://hti.osu.edu/byrd/lesson-plans/boy-scout-with-byrd/primary-sources>; Malone, *Four Percent*, 71-88; Mischa Honeck, "Chapter 2. From Africa to Antarctica: Expeditions to the Global Frontier," in *Our Frontier is the World: The Boy Scouts in the Age of American Ascendancy* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2018), 54-87; "Paul Siple: Boy Scout," *PBS: Chronicles*, April 12, 2024, <https://www.pbs.org/video/paul-siple-boy-scout-maqe7s/>; and Rachel Hintz, "The Boy Scout at the Bottom of the World," *Ohio State University: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears*, February 2010, <https://beyondpenguins.ehe.osu.edu/issue/polar-explorers/the-boy-scout-at-the-bottom-of-the-world>. Siple wrote some books based on his expeditions with Byrd, see: Paul Siple, *A Boy Scout With Byrd* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1931); and Paul Siple, *Scout to Explorer: Back with Byrd in the Antarctic* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1936).

¹⁰⁵ Harold White, "African Safari - Artifact of the Week," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, February 10, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1YCp0EYbgk>; Honeck, "From Africa to Antarctica," 54-87; and "Three Boy Scouts in Africa: An Interview with David Martin," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, January 29, 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqGxxaCCRgA>. The experiences of the Safari Eagle Scouts were written about in a book, see: Robert Dick Douglas, Jr., David R. Martin, Jr., and Douglas L. Oliver, *Three Boy Scouts in Africa: On Safari with Martin Johnson* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1928).

¹⁰⁶ The author studied the contextual and public history of World Scout Jamborees, Moots, Indabas, and the Kandersteg International Scout Centre (World Scout Centre) for a term paper as a graduate student, see: Andrew Koontz, "[Working Title] World Scout Jamborees and Mini-Jamborees: A Contextual History," Unpublished Manuscript, December 10, 2024.

clothing accessories. Merit badge sashes were introduced to display the awards and ranks of each scout. Previously, merit badges were sewn onto the sleeve of a scout uniform. The first Eagle Scout badges/patches were also introduced for the jamboree. Prior to 1924, Eagle Scouts had only the Silver Eagle medal to display on their uniforms, better suited for formal events rather than physical activities and competitions. These new accessories to formal uniforms lasted for well over a century after being introduced at this event and became intricately tied to the persona of being a Boy Scout and an Eagle Scout.¹⁰⁷ Without America's rising influence in global affairs, the economic boom of the decade, and the BSA's efforts to seize extraordinary publicity and media opportunities, Eagle Scouts would probably still be represented at these major international settings but they might not be the centerpieces of the events.¹⁰⁸ However, the

¹⁰⁷ *50th Anniversary: International Scout Jamboree at Copenhagen, Denmark, 1924-1974* (1975), courtesy of the National Scouting Museum; "1924 Boy Scouts of America World Scout Jamboree Sash," *World Scouting Museum*, accessed July 3, 2024, <https://worldscoutingmuseum.org/24sash/>; Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*, 37 and 48-9; Harold White, "Artifact of the Week – 1924 World Jamboree," *NatScoutingMuseum*, Video, September 13, 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUEh-gYsQ-c>; Harold White and Rick Bragga, "Artifact of the Week – Eagle Scout Medal and Patch," *NatScoutingMuseum*, Video, July 21, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zq5--y6yfa4>; Harold White, "Homemade Merit Badge Sashes – Artifact of the Week," *NatScoutingMuseum*, Video, February 24, 2023, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHeXPD_UFuM; Harold White, "Second World Jamboree Photo Album – Artifact of the Week," *NatScoutingMuseum*, Video, January 27, 2023, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUH_wkTT9jE; National Scouting Museum, exhibit on Astronauts and the Boy Scouts of America; Robert Peterson, "Evolution of the Eagle Scout award," *Scouting*, November-December 2002, <https://scoutingmagazine.org/2002/11/evolution-of-the-eagle-scout-award/>; Roy More, "An Eye on Eagles," *International Scouting Collectors Association Journal* 20, no. 1 (2020): 8-10; Terry Grove, *100 Years of the Eagle Scout Award* (self-published, 2012), 92; and World Scouting Museum, exhibit on the 1924 World Scout Jamboree BSA Contingent.

¹⁰⁸ Another accessory added to the Eagle Scout Award in the 1920s was Eagle Palms as an alternative idea to issuing a higher rank/award above Eagle Scout. Introduced in 1927, the Eagle Palms followed a military-style method of ranking from bronze, gold, to silver; the last being the highest available out of the three. Only merit badges beyond the initial 21 required for Eagle Scout could count towards Eagle Palms. Eagle Palms secondary sources: Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*, 52; "Eagle Scouts: Requirements Changed," *West Texas Scouting History*, last updated February 3, 2016, https://www.westtexascoutinghistory.net/award_eaglepage.html; Peterson, "Evolution of the Eagle Scout Award," 2002; and Wills, *BSA: A Centennial History*, 50. In 1924, the Life and Star Awards were reversed in order of completion—the new structure being Star, Life and Eagle—which has been consistent for over a century. For the Life-Star reversal history, see: Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*, 22; and Bryan Wendell, "This is why some Eagle Scouts didn't have to earn Life or Star Badges," *Aaron on Scouting*, November 29, 2018, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/11/29/this-is-why-some-eagle-scouts-didnt-have-to-earn-life-or-star-badges/#:~:text=So%20how%20did%20those%20early,earn%20either%20of%20these%20awards>. According to Harold White, the Star, Life, and Eagle Scout Awards became official ranks sometime around 1927, but the author did not find a good history covering this story. From the author's personal experience, the Scout Badge, first earned prior to the Tenderfoot Rank, only became a rank in the mid to late 2010s. For the Scout Rank history, see: Bryan

Roaring Twenties gave way to a decade full of problems and events at home for the BSA and its Eagle Scouts.

Going into the 1930s, the BSA and Eagle Scouts entered a holding pattern to endure the difficulties of the Great Depression. Eagles mainly involved themselves in local and national events limited to the United States. Eagle Scout Trails continued being built, especially in the northern states of the Region Ten area, but the Second World War shifted organizational priorities away from such endeavors.¹⁰⁹ The first BSA National Jamboree was originally scheduled for 1935, the organization's twenty-fifth birthday, but due to a polio epidemic it was delayed until 1937. Eagle Scouts performed several high-profile activities for the jamboree, including being the Honor Guard for President Roosevelt's radio invitation to scouts to come to the event, individuals receiving their Eagle medals from the President, and serving as the President's Honor Guard at a Washington American League Base Ball Club event.¹¹⁰ Eagle Scouts continued to increase their yearly numbers throughout the decade. In 1930, nearly 8,000 scouts became Eagle Scouts even amidst the worsening economic and environmental conditions. For the first time in 1940, over 10,000 scouts achieved the Eagle Scout Award. The numbers for

Wendell, "Scout, currently a joining badge, to become its own rank," *Aaron on Scouting*, October 19, 2015, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/10/19/scout-currently-joining-badge-become-rank/>.

¹⁰⁹ *Men of Paul Bunyan Stature: ...a history of Region Ten that attempts to show what a Boy Scout Region is, what it does, and how it is guided by the men you give it leadership...* (St. Paul: Region Ten of the Boy Scouts of America, 1968); and Paul Love, "Preliminary Announcement: 'High Adventure Trails': For Scouts and Scouters of Region Ten Councils," February 3, 1936, archived under "Region Ten Canoe Trips 1932-1936," *Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base History Documents*, <https://www.holry.org/history/documents>.

¹¹⁰ Harold White, "Artifact of the Week - 1937 Jamboree Letters," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, February 23, 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkPUJ0RfrQU>; Paul Myers, "1935 Boy Scout National Jamboree" and "1937 Boy Scout National Jamboree," *National Boy Scout Jamboree: A journal of inquiry into the history and memorabilia of the Boy Scout National Jamborees* website, circa 2023, <https://nationalboyscoutjamboree.com/index.html>; "Roosevelt to Speak On Scouts' Program," *The Bismarck Tribune*, February 6, 1937, 2, available at *Chronicling America*; *The National and World Jamboree in Pictures* (New York: Boy Scouts of America, 1937), 8-9, 67, and 84-5; and Wills, *BSA: A Centennial History*, 107-9. For historians interested in more recent jamborees in the 2010s, visit *Jamboree Today* website for first-hand articles and primary sources for the 2010 NSJ, 2011 WSJ, 2013 NSJ, and 2015 WSJ, <https://jamboreetoday.org/>.

the yearly Eagle Scout class between 1930 to 1951 would consistently remain between 7,500-10,500 until the next breakthrough in 1952.¹¹¹

Out of the many decades in the history of Eagle Scouts, the 1930s are one of the least developed in the available scholarship. Several interesting historical narratives are present in this decade including conflicts between youth movements,¹¹² connections between Boy Scouts and the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the USA contingents to WSJs, especially the 1937 national and world jamborees taking place back-to-back for BSA scouts. Besides the national crisis and major BSA events, another minority demographic in the organization emerged amongst the ranks of Eagle Scouts, American Indians.

American Indian Eagle Scouts hardly appear in the national-level histories, and the first individuals from this group to become Eagle Scouts is less understood than their African American counterparts. Scraps of information were available from specific online resources that led the author to two individuals that claimed to be the first American Indian Eagle Scouts in the nation. A photograph from the New York State Archives, and reposting's online, feature Frank Beauvais and Clarence Blueye with "a caption on the backing [reading] 'The first Native American Eagle Scouts in the United States.'"¹¹³ The New York State Archives did not date the photograph, but the author found other primary sources that expanded on Beauvais and Blueye's history. Sometime in 1930, Beauvais and Clarence became Eagle Scouts as reported in *Boys' Life*

¹¹¹ Wendell, "Eagle Scout Class of 2019," 2020.

¹¹² *America's Answer* (New York: Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York and Boy Scouts of America, circa 1935-1939), a non-circulating copy is available at the Seton Memorial Library, National Scouting Museum, at Cimarron, New Mexico.

¹¹³ Peter Pappas, "Selections from an American History Collection," circa early-mid 2000s, accessed July 4, 2024, <https://peterpappas.com/docs/lesson11/11-29.htm>; "Thomas Indian School Photograph, Portrait of Two Eagle Scouts," *New York State Archives*, accessed July 4, 2024, <https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/10542>; and "Thomas Indian School Photographs of Activities and Facilities A1913 [index]," *New York State Archives*, <https://iarchives.nysed.gov/wtf/pdf/A1913.pdf>.

and the *Seventy-Fifth Annual Report* of the Thomas Indian School. The consistent details between these two sources include that Beauvais and Blueye were members of a Boy Scout Troop attached to the Thomas Indian School at the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation of Iroquois, New York. Frank Beauvais came from the St. Regis Reservation and his nationality was listed as Mohawk. *Boys' Life* referred to Clarence Blueye's nationality as Tonawanda, but the annual report stated Blueye's reservation was the Tonawanda Reservation and his ethnic group as Seneca. The crucial difference between the two sources is that the annual report proclaimed Beauvais and Blueye as the first American Indian Eagle Scouts, but *Boys' Life* chose not to include that statement in the magazine. The annual report should be carefully scrutinized as other period-specific primary sources are historically inaccurate in regard to the history of Eagle Scouts.¹¹⁴ Beauvais and Blueye are good starting points for understanding the history of American Indian Eagle Scouts but, similar to Cunningham's story, more information is needed before a well-informed interpretation can be created.

The historiography for American Indian Boy Scouts is drastically underdeveloped compared to the study of cultural appropriation of indigenous culture by the white middle-class organizations. The larger branch of study, cultural appropriation of indigenous culture, is often referred to as "Playing Indian," which is summarized and explored in Philip Deloria's *Playing Indian*. The Scouting histories that tie into this field includes Ernest Thompson Seton, one of the BSA's founders, the Order of the Arrow, the honor society of the BSA, and other narratives such as mock Indian Villages at major events, the Indian Lore Merit Badge, scout activities and ceremonies based on Indian cultures, Cub Scout Powwows, and Cowboy versus Indian

¹¹⁴ James E. West, "The Scout World: Two Indian Eagle Scouts," *Boys' Life*, October 1930, 61; and *State of New York: Seventy-Fifth Annual Report of the Thomas Indian School Located on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation at Iroquois, N.Y. For The Year Ending June 30, 1930* (Albany: J. B. Lyon Company, Printers, 1931), 5, 15, and 25-6.

competitions at camporees.¹¹⁵ The smaller branch of study covers American Indians that participated in Boy Scout programs and troops. Secondary sources covering these individuals are scarce and dispersed throughout literature as short paragraphs, sentences, or just footnotes.¹¹⁶ For the early history of American Indian Boy Scouts, the best avenue for historical research is probably Indian Boarding Schools since these locations are intersections of various narratives including indigenous culture, Scouting's spread throughout the United States, and assimilation policies and practices.¹¹⁷ Another major narrative for American Indian Boy Scouts is the story of Dr. Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa). Ohiyesa was a Native American, prolific writer, and speaker of indigenous history and culture that participated in the National Council of the BSA. He also helped to establish scout troops on reservations and at various boarding schools.¹¹⁸ The inclusion

¹¹⁵ George Leslie Cornell, "Native American Contributions to the Formation of the Modern Conservation Ethic" (dissertation, Michigan State University, 1982); Patrick Russell LeBeau, "The Codical Warrior: The Codification of American Indian Warrior Experience in American Culture" (dissertation, The University of Michigan, 1993); Pauline Turner Strong, "Cultural Appropriation and the Crafting of Racialized Selves in American Youth Organizations: Toward an Ethnographic Approach," *Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies* 9, no. 2 (2009): 197-213; Philip J. Deloria, *Playing Indian* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998); and Philip J. Deloria, "Playing Indian: Otherness and Authenticity in the Assumption of American Indian Identity" (dissertation, Yale University, 1994).

¹¹⁶ Minor Huffman, *History of Region Nine: Boy Scouts of America, 1920-1967* (circa 1967-1968), 169-175, courtesy of the National Scouting Museum; and Peterson, *An American Adventure*, 84-5.

¹¹⁷ "Boy Scout Troop Formation at Carlisle," circa January 9-13, 1915, *Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center*, <https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/documents/boy-scout-troop-formation-carlisle>; "Troop of Indian Boy Scouts," *The Ekalaka Eagle*, August 6, 1915, 3, available at Chronicling America; Zeph E. Simons, "First Indian Troop of Boy Scouts in the World," *The Carlisle Arrow*, January 15, 1915, 1; and Zeph E. Simons, "Indian Boy Scouts of America," *The Carlisle Arrow*, January 29, 1915, 1. The author also remembers seeing an online resource stating a Boy Scout troop was formed at a Montana Indian Boarding School in 1918, but the author lost the citation while processing all of the other links for this thesis.

¹¹⁸ Charles Eastman: Harold White, "Charles Eastman - Artifact of the Week," NatlScoutingMuseum, Video, July 10, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzW4DLLuLoc>; Christopher Pexa, "Citizen Kin: Charles Eastman's Reworking of US Citizenship," *Studies in American Indian Literatures* 29, no. 3 (2017): 1-28; Kiara M. Vigil, "Charles Eastman's 'School of the Woods': Re-creation related to Childhood, Race, Gender, and Nation at Camp Oahe," *American Quarterly* 70, no. 1 (2018): 25-53; Myrtle Kelsey, "Charles Eastman's Role in Native American Resistance Literature: A 'Real Indian' to the Boy Scouts," in *Tribal Theory in Native American Literature: Dakota and Haudenosaunee Writing and Indigenous Worldviews* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2008), 43-61; *Ohiyesa: Soul of an Indian*, directed by Syd Bean (Vision Maker Media, 2018), documentary; Peter L. Bayers, "Charles Alexander Eastman's *From the Deep Woods to Civilization* and the Shaping of Native Manhood," *Studies in American Indian Literatures* 20, no. 3 (2008): 52-73; Strong, "Cultural Appropriation," 202-204; and Tova Cooper, "On Autobiography, Boy Scouts and Citizenship: Revisiting Charles Eastman's *Deep Woods*," *Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literature, Culture, and Theory* 65, no. 4 (2009): 1-35. Another influential American Indian Boy Scout leader was Francis X. Guardipee that started a Native American troop in Montana in 1916. Guardipee secondary sources: "Francis X. Guardipee (Ah-koo-in-slak-mi) Big Lodgepole (1885-1970),"

of American Indian Boy Scouts helps to complicate the narrative of the white middle-class appropriating indigenous culture.

With the United States' entrance into the Second World War in 1941, Eagle Scouts and the BSA were once again thrust into the throes of conflict. The main narratives of 1940s Eagle Scouts coalesce around the interruptions created by war recruitment, Japanese Americans forced into internment camps, and the post-war Baby Boom. America's sudden entrance into the war created a ripple effect that caused many scouts to miss their Eagle Scout Board of Review, cancel ceremonies for the award presentation, or delay their rank requirement and merit badge work. This was due to the scouts and young men being drafted or volunteering for the military effort. In the subsequent decades, and even into the 21st century, veterans would be periodically awarded their Eagle Scout and medals due to the interruption caused by the war.¹¹⁹ Eagle Scouts participated at all levels and branches of the military during the war, but those histories deserve a more detailed exploration that what is possible in this short thesis.¹²⁰

During the internment of Japanese Americans across the United States, Boy Scouts under this ethnic grouping were deeply affected by the forced relocation and several well-known

Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame, circa 2018, <https://montanacowboyfame.org/inductees/2018/5/francis-x-guardipee-ah-koo-in-slak-mi-big-lodge-pole-1>; and Myers Reece, "The First Native American Ranger: The overlooked story of the Blackfeet Nation's Francis X. Guardipee, a cultural pioneer in Glacier Park's history," *Flathead Living*, May 11, 2021, <https://flatheadbeacon.com/2021/05/11/the-first-native-american-ranger/>.

¹¹⁹ Harold White, "Artifact of the Week - Adult Eagle Scouts," *NatScoutingMuseum*, Video, December 1, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cat72uj3tvI>. Here are two examples of veterans receiving their Eagle Scout Award later in life. First, George Maher: Gavin Thomas, "WWII Veteran Becomes Eagle Scout at 85," *NBC Los Angeles*, January 9, 2013; and Scott Herhold, "A Redwood City Man Becomes an Eagle Scout at Age 85," *Mercury News*, December 2, 2012. Second, Walter Hart: Allison Keyes, "World War II Vet Makes Eagle Scout at 88," *NPR: Morning Edition*, July 30, 2007; *The Associated Press*, "World War II vet becomes Eagle Scout," *Herald-Tribune*, July 29, 2007; and "WWII Vet Is Finally Made An Eagle Scout," *CBS News*, July 29, 2007.

¹²⁰ For more on American Scouting in World War II, see: Matthew T. Bertollo, "Scouting for Refugees: Boy Scouting's Presence in America's Only Holocaust Refugee" (master's thesis, Utica College, 2019); Mischa Honeck, "Good Soldiers All? Democracy and Discrimination in the Boy Scouts of America, 1941-1945," in *War and Childhood in the Era of the Two World Wars* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), eds. by Mischa Honeck and James Marten, 128-147; Nicholas Evan Sarantakes, "Pushing Aluminum: The Boy Scouts of America, the World War II Home Front, and the Scrap Metal Collection Drive of 1941," *Home Front Studies* 2, (2022): 49-71; and Robert Peterson, "Scouters From 'The Greatest Generation,'" *Scouting*, November-December 2001, <https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0111/a-sgen.html>.

stories involve this history.¹²¹ Japanese American Boy Scouts in the early 20th century, as well as other Asian demographics in the nation, centered itself in western coastal states and territories: California, Oregon, Washington, and the territory of Hawaii. The history of Japanese American Eagle Scouts is extremely similar to their African American counterparts. From the author's research, one of the earliest Japanese American Eagle Scouts was Edward S. Matsumoto of Honolulu, Hawaii, in the summer of 1920: "born in Honolulu of Japanese parents, [he] recently was promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout. He is the first Japanese to attain that rank in Hawaii. Matsumoto has received his education only in American schools. He has no education in Japanese and cannot read the language of his fathers."¹²² Matsumoto's story was widely printed throughout United States newspapers. While the newspapers did not list Matsumoto's scout troop, a pamphlet in Hawaii covered the history of Troop 10. The booklet listed an Edward Matsumoto that joined the troop in 1919 and became an Eagle Scout at an unknown date.¹²³ In 1924, another Japanese American became an Eagle Scout in Seattle, Washington, George Nakashima at the age of eighteen.¹²⁴ Beyond Nakashima, the most famous Japanese American scout during the Second World War was probably Norman Y. Mineta, future Secretary of

¹²¹ Craig Ishii, "Doing a Good Turn Daily: Japanese American Boy Scouts: Exploring the lasting legacy of youth development in the Boy Scout programs of the Japanese American community," *Yo! Magazine*, June 14, 2021; Mia Calabretta, "Boy Scouts and barracks: Learning about Japanese American incarceration ahead of the National Youth Summit," *National Museum of American History Behring Center*, May 9, 2016, <https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/stories/boy-scouts-and-barracks-learning-about-japanese-american-incarceration-ahead>; Natasha Varner, "Japanese American Scouting Traditions: A Brief History and Photo Essay," *Densho*, January 14, 2016, <https://densho.org/catalyst/scoutingtraditions/>; "Raising the Flag: About the Event," *Japanese American National Museum*, circa 2023, <https://www.janm.org/events/2023-03-04/raising-flag-coming-age-wwii-concentration-camps>; "Raising the Flag: Coming of Age in WWII Concentration Camps," *Japanese American National Museum*, Video, July 14, 2024, <https://www.janm.org/events/2023-03-04/raising-flag-coming-age-wwii-concentration-camps>; and Robert Peterson, "The Way It Was: Scouting in World War II Detention Camps," *Scouting*, November-December 1999, <https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/9911/d-www.html#:~:text=During%20the%20Second%20World%20War,7%2C%201941>.

¹²² "Hawaiian Promoted To Rank Eagle Scout," *Cordova Daily Times*, July 17, 1920, 2, available at *Chronicling America*.

¹²³ *Troop 10 70th Anniversary* (Honolulu: Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1986), 9, available through the Hawaii State Library in Honolulu, Hawaii.

¹²⁴ Rob Ketcherside, "George Nakashima and Scouting," *BA-KGROUND: New Seattle history, mostly*, October 22, 2022, <https://ba-kground.com/george-nakashima-in-scouting/>.

Transportation under President Bush. Mineta was a Cub Scout while at the Heart Mountain Internment Camp in Wyoming. Mineta made friends with a white scout from a nearby town, and they would later work together in the federal government. Their story has been widely shared throughout recent decades.¹²⁵ Other Asian American ethnic groups also have unique stories related to Eagle Scouts, but Japanese Americans were the most prominent during the war.¹²⁶

Due to the BSA's contributions to the war effort and the subsequent Baby Boom in the nation, the organization entered a golden age in the 1950s and 1960s. This era saw a drastic increase in membership, popularity among white middle-class families, and public presence at all levels of American society. This post-war period typically marks a major transitional period in historical scholarship for the BSA and for the history of Eagle Scouts. Chapter Four picks up the history of Eagle Scouts in the 1950s. To conclude this chapter, a short discussion of Eagle Scouts during the First World War is needed. The timeframe of 1917 to 1918 is an extremely awkward period for this thesis. Chapters One and Two and the appendixes end prior to the First World War or do not significantly cover the event. Due to the expansive nature of the history and Eagle

¹²⁵ "A friendship born in one of America's darkest hours," *CBS News: Sunday Morning*, December 9, 2018; Bryan Wendell, "On opposite sides of barbed-wire fence, an enduring friendship formed in Scouting," *Aaron on Scouting*, August 24, 2017, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/08/24/friendship-formed-in-scout-troop-that-met-behind-barbed-wire-endures-75-years-later/>; Julie Beck, "Two Boy Scouts Met in an Internment Camp, and Grew Up to Work in Congress," *The Atlantic*, May 17, 2019; Mia Calabretta, "Barracks and Boy Scouts: Norman Mineta's Story," *Smithsonian: National Museum of American History*, May 6, 2016, https://www.si.edu/object/barracks-and-boy-scouts-norman-minetas-story%3Aposts_2f49999b2df4c1a851c9a550d8e69061; and Patt Morrison, "Column: Norman Mineta on internment, 9/11 and a life spent in the vortex of American politics," *Los Angeles Times*, May 8, 2019.

¹²⁶ For Chinese American Boy Scouts, see: K. Ian Shin, "The Great Wall of Chinese America: Counterhegemonic boyhood masculinity and the Boy Scouts in New York's Chinatown before World War II," *Amerasia Journal* 47, no. 3 (2021): 423-441; Roberta J. Park, "Sport and Recreation Among Chinese American Communities of the Pacific Coast From Time of Arrival to the 'Quiet Decade' of the 1950s," *Journal of Sport History* 27, no. 3 (2000): 445-480; and Thomas Chinn, "A historian's reflections on Chinese-American life in San Francisco, 1919-1991," Oral History Interview, 1993. One of the earliest Chinese American Eagle Scouts was Arthur Chin of Troop 3, probably from San Francisco, California, sometime around 1936. Chin secondary source: Susan G. Zieff, "From Badminton to the Bolero: Sport and Recreation in San Francisco's Chinatown, 1895-1950," *Journal of Sport History* 27, no. 1 (2000): 1-29. For scholarship on recent relations in minority groups in the BSA, see Wendy Hsin Cheng, "Episodes in the Life of a Place: Regional Racial Formation in Los Angeles's San Gabriel Valley" (dissertation, University of Southern California, 2009).

Scouts' involvement in the war, this narrative requires a dedicated chapter and manuscript that is beyond the scope for this thesis. The First World War marks a transitional period for Eagle Scouts, the BSA, and the global Scouting Movement.

Eagle Scouts participated in the First World War in various ways, but histories tend to focus on individual stories in wartime theaters or narratives of the BSA's contributions to home front activities. Arthur R. Eldred, the first Eagle Scout, joined the Navy and survived the war to later return to the United States in 1919.¹²⁷ Merritt Lamb, an Eagle Scout from Michigan, died in 1918 while serving in France. He became one of the first, but not last, Eagle Scouts lost as casualties of war.¹²⁸ Dozens of Eagle Scouts from across the nation joined both the Navy and Army, some being sent to the French frontline and others sailing in European waters.¹²⁹ The effect of scout training on these servicemen during the war is not very well explored in academic literature. But some of the men sent overseas were definitely Eagle Scouts and that training probably counted for something. On the home front, the BSA and its youth demonstrated the effectiveness of an organized group through various civil activities and projects that resulted in a very favorable public image of the organization by the end of the war. This public image helped

¹²⁷ Malone, *Four Percent*, 35-6.

¹²⁸ Ben Solis, "Michigan's 1st Eagle Scout, war hero honored 100 years after death," *MLive*, August 29, 2018; "Captain Merritt Udell Lamb (1892-1918)," *E. Urner Goodman Owasippe Museum Facebook Post*, November 7, 2022, https://www.facebook.com/story.php/?story_fbid=455158770081192&id=100067612176321&_rd=1; and Tim J. Todish, *A Legacy for the Future: Reminiscences of Scouting in West Michigan* (Grand Rapids: Gerald R. Ford Council, Boy Scouts of America, 2009), 129-30. For Eagle Scouts that died in military service, see: "In Memoriam: Fallen Eagles," *EagleScoutBadge.com*, accessed July 5, 2024, <http://www.eaglescoutbadge.com/memoriam.html>.

¹²⁹ These primary sources came from research for Appendix B, so they are organized by date rather than alphabetically. "Scouts Will Write Comrade In Navy. Letters of Washington Boys to Be Sent Eagle Scout, Now a U.S. Marine," *The Sunday Star*, November 4, 1917, 2; "Lists Boy Scouts In U.S. Service. Report by Fred L. Harries to Takoma Park Citizens' Association," *The Evening Star*, January 22, 1918, 20; and "'Ready To Do My Duty,' Says D.C. Youth With Sims," *The Washington Times*, July 29, 1918, 10, all available on *Chronicling America*. Joining the military before and after the war was a semi-popular opinion for some Eagle Scouts, see: "'Eagle Scout' Joe F. Denney To Join Navy," *The Knoxville Sentinel*, February 26, 1918, 7; "Joe Denney To Enter Army And Navy Preparatory School At Washington," *The Journal and Tribune*, February 26, 1918, 5; and "Likes Annapolis Naval Academy. Sam Cleage Field First Knoxville Boy to Become an 'Eagle Scout'," *The Knoxville Sentinel*, July 12, 1919, 9, all available on *Newspapers.com*.

to establish the BSA's overall connection to American society.¹³⁰ War acts as an antithesis to the message of peace and cooperation promoted by the Scouting Movement, but the practical activities of Boy Scouts provided real world benefits that would be useful in war-related situations. For example, learning how to treat someone for first aid is equally beneficial in both war and civilian circumstances. From the war, the BSA, Eagle Scouts, and the Scouting Movement evolved in novel ways that led to one of the largest youth organizations and movements in the history of the world.

¹³⁰ David William Murphy, "Ideal Patriots: The Boy Scouts of America as Propaganda during the First World War" (master's thesis, University of Missouri-St. Louis, 2016); Frederic Milton Thrasher, "The Boy Scout Movement as a Socializing Agency" (dissertation, The University of Chicago, 1918); John Calvin Phillips, "Selling America: The Boy Scouts of America in the Progressive Era, 1910-1921" (master's thesis, The University of Maine, 2001); and Mischa Honeck, "Playing on Uncle Sam's Team: American Childhoods During World War I," *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 17 (2018): 677-690.

Chapter Four

An Overview of the History of Eagle Scouts, 1945-2024

Stepping beyond the ashes of war, Eagle Scouts and the BSA entered a time of uncertainty and unprecedented growth. For the first time in 1952, over 15,000 individuals became Eagle Scouts, which was quickly surpassed in 1960 with over 21,000 Eagle Scouts in a single year.¹³¹ Between 1952 and 1965, the BSA exploded in popularity and membership through an overall population uptick with the Baby Boom and economic opportunities in the white middle class. Several major narratives concurrently developed during this period for the history of the BSA and Eagle Scouts. First, the BSA entered its Golden Age of membership by running aggressive campaigns and recruitment efforts to tap the expanding market of available youth, which subsequently led to a desperate need for volunteers and new units.¹³² Second, the National Council and local councils slowly phased out the ability for adults to earn the Eagle Scout Award. The organization favored just youth members becoming Eagle Scouts except under special circumstances, such as interruptions caused by war or special-needs scouts.¹³³ Third, key requirements were changed and added to the Eagle Scout Rank, the most important being Eagle Scout Service Projects in 1965. In the last major narrative, the BSA became embroiled in the Civil Rights Movement, which was an early indicator of developing systemic issues in the organization that were ripped open through counterculture movements and lawsuits

¹³¹ Bryan Wendell, "Eagle Scout Class of 2019: Behind the largest Eagle class ever," *Aaron on Scouting* (formerly *Bryan on Scouting*), February 24, 2020, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/02/24/eagle-scout-class-of-2019-the-numbers-behind-the-largest-eagle-class-ever/>.

¹³² Chuck Wills, *Boy Scouts of America: A Centennial History* (DK Publishing, 2009), 122-27; and Robert W. Peterson, *The Boy Scouts: An American Adventure* (New York: American Heritage, 1984), 161-3.

¹³³ Boy Scouts of America, "Scouting With Special Needs and Disabilities," date unknown, probably prior to 2019, 1-3; and Bryan Wendell, "Eagle Scout with Down syndrome enjoys every minute of journey toward program's highest rank," *Aaron on Scouting*, April 7, 2021, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/04/07/eagle-scout-with-down-syndrome-enjoys-every-minute-of-journey-toward-programs-highest-rank/>.

in subsequent decades.¹³⁴ Another way to describe this period for Eagle Scouts is a time of modernity, where the rank and status initially developed key characteristics that are reflected in the present. Two of the key elements to the innovation of the Eagle Scout Award were age restrictions and introduction of new rank requirements.

Conversations around age restricting the Eagle Scout Award to youth members was not an immediate decision but a gradual, trickle-down rule that became definitive in 1965 through a national change in rank requirements.¹³⁵ Discussions of a maximum age limit for Eagle Scouts were not the only conversations occurring in this period. From 1950 to 1953, the National Council considered a minimum age requirement and sent out surveys to volunteers and professionals to gauge the wider attitudes of adult members. An initial discussion on a minimum

¹³⁴ The role of Eagle Scouts during desegregation is lesser known than in the religious and gender court cases in the 1980s and 1990s, but one significant narrative is that of Ernest Green, Jr., an African American teenager from Little Rock, Arkansas, who became an Eagle Scout on November 30, 1956. Less than a year later, Green joined the famous Little Rock Nine in challenging segregation in Arkansas schools starting on September 25, 1957. Green secondary sources: Mark Ray, "A Class Act: Sixty years after his brave stand, one member of the Little Rock Nine talks to 'Eagles' Call," *Eagles' Call*, Fall 2017, 10-13, <https://mark-ray.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/EC-Ernest-Green.pdf>; and "The Little Rock Nine," *National Park Service*, accessed July 7, 2024, <https://www.nps.gov/people/the-little-rock-nine.htm>. The BSA and local councils slowly desegregated their troops and programs in step with the times and the last vestiges of formal separation in local councils ended sometime around 1964. However, the attitudes of local troops and leaders regarding African Americans might remain discriminatory for several decades after the formal policies of segregation in the BSA ended. This is another historical topic that needs additional scholarship and interpretation. Segregation secondary sources: Peterson, *An American Adventure*, 172-5; and Wills, *BSA: A Centennial History*, 156-61. One other instance of desegregation is when African American Boy Scout John Brisco and Anglo-American Boy Scout Benny Tyson meet with President Johnson in the Oval Office on March 24, 1964. Brisco saved Tyson from a fire started by a gas can: "Scouts Honor: A Tale of Bravery and Friendship," *Vintage & Iconic African American Everything*, Facebook Post, July 1, 2024, <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=858070076349025&set=a.554529246703111>; and "Burned Boy Cries in Silence," *Ledger-Star*, September 6, 1963, 1. For a discussion of 1950s African American Eagle Scout history and memorabilia, see: Jason Spangler, "Scouting Hot Finds Live – Segregated Scouting Eagle Scout Collection [1950s]," *Jason Spangler Santeeswapper*, Video, May 23, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOTf3Jh0KBM>. Alvin Townley also interviewed an African American Eagle Scout tied to the Civil Rights Movement, see: Alvin Townley, *Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2007), 48-60.

¹³⁵ Michael S. Malone, *Four Percent: The Extraordinary Story of Exceptional American Youth* (Dallas: WindRush Publishers, 2015), 122-3; Robert Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History* (New York: DK Publishing, 2012), 30; Tim Pacl, "The Flight of the Eagle: A History of 'Eagle Scout,'" *Capitol Area Council: North Shore District*, May 2024, <https://nsdbsa.org/the-flight-of-the-eagle-a-history-of-eagle-scout/>; and Wills, *BSA: A Centennial History*, 50. Since Adult Eagle Scouts could earn the award for close to forty years, local councils still occasionally signed off the paperwork for adults between 1952 and 1965, which can be attributed to an enduring tradition and a need for a period of acceptance for the new requirements to set in.

age requirement was held in 1943 but only with theoretical arguments for and against the idea were reviewed with no definitive action taken. Beginning in 1950 and extending to 1953, national-level discussions were held, and surveys were sent out to Scout Executives, Scoutmasters, and Service Advisors with two specific questions. The first question was a basic yes or no answer: should there be a minimum age requirement for the Eagle Scout Rank? In the second question, the survey asked at what age the requirement should be set and provided a multiple-choice selection ranging from 12-1/2 to 15 years old. Respondents to the survey favored, with a good majority, establishing a minimum age requirement in the range of 13 to 14 years old. The National Council decided against establishing a minimum age requirement based on the evidence that it normally took a scout at least three years to become Eagle Scouts. If a boy joined at the age of eleven and took a normal path, he would already earn the award around the age of fourteen or fifteen.¹³⁶ The age restrictions for adults also took place around the same time, but the author did not have access to primary sources detailing these events on a year-by-year basis.¹³⁷

With the release of the 1965 edition of the *Boy Scouts Handbook*, aspiring Eagle Scouts had new and expanded rank requirements to complete. These new requirements initiated a new wave of importance and impact for the award and for American society. In the previous edition of the handbook, the language vaguely defined several requirements for the rank: “While a Life Scout for a period of at least six months show to the satisfaction of your leaders that you—Work actively as a leader in meetings, outdoor activities, and service projects of your unit.” The other

¹³⁶ K. A. Wells, "Supplemental Report On Age of Eagle Scouts," October 29, 1953; Letter to Dr. Arthur A. Schuck from Charles M. Heistand on minimum age for Eagle Scouts, dated March 5, 1952, 1-2; Boy Scouts of America Program Division, "Survey on Minimum Age for Eagle Scouts," November 29, 1950; "Excerpt from Minutes of Coordinating Committee Meeting: Eagle Scout Requirements," November 29, 1950; Howard Brawn, "Question of Minimum Age for Eagle Scouts," April 30, 1943; Eagle Scout (Information on Age Requirements) folder, courtesy of the BSA National Archives and Tracy Waters, Senior Document Control Specialist.

¹³⁷ Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*, 30.

vague requirement eventually transformed into more specific project-related activity: “While a Life Scout show to the satisfaction of your leaders that you—Do your best to help in your home, school, church or synagogue, and community.”¹³⁸ Eagle Scout rank requirements in the new 1965 edition of the handbook specified that a scout must select one of nine leadership positions and perform those responsibilities for a period of six months while a Life Scout. For the Eagle Scout Service Project, the new language read: “While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and carry out a service project helpful to your church or synagogue, school, or community approved in advance by your Scoutmaster.” This one sentence requirement established one of the most important aspects in all of the history of Eagle Scouts. Millions of volunteers and scouts have devoted untold hours to projects benefiting their communities in so many diverse environments and methods.¹³⁹ At the end of this modernity period was an achievement completed by Richard A. Larson of Charleston, West Virginia. Larson became the 500,000th recorded Eagle Scout of the BSA in 1965, a momentous event that marked the end of one era and the beginning of an age of conflict within the BSA and in American society.¹⁴⁰

Age of Social Conflicts, 1970-2000

Apollo 11's Lunar Module, the *Eagle*, held more than just the hopes of American society. The spacecraft carried Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong who became the first man, and scout, to walk on the Moon on July 21, 1969.¹⁴¹ This apex for the BSA and Eagle Scouts marks a transition

¹³⁸ *Boy Scout Requirements: 1964* (New Brunswick: Boy Scouts of America, circa 1964), 14.

¹³⁹ Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*, 62-3 and 66-71; *Boy Scout Handbook* (New Brunswick: Boy Scouts of America, seventh edition, 1965-1971); *Boy Scout Requirements: 1966* (New Brunswick: Boy Scouts of America, circa 1966), 8; Malone, *Four Percent*, 138-141; and Wills, *BSA: A Centennial History*, 50.

¹⁴⁰ *1972 Annual Report to Congress: Boy Scouts of America* (Washington, D.C.: printed by U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973), 123; "Fact Sheet: History of the BSA Highlights," *Boy Scouts of America: Research & Evaluation*, August 2009, 1-5, <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/210-551.pdf>; and "Half A Million Eagles," *Scouting*, Volume 53, Number 10, December 1965, 6-7.

¹⁴¹ Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*, 90-1; Bryan Wendell, "10 Scouting facts you probably didn't know about Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong," *Aaron on Scouting*, October 10, 2018, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/10/10/10-scouting-facts-you-probably-didnt-know-about-eagle-scout-neil->

from the organization's Golden Age into a moment of differences, of defending new ideas under the guise of traditional values. An era of social conflicts slowly descended upon the BSA with Eagle Scouts at the forefront of complex events, movements, and beliefs. The author is referring to the infamous court cases and counterculture movements against the BSA centering ideas of sexuality, religious attitudes, gender roles, and above all, the beliefs of individuals clashing on the future of the organization. To discuss these complex events, the paragraphs will be structured in a rough chronological order but driven primarily by theme and topic divided into two general categories. The first category covers non-discriminatory histories that make up the majority of events and experiences for Eagle Scouts between 1970 and 2024. These histories typically feature stories that were not heavily affected by discrimination and favor more positive narratives. In the second category, the histories follow the discrimination of sexuality, religious beliefs, and gender roles in the BSA which tied into larger national narratives. Major instances of discrimination included court cases, changing social conventions, and internal restrictions on members. These events culminated at the turn of the century with Eagle Scouts participating in all side of the conflicts.¹⁴²

During a period dominated by counterculture movements, traditional examples of discrimination still occasionally appeared. These stories help to demonstrate the major actors and conflicts of the era. One prominent example of racial discrimination against African Americans

[armstrong/](#); Bryan Wendell, "Neil Armstrong's success in space didn't surprise his fellow Boy Scouts," *Aaron on Scouting*, July 20, 2016, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/07/20/neil-armstrongs-success-space-didnt-surprise-fellow-boy-scouts/>; Bryan Wendell, "Recharter form confirms Neil Armstrong's status as Eagle Scout, Boys' Life subscriber," *Aaron on Scouting*, August 9, 2019, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/08/09/recharter-form-confirms-neil-armstrongs-status-as-eagle-scout-boys-life-subscriber/>; "Eagle Scout First on the Moon," *Boy Scouts of America: Order of the Arrow*, accessed July 9, 2024, <https://oa-bsa.org/history/eagle-scout-first-moon>; Malone, *Four Percent*, 113-121 and 153-4; and "Neil Armstrong, Eagle Scout of Troop 14, in Wapakoneta, was first to walk on moon," *Scouting America: Black Swamp Area Council*, accessed July 9, 2024, <https://www.blackswampbsa.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.aspx?orgkey=3449&itemkey=16718>.

¹⁴² Andrew Koontz, "Discrimination and Eagle Scouts in the Boy Scouts of America: Queer People, Atheists, and Agnostics, 1960-1999," Unpublished Manuscript, December 8, 2023.

in the BSA occurred in the early 1970s due to the policies and structures of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS/Mormons). In July of 1974, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) branch in Utah worked on behalf of two African American Boy Scouts who stated they were denied the position of Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). In Boy Scout units, the SPL is the highest youth leadership position in a troop and oversees all patrols, youth members, and activities and directions of the group. The LDS sponsored a vast majority of Boy Scout units in Utah. Prior to 1974, the SPL position in LDS units was tied directly to youth deacon roles in the church. LDS policies stated that African Americans could not be deacons in the church, so the two boys in Utah could not even run for SPL in their LDS unit. The NAACP brought a racial discrimination case against the LDS church, but charges were dropped after an agreement was reached in November of 1974 to allow all scouts, regardless of race, to assume positions of responsibilities in LDS-sponsored units. However, the racial requirement stayed in effect within the church until 1978.¹⁴³ While the lawsuit was a significant moment in the BSA's history, the more important narrative involves the organization's relationship with the LDS that would become one of the central issues in future discrimination cases. The LDS incorporated the BSA's programs as the church's official youth activities starting

¹⁴³ Courtney Tanner, "Challenging segregation, clashing with the LDS Church, fighting racism today: The first 100 years of NAACP in Utah," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, February 24, 2019; "Boy Scouts Ask Dismissal OF N.A.A.C.P. Racial Suit," *The New York Times*, August 29, 1974, 17; "Mormons Pressed on Scouts Policy: Change in Rules on Blacks Fails to Satisfy N.A.A.C.P.," *The New York Times*, August 3, 1974; "N.A.A.C.P. Plans Suit Against Boy Scouts," *The New York Times*, July 28, 1974, 44; "NAACP Suit Against LDS Scout Troops Dropped," *The Daily Herald*, November 7, 1974, 16; and Ronald G. Coleman, "African Americans in Utah," *Utah History Encyclopedia*, accessed July 10, 2024, https://www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia/a/African_Americans.shtml. The two African American youth in the lawsuit are not well-known due to the confidentiality issues during the case itself. But one of the newspapers, "Mormons Pressed on Scouts Policy", mentions that Burt J. Thomas was one of the individuals involved. I did not find the name of the other youth.

in 1913 and became one of the dominant demographics in the organization's membership, leadership, and voting power until 2018.¹⁴⁴

The 1974 racial discrimination case demonstrates several reoccurring narratives and patterns across the various discrimination histories. Youth and adult members are at the forefront of challenging organizational policies and attitudes, but they also bear the greatest explicit punishments in the form of membership revocation, unit charter cancellation, and derisive statements. These conflicts are also categorized by group affiliation rather than racial prejudice. Policies typically affect sexuality, including gays and lesbians, avowed atheists and agnostics, women and girls, and other groups that challenge social notions of traditional American values of the time. Discrimination against certain groups was not spontaneous but rather built on decades old systems and legacies that trace back to the origins of the Scouting Movement in America. The history of women, girls, and females and their relationship with the BSA is one way to understand the rise of discrimination.

Women and girls did not have a major impact on Eagle Scout history until late into the 20th century and especially in the next millennium. It took multiple decades for women and girls to gain formal positions and membership in the BSA and even longer to have the opportunity to become Eagle Scouts. This overall history of women and girls in the BSA is vastly understudied

¹⁴⁴ For more on the unique relationship between the BSA and LDS, see Alma E. Crane, "The Participation of Young People in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints" (master's thesis, University of Southern California, 1937), 79-98; *Century of Honor: 100 Years of Scouting in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints* (LDS-BSA Relationships Office, 2013); Mason Kyle Isom, "From Friction Comes Fire: The Role of the Boy Scouts of America in the Production of a new American Mormon Masculinity and Citizenship" (master's thesis, Claremont Graduate University, 2018); Richard Ian Kimball, "Making the Most of Leisure: Depression, Recreation, and the 'Improvement Era,'" *Journal of Mormon History* 24, no. 2 (1998): 182-206; Richard Ian Kimball, "'To Make True Latter-Day Saints': Mormon Recreation in the Progressive Era" (dissertation, Purdue University, 1999); and Ruth Andrus, "A History of the Recreation Program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints" (dissertation, University of Iowa, 1962).

in academic circles and Boy Scout literature.¹⁴⁵ Of course, women and girls had their own organizations, in the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, and through social conventions in the early 20th century, youth were separated by biological sex. This separation became the status quo for the Scouting Movement in America, and it is also somewhat reflected in the historical literature. Prior to 1967, women held informal or auxiliary roles connected to the BSA. Women only became leaders of adolescent males and young adults in Boy Scouts during specific circumstances. At the birth of the Scouting Movement in 1908, Myra G. Bass, from Burnside, Kentucky, obtained the English version of *Scouting for Boys* and founded a Boy Scout unit in her town.¹⁴⁶ No organization existed to regulate the movement in 1908, but after the BSA and other national groups emerged, the genders were separated by formal policies and structures. In late 1910, Beth Groeneveld of Butte, Montana, took up leadership of a troop of Boy Scouts as an informal Scoutmaster for several years due to the absence of male volunteers in the area.¹⁴⁷ Women also performed other activities such as forming auxiliary support groups for local units, opening their land for campouts, raising financial funding for troops and the national organization, serving as merit badge counselors, and many other actions that benefited the Boy Scouts. However, the women did not hold formal offices or positions in the organization.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁵ For the relationship between the Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire Girls, and Girl Scouts of the United States of America, see: Jennifer Hillman Helgren, "Inventing American Girlhood: Gender and Citizenship in the Twentieth-Century Camp Fire Girls" (dissertation, Claremont Graduate University, 2005); Leslie A. Hahner, "Recognizing Americans through Scouting," in *To Become an American: Immigrants and Americanization Campaigns of the Early Twentieth Century* (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2017), 123-151; Tammy M. Proctor, *Scouting for Girls: A Century of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts* (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2009), 41-2; and Wendy C. Sterne, "The Formation of the Scouting Movement and the Gendering of Citizenship" (dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1993).

¹⁴⁶ "First Boy Scout Troop," *Kentucky Historical Society*, erected 1967, <https://history.ky.gov/markers/first-boy-scout-troop/>; Peterson, *An American Adventure*, 28-9; and Wills, *BSA: A Centennial History*, 33-5.

¹⁴⁷ Aaron Derr, "Montana volunteer uncovers fascinating history of woman Scouting pioneer," *Aaron on Scouting*, March 30, 2023, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2023/03/30/montana-volunteer-uncovers-fascinating-history-of-woman-scouting-pioneer/>.

¹⁴⁸ "List of Contributions Received During 1913," in *Fourth Annual Report of the Boy Scouts of America: As Submitted at the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., February 12, 1914* (New York: Boy Scouts of America, 1914), 88-95; "Mothers Approve of Scouting. Many Letters Suggest Scout Masters May Find Women Helpful in

Several years after Cub Scouts, originally called Cubbing, was formed in 1930, the position of Den Mother was created as an auxiliary role in assisting the Den Chief, a youth Boy Scout, in running Den meetings and activities. The overall Pack Cubmaster was still an adult male.¹⁴⁹

Den Mothers were the only official, organization-approved role for women in BSA programming until 1967 when the position was changed to Den Leaders. The role became co-ed between men and women, and the organization slowly opened up to female youth and women in other programs and leadership positions. In the first phase of women and female youth inclusion, from 1969 to 1976, the BSA slowly allowed these groups into the organization and plenty of extraordinary women and young adults took the opportunity. This first stage can be seen as a struggle between rising women's rights and traditional American values attitudes that adhered to a long-standing sex roles paradigm from previous generations. Starting in the late 1960s, academic scholarship and wider American society began developing new ideas and theories on the traditional roles of male and female that challenged the status quo; commonly referred to as Women's Rights.¹⁵⁰ In terms of practical membership, women started serving on the national Cub Scout Committee and female youth could participate as unofficial associate members of Exploring Posts. Female youth could become official members of Exploring and Sea Scouts starting in 1971 and 1972.¹⁵¹ At Philmont Scout Ranch, the first female Philmont Rangers and

Work," *Scouting*, Volume 1, Number 5, June 15, 1913, 3; "Offers Her Estate as a Scout Camp Grounds," *Scouting*, Volume 1, Number 8, August 1, 1913, 4; "A Woman's Appeal for Support for Scout Work. Mrs. Walker Tells Why It Is Good for Boys and Should be helped by Rich and Poor," *Scouting*, Volume 1, Number 16, December 15, 1913, 8; and "'Scout Mothers' Aid Troop. Home Co-operation in Scout Work in South Orange, N.J.," *Scouting*, Volume 1, Number 19, February 1, 1914, 7.

¹⁴⁹ Peterson, *An American Adventure*, 108; and Wills, *BSA: A Centennial History*, 97-8.

¹⁵⁰ Andrew Koontz, "Masculinity Studies and the Boy Scouts of America, 1870-1920: A Historiography," Unpublished Manuscript, May 2, 2024; and Koontz, "Discrimination and Eagle Scouts," 2023.

¹⁵¹ Aaron Derr, "Remembering Mary Portis, believed to be the BSA's first female Scout executive," *Aaron on Scouting*, February 11, 2021, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/02/11/remembering-mary-portis-believed-to-be-the-bsas-first-female-scout-executive/>; Bryan Wendell, "For Women's History Month, let's salute five female Scouting pioneers," *Aaron on Scouting*, March 4, 2022, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2022/03/04/for-womens-history-month-lets-salute-five-female-scouting-pioneers/>; Harold White, "Artifact of the Week - Adult Female Leaders," *NatScoutingMuseum*, Video, June 14, 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5k0OFcHPgI>; Harold

treks began in 1972 and encountered some gender segregation through the limited trail access during certain weeks where only males were allowed in the backcountry.¹⁵² Women and female youth participated in greater numbers, but the core programs of the BSA, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, still excluded women from holding key positions and from girls joining as youth members.

The second stage, beginning in 1988, allowed women to become adult leaders in the Boy Scout program and formal members of the Order of the Arrow, but female youth were still excluded from joining as participating members until three decades later.¹⁵³ It was a long struggle for women and female youth to begin to access the organization and its programs. At times, the BSA seemed like advocates for women's rights, but the history is far more complex. Women and female youth were a minority group in the larger organization and only participated in small, isolated activities and programs, except for the Cub Scouts program. The BSA led an active discrimination campaign of exclusion against women and female youth in the male-centered Boy Scouts program and certain parts of Cub Scouts.¹⁵⁴ Full inclusion of women and female youth into the BSA only occurred in the late 2010s. Female Eagle Scouts will be covered

White, "Artifact of the Week - Female Youth Members of Scouting America," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, June 7, 2024, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IeyPGhgIMc8>; and "Female Uniforms - Artifact of the Week," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, July 8, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5fwvG-3oIQ>.

¹⁵² "1st Women Rangers PSR - Artifact of the Week," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, August 29, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9x2ZHrSm5E>; "Kathy Leach [and] Nancy Wells Interview," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, August 25, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79fM7NXeFnE>; *Undaunted: Philmont Women Rangers, 1972-2022* (Irving: Boy Scouts of America, 2022), 18-23; and "Women Rangers Five Decades," *NatlScoutingMuseum*, Video, July 30, 2022, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6uRFa9_7YU.

¹⁵³ Reese Davies, "Women in the History of the OA," *Boy Scouts of America: Order of the Arrow*, March 28, 2022, <https://oa-bsa.org/article/women-history-oa#:~:text=Prior%20to%201988%20women%20may,official%20membership%20in%20the%20OA>; and "Timeline: The History of Girls and Women in the Boy Scouts of America," *Scouting America: Cascade Pacific Council*, accessed July 14, 2024, <https://cpcscouting.org/about/girls-in-boy-scouts/>.

¹⁵⁴ Jay Mechling, *On My Honor: Boy Scouts and the Making of American Youth* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2001), 212-13.

later in the chapter. The two-fold approach of the BSA actively discriminating against certain groups and relaxing member requirements was not universal, far from it.

God, Gays, and Girls, or just the “Three G’s” in older historical sources, describe the three main groups challenging the BSA in court cases along the lines of membership discrimination from the 1970s to the 2010s.¹⁵⁵ Ideas of gender is at the heart of the BSA’s attempt to defend traditional ideas of masculinity through court cases and membership discrimination. Atheist and agnostic narratives tie more into the deep Christian roots of the BSA rather than views of traditional masculinity, but there is overlap in the actors, intentions, and methods. Eagle Scouts appear more in sexuality and religious narratives than in women and female youth histories mainly due to practicality. Women and female youth could not earn the award until 2019. Court cases involving women and female youth may not be as nationally significant as the other discrimination narratives, but a summary of history is necessary to understand the rise of Female Eagle Scouts in the 2010s.

Two BSA programs became bastions against the influence of women and female youth weakening the masculinity of boys and young men, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Segregation in other parts of the organization slowly opened up with time and effort, but Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts proved particularly resilient, especially against the intrusion of female youth. These attitudes against women and female youth received occasional challenges until the turn of the century. In 1974, eight-year-old Carrie Crossman of Colleyville, Texas, informally joined a Cub Scout Pack for a time until the BSA prohibited her from participating in further activities.¹⁵⁶

¹⁵⁵ Mechling, *On My Honor*, xviii-xix and 35.

¹⁵⁶ Albin Krebs, "Notes on People," *The New York Times*, April 6, 1974, 37; "BSA and Girls in Scouting," *ScoutPride: Discrimination in the BSA* website (defunct), circa 2014, available through the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine; and "WFAA Story on Scout Member, Carrie Crossman [circa April 1974]," *SMU Jones Film*, Video, posted April 28, 2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=NNthJ2ELzyE>.

Schwenk v. Boy Scouts of America was the first of a set of court cases against the BSA during this time. Occurring in 1976 in Oregon courts, the BSA won the case against nine-year-old Carla Schwenk.¹⁵⁷ Another lawsuit came in 1981 by Marystephanie Constantikes, a nine-year-old girl, who was in a Cub Scout Pack in Oklahoma for several months. The judge dismissed the case in early 1982.¹⁵⁸ Female youth continued trying to access the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs, but in terms of the timeline, women had the next major impacts.

In 1975, two incidents occurred with women serving as Cubmasters in Cub Scout Packs, even though BSA policy specified that only men could occupy the position. These two women were Marjorie Ripple of Jessup, Maryland, and Genny Newtown of Ludlow, Massachusetts, who brought significant attention to the issue. Starting in 1976, the BSA began allowing women to serve as Cubmasters, a decision most likely influenced by Ripple and Newtown.¹⁵⁹ Women had been slowly accessing the Cub Scout program for many decades, but there is also another possible factor. Due to the traditional role of women teaching and guiding pre-adolescence youth, it was probably easier for staunch traditionalists to allow female leadership in a program designed for younger youth. On the other hand, a masculine belief was still championed that adolescent male youth needed instruction and mentoring from men of sound principle and values. Scoutmasters ideally embody the spirit of Scouting and the BSA and are the lead role models for male youth in the Boy Scout program. In the early 1970s, Catherine Pollard of

¹⁵⁷ "Schwenk v. BSA." *ScoutPride*, circa 2014; "Schwenk v. Boy Scouts of America," *Casetext.com* website, accessed July 14, 2024, <https://casetext.com/case/schwenk-v-boy-scouts-of-america>; and William F. Grady, "The Boy Scouts of America as a 'Place of Public Accommodation': Developments in State Law," *Marquette Law Review* 83, no. 2 (1999): 525-6.

¹⁵⁸ "Scout suit testimony pondered," *The Oklahoman*, December 24, 1981; and Terrie Clifford, "Cub Scout Ban Makes Norman Girl 'Sad and Real Mad'," *The Oklahoman*, January 8, 1982.

¹⁵⁹ For Marjorie Ripple, see: "Follow Up on The News," *The New York Times*, September 28, 1975, 35; "News & Blues Dispatch: Cubs Together," *Syracuse New Times*, June 1, 1975, 2; and "Woman-Led Cubs Ousted," *The New York Times*, April 27, 1975, 46. For Genny Newton, see Article in the *Lowell Sun*, June 23, 1975; and "BSA and Girls in Scouting," *ScoutPride*, circa 2014.

Milford, Connecticut, led a Boy Scout troop as an unofficial Scoutmaster for several years. When she attempted to gain formal recognition in 1976, the BSA denied her application to be an official Scoutmaster of the troop. Pollard worked with the Connecticut State Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and sued the BSA over the issue. In 1987, the courts ruled in the BSA's favor against Pollard. One year later in 1988, the National Council voted to allow women to serve in all adult positions of responsibility regardless of program.¹⁶⁰

Throughout the 1990s, female youth attempted to join Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, but the BSA firmly rejected any co-ed youth structures in the two programs.¹⁶¹ All these high-profile cases demonstrate a significant relation to the national history, but readers should remember that informal discrimination and degrading commentary was very possible against women in the BSA even after formal integration. For the history of Eagle Scouts, this is contextual information that emphasizes the long and complex process behind the rise of Female Eagle Scouts. Other portions of the history of discrimination in the BSA intensified beyond the organization and affected larger American society.

¹⁶⁰ Bryan Wendell, "What's your opinion on female Scoutmasters?" *Aaron on Scouting*, August 19, 2014, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/08/19/whats-opinion-female-scoutmasters/>; "Catherine Pollard v. BSA," *ScoutPride*, circa 2014; Diane C. Desautels, "Discrimination Law--Statutory Projections for Volunteers Against Discrimination: Quinnipiac Council, Boy Scouts of America, Inc. v. Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 204 Conn. 287, 528 A.2d 352 (1987)," *Western New England Law Review* 11, no. 1 (1989): 93-142; "First female U.S. scoutmaster dies at 88," *NBC News*, December 14, 2006; Richard L. Madden, "A Woman Wins Her 14-Yer Fight To Be Scoutmaster," *The New York Times*, February 17, 1988, 1; Wendell, "For Women's History Month," 2022; and "Woman Plans to Form Boy Scout Troop," *Deseret News*, July 7, 1988.

¹⁶¹ For Margot "Margo" Mankes's 1991 court case to join a Cub Scout Pack, see: "8-Year-Old Challenges the All-Male Cub Scouts," *Deseret News*, June 20, 1991; Lily Rothman, "'I Was Heartbroken.' Meet the Girl Who Sued to Be a Boy Scout and Lost," *TIME*, October 12, 2017; "Mankes ex rel. Mankes v. Boy Scouts of America, Inc.," *Casetext.com* website, accessed July 14, 2024, <https://casetext.com/case/margot-mankes-through-her-natural-parents-and-guardians-cecile-and-barry-mankes-plaintiffs-v-boy-scouts-of-america-inc-defendants>; "Margo Mankes v. BSA," *ScoutPride*, circa 2014; Michael Decourcy Hinds, "Boy Scouts Try to Keep Identity as Outsiders Knock," *The New York Times*, June 23, 1991, 1; and William A. Henry, III, "Tying The Boy Scouts In Knots," *TIME*, July 1, 1991. For Katrina's Yeaw's court case to join a Boy Scout Troop, see: "Discrimination Persists in Boy Scouts," *Feminist Majority Foundation Blog*, March 21, 1996; "Girl continues attempt to sue Boy Scouts," *UPI Archives*, July 12, 1997; "Katrina Yeaw v. BSA," *ScoutPride*, circa 2014; and "Yeaw v. Boy Scouts of America (1997)," *FindLaw* website, accessed July 14, 2024, <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/ca-court-of-appeal/1288438.html>.

Conflicts in the BSA was not an isolated social phenomenon, they connected to a wider symptom in American society termed “The Culture War.”¹⁶² This umbrella term describes the tensions between traditionalists (conservative groups) and reformists (new social, gender, and identity groups) from the late 1960s and into the 2010s. Eagle Scouts fell on both sides of the issues. Former Texas Governor Rick Perry, an Eagle Scout himself, notably wrote a book, *On My Honor: Why the American Values of the Boy Scouts Are Worth Fighting For*, defending the traditionalist side of the issues related to the BSA.¹⁶³ For a reform-centered retelling of discrimination history, see Mike De Socio’s *Morally Straight: How the Fight for LGBTQ+ Inclusion Changed the Boy Scouts—And America*. Socio’s book is based on individual narratives and month-by-month events that bring to the forefront the interconnected nature of the history.¹⁶⁴ Among the three main groups in the court cases, sexuality and religious attitudes featured the greatest connection to Eagle Scouts and their impact on the BSA and American society.¹⁶⁵ This thesis concentrates the narrative on individuals trying to change the organization and society since they are at the leading edge of major events and histories. Conservative-aligned Eagle Scouts are, to a greater degree, reacting to developments in court cases rather than leading active change efforts. Returning to religious attitudes, several developments affected the history during the 1970s.

Religion had a complex relationship with the BSA and its policies throughout the history of the organization. These factors heavily influenced the discrimination efforts taken against avowed atheists and agnostics. Prior to the 1960s, discrimination against atheists and agnostics

¹⁶² Mechling, *On My Honor*, 46-7.

¹⁶³ Rick Perry, *On My Honor: Why the American Values of the Boy Scouts Are Worth Fighting For* (Macon: Stroud & Hall Publishers, 2008).

¹⁶⁴ Mike De Socio, *Morally Straight: How the Fight for LGBTQ+ Inclusion Changed the Boy Scouts—And America* (New York: Pegasus Books, 2024).

¹⁶⁵ Koontz, "Discrimination and Eagle Scouts," 2023.

was an implicit bias of social norms rather than explicit organizational policy.¹⁶⁶ The roots of pro-religious dogma in the BSA can be traced back to the organization’s Declaration of Religious Principle, cooperation with religious entities, and a “Duty to God” that emerged at the beginning of the Scouting Movement.¹⁶⁷ A metaphorical cork was pulled in 1970 by aspiring Eagle Scout James Clark of Rhode Island. Clark was initially barred from becoming an Eagle Scout due to a statement from him of being an atheist. After being endorsed by the minister of the church that sponsored Clark’s troop, James Clark became an Eagle Scout but the vigilance against avowed atheists and agnostics in the BSA was underway.¹⁶⁸ In 1973, Cub Scout Claude Taylor “had crossed out the word ‘God’ out of the Scout Promise on his application,” which prompted the BSA to revoke his membership.¹⁶⁹ The main trigger for discrimination was a statement or action that declared oneself a gay, atheist, or agnostic. However, discrimination was not a formal organizational policy in the BSA until the early 2000s. Individuals had to follow a form of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” or they would face punishment and discrimination for openly talking about their identity or non-religious attitudes.

¹⁶⁶ Courtney Q. Shah, “‘This Loathsome Subject’: Sex Education in Progressive-Era America” (dissertation, University of Houston, 2006); Jeffrey P. Hantover, “The Boy Scouts and the Validation of Masculinity,” *Journal of Social Issues* 34, no. 1 (1978): 184-195; Jordan, *Modern Manhood*, 58-9; Kent Baxter, “Becoming a Gentleman: Adolescence, Chivalry, and Turn-of-the-Century Youth Movements,” *Boyhood Studies* 11, no. 1 (2018): 1-26; Koontz, “Discrimination and Eagle Scouts,” 2023; and Marc R. Poirier, “Hastening the Kulturkampf. Boy Scouts of America v. Dale and the Politics of American Masculinity: II. The Case of the Missing Antigay Policy, Or, How the Boy Scouts of America Came Out and Acquired a New Identity,” *Law & Sexuality* 12 (2003): 271-336.

¹⁶⁷ Boy Scouts of America, *Constitution and By-Laws of the Boy Scouts of America: Article III-Principles and Policies: section 1*, 1926, 4-5; Bryan Wendell, “Beginning next year, Boy Scouts will tell about their ‘duty to God’ at each rank,” *Aaron on Scouting*, November 2, 2015, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/11/02/beginning-next-year-boy-scouts-will-discuss-duty-to-god-at-each-rank/>; and Norman E. Richardson and Ormond E. Loomis, *The Boy Scout Movement Applied by the Church* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1915).

¹⁶⁸ “Atheist, 16, Is Denied Rank of Eagle Scout,” *The New York Times*, November 13, 1970, 38; Koontz, “Eagle Scouts and Discrimination,” 2023; “Scouts Accept Application Of Atheist to Eagle Rank,” *The New York Times*, November 17, 1970, 15; “Atheist Scout Will Get Award First Denied Him,” *The New York Times*, November 22, 1970, 57; and “‘Atheist Scout Is Qualified,” *Kentucky New Era*, November 17, 1970, 24.

¹⁶⁹ “Scouts Reject Boy for Lack of Faith,” *The New York Times*, November 25, 1973, 60.

Sexuality discrimination emerged in the late 1970s but ramped up to national significance in the 1980s alongside the religious attitude narratives. Eagle Scout Timothy Curran of San Francisco, California, was featured in the *Oakland Tribune* in 1980 as part of a gay teenager's article series. The Mount Diablo Council became aware of the article and subsequently revoked Curran's membership as an adult volunteer. Curran and the council went to court in 1981 where the judge initially ruled in favor of the BSA only to be held in legal limbo for more than a decade.¹⁷⁰ Another event, this time involving religious attitudes, occurred in the summer of 1985. Paul Trout went before his Life Rank Board of Review and stated he did not believe in a Supreme Being after being asked a question related to religion and God. After some public backlash, Trout and the BSA reached a compromise to retract the "Supreme Being" clause from the organization's literature. The BSA still required some religious faith from youth and adults. Since Trout was not an avowed atheist or agnostic, the BSA was willing to compromise while maintaining a basic standard of religious adherence by membership.¹⁷¹ Court cases against the BSA surged in the 1990s, which culminated in an infamous decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000.

¹⁷⁰ Dennis Anderson, "LOS ANGELES -- An appellate court's decision that the Boy Scouts of America cannot discriminate against homosexuals was hailed as a civil rights victory Wednesday by a former scout leader who was expelled for being gay," *UPI Archives*, October 5, 1983; "Homosexual Loses Bid To Become Scout Leader," *The New York Times*, July 8, 1981, 10; Mechling, *On My Honor*, 207-8; SCOCAL, "Curran v. Mount Diablo Council of the Boy Scouts, 17 Cal. 4th 670, 952 P.2d 218, 72 Cal. Rptr. 2d 410," *Stanford Law School*, accessed December 2, 2023, <https://scocal.stanford.edu/opinion/curran-v-mount-diablo-council-boy-scouts-31677>; SCOCAL, "In the Supreme Court of California: Timothy Curran v. Mount Diablo Council of the Boy Scouts of America. S039738, Ct. App. 2/7 B061869, Los Angeles County Super. Ct. No. C365529," *Stanford Law School*, March 23, 1998, <https://scocal.stanford.edu/sites/scocal.stanford.edu/files/opinion-pdf/17Cal4th670-1251900915.pdf>; and Socio, *Morally Straight*, 36-43.

¹⁷¹ Curtis B. Kellar, Letter to *The New York Times* from July 27, 1985, "The Right of Scouts to Believe in God," August 7, 1985, 22; John F. Harris, "Boy Scout Excluded for Not Believing in God," *The Washington Post*, July 20, 1985; John F. Harris, "Boy Scouts Reinstate Atheist Youth, Alter Practices," *The Washington Post*, October 12, 1985; Mechling, *On My Honor*, 35-6; and Norman Dorsen, Letter to *The New York Times* from July 26, 1985, "No Way to Teach Scouts American Values," July 26, 1985, 26.

Out of the many court cases in the 1990s, *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale* was the defining event which secured a definitive triumph for conservative elements of the organization and movement. Eagle Scout, young adult volunteer, and Rutgers University student, James Dale, was expelled from the BSA in 1990. Dale sued the organization for discrimination in 1992 after New Jersey passed anti-discrimination laws around the same time.¹⁷² It took years for the case to progress through New Jersey courts. In March of 1998, Dale and several other court cases converged in multiple rulings throughout the country. First to be decided on March 2, 1998, a New Jersey appeals court ruled in favor of Dale with the BSA appealing the decision, sending the case to the state Supreme Court.¹⁷³ Another court case decided on March 23, 1998, brought an end to Timothy Curran's nearly two-decade litigation with the California Supreme Court ruling in the BSA's favor.¹⁷⁴ With victory in California, the BSA faced continued pressure from the Dale case that progressed to the New Jersey Supreme Court in January of 1999.¹⁷⁵ On August 4, 1999, the New Jersey Supreme Court sided with James Dale and "rejected the Boy Scouts' arguments that its decision to remove the scout, James Dale, was protected by the First Amendment. The court also dismissed the Scouts' contention that homosexuality is immoral, comparing that view to discrimination against women and blacks."¹⁷⁶ Proceeding to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000, the Dale case became the flashpoint for national tensions both outside

¹⁷² "From an Eagle Scout To Persona Non Grata," *The New York Times*, August 5, 1992, 28; New Jersey Legislature, "L.1992 c.146. AN Act to strengthen the laws prohibiting discrimination, amending P.L.1945, c.169 and supplementing Title 40 and Title 52 of the Revised Statutes," *New Jersey State Publications Digital Library*, 1992, 1, <https://hdl.handle.net/10929/56739>; Reprint from the *Associated Press*, "Ex-Eagle Scout Sues Over Ban on Homosexuals," *The New York Times*, July 30, 1992, 30; and Socio, *Morally Straight*, 3-23.

¹⁷³ "Court Asked to Reinstate Gay Scout Leader," *The New York Times*, December 9, 1997, 32; Robert Hanley, "Appeals Court Finds in Favor Of Gay Scout: Ouster From Jersey Unit Is Ruled a Case of Bias," *The New York Times*, March 3, 1998, 21 and 26; and "The Invisible Victory," *The New York Times*, March 12, 1998, 26.

¹⁷⁴ Curtis Morgan, "Years later, gay ex-Scout loses suit over ouster," *The Miami Herald*, March 25, 1998.

¹⁷⁵ Robert Hanley, "New Jersey Top Court Hears Arguments Over Gay Scouts: Basis for Ex-Member's Expulsion Is Debated," *The New York Times*, January 6, 1999, 30.

¹⁷⁶ Robert Hanley, "New Jersey Court Overturns Ouster of Gay Boy Scout. Scouting Broke Bias Law. Justices Say Group Is a Public Accommodation, Rejecting Free-Expression Claim," *The New York Times*, August 5, 1999, 1 and 29.

and within the BSA.¹⁷⁷ This moment often marks a new era in the discrimination history, but other elements of Eagle Scout history should be explored prior to entering the next millennium.

In 1972 and 1973, Eagle Scouts celebrated two milestones with the formation of the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) and an unusually prosperous year of new Eagle Scouts. Prior to 1972, the largest external alumni association for Eagle Scouts was the Knights of Dunamis that was founded in 1925. However, the Knights of Dunamis was never officially incorporated into the organization. With an ever-expanding potential volunteer base in Eagle Scout alumni, the BSA decided to establish an official national association for the group in 1971. NESA was founded in 1972 out of this decision.¹⁷⁸ Since the formation of NESA, the association has published several directories and magazines for Eagle Scouts. In terms of using this literature for secondary and primary sources in scholarly pursuits, there are three distinct problems: accessibility, relevance, and confidentiality. Digital access to the literature and magazines is extremely limited, and the only full physical collection known to the author is at the NESA headquarters.¹⁷⁹ From what the author was able to access, most of the relevant histories cover periods and peoples after the Second World War. In addition to accessibility and relevance concerns, the publications were originally meant only for Eagle Scouts and contributors to the books. Third-party sellers have made these works available to the larger public, which risks

¹⁷⁷ Koontz, "Eagle Scouts and Discrimination," 2023; Mechling *On My Honor*, 213-6; and Socio, *Morally Straight*, 89.

¹⁷⁸ Aaron Derr, "Happy 50th birthday to NESA! Here are 5 things you need to know about the National Eagle Scout Association," *Aaron on Scouting*, May 19, 2022, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2022/05/19/happy-50th-birthday-to-nesa-here-are-5-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-national-eagle-scout-association/>; Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*, 124; "Knights of Dunamis," *EagleScoutBadge.com*, circa 2023, <http://www.eaglescoutbadge.com/dunamis.html>; Malone, *Four Percent*, 68-9; and Robert Peterson, "Gathering of Eagles: NESA, the National Eagle Scout Association, has provided manpower resources for local councils since 1972," *Scouting*, May-June 2000, <https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0005/d-wwas.html>.

¹⁷⁹ The author is not fully aware of the history around NESA magazines, but he encountered a Facebook post that explained the first newsletter was *Eagletter* that ran from 1972 to 2009, a successor called *Eagle Scout Magazine* operated from 2009 to 2013, and finally *Eagles' Call* lasted from 2013 to 2020. For the Facebook post, see: Bob Cylkowski, "NESA Publications," *Official Scouting Memorabilia Collectors* Facebook Group, circa February 12, 2025.

confidential or personal information being exposed. Future historical research on Eagle Scouts should be careful while using and citing these works.¹⁸⁰ Returning to 1973, Eagle Scouts celebrated over 46,000 new members for the first time in history, a record that remained unbroken until 1999.¹⁸¹ These high numbers were atypical for the era, probably stemming from the end of the Baby Boom and new rank requirement changes in 1972, and it was more common for only 20,000-30,000 new Eagles between 1974 and 1990.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the history of Eagle Scouts experienced several major events such as the 1,000,000th Eagle Scout, a streamlining of the process to become an Eagle Scout, and an increased social emphasis on achievements and accomplishments. Alexander Holsinger of Normal, Illinois, achieved not only the Eagle Scout Rank in September of 1982, but the distinction of being the 1,000,000th Eagle Scout in the nation. Even though it took 80 years for one million youth and adults to become the Eagle Scouts, the 2,000,000th Eagle, Anthony Thomas of Burnsville, Minnesota, earned the distinction less than 27 years later in June of 2009.¹⁸² Continual reforms and streamlined systems throughout the decades since the 1910s created a somewhat typical path to achieving the Eagle Scout Rank. These resources included yearly summer camps offering multiple merit badges in a single week, dedicated merit badge

¹⁸⁰ *100 Years of Eagle Scouts: Where Are They Now?* (Irving: Boy Scouts of America, 2012); *Eagle Scout Roll of Honor: National Eagle Scout Directory, Central Region* (National Eagle Scout Association, 2007); *Eagle Scout Roll of Honor: National Eagle Scout Directory, Southern Region* (National Eagle Scout Association, 2008); *Eagle Scout Roll of Honor: National Eagle Scout Directory, Western Region* (National Eagle Scout Association, 2008); *Eagle Scout Stories: Tales from the Trails of Scouting's Highest Rank, Central Region* (Brewster: Harris Connect, 2010); *Eagle Scout Stories: Tales from the Trails of Scouting's Highest Rank, Southern Region* (National Eagle Scout Association, 2010); *Eagle Scout Storytelling Project, 2022: NESA 50th Anniversary* (Irving: Boy Scouts of America, 2022); *Exploring New Frontiers: 2020 Eagle Scout Directory, Northeast Region* (Irving: Boy Scouts of America, 2020); and *The Four Percent: 2015 Eagle Scout Directory, Southern Region* (Irving: Boy Scouts of America, 2015). The author only had limited access to some of these resources, mainly *100 Years of Eagle Scouts*, due to limited availability, but he wanted to include all the NESA publications since there was not a good bibliography detailing all of them together.

¹⁸¹ Wendell, "Eagle Scout Class of 2019," 2020.

¹⁸² Birkby, *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*, 80-1; "Heroes of Messengers of Peace Awards 2012," *World Organization of the Scouting Movement*, October 4, 2012, <https://www.scout.org/node/1514>; and Malone, *Four Percent*, 192 and 235.

counselors at the district and troop levels, Board of Reviews handled at the unit level, and consistent understanding of the requirements needed for the award. American society and new generations also moved away from a traditional emphasis on activities towards achievement-based ideas that balanced experiences and accomplishments in the BSA programs.¹⁸³ This modern period of Eagle Scouts lasted from approximately the late 1970s until the mid-2010s when new changes brought radical transformations for both the BSA and Eagle Scouts.

Age of Sanctioned Discrimination, 2000-2011

By 1997, the annual Eagle Scout class climbed above 40,000 and stayed within that range until 2004 as applicants shattered previous records with over 50,000 individuals becoming Eagle Scouts for the first time in history.¹⁸⁴ Starting from 2006, the size of annual Eagle Scout classes remained between 50,000 to 59,000 until 2019. If the BSA entered its Golden Age in the 1950s and 1960s, then the new millennium marked a similar era for Eagle Scout history in the 2000s and 2010s. The author became an Eagle Scout during this time, in 2015, and it felt like a golden age with numerous celebrations, peer accomplishments, good programs and camps, and solid adult leadership. Discrimination issues were not on the author's mind while in Boy Scouts, but for the national-level histories, the conflicts transitioned from the court cases to the arena of public opinion. To start the new millennium, the *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale* case concluded in 2000 with a dramatic finish. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the BSA and effectively allowed private organizations to discriminate against specific groups and individuals that aligned with certain identities, excluding them from activities and membership.¹⁸⁵ This

¹⁸³ Malone, *Four Percent*, 234-237.

¹⁸⁴ Wendell, "Eagle Scout Class of 2019," 2020.

¹⁸⁵ David E. Bernstein, "Boy Scouts of America v. Dale (2000)," *Free Speech Center at Middle Tennessee State University*, January 2009, <https://firstamendment.mtsu.edu/article/boy-scouts-of-america-v-dale/>; Richard J. Ellis, *Judging the Boy Scouts of America: Gay Rights, Freedom of Association, and the Dale Case* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2014); and Socio, *Morally Straight*, 92-112.

decision marked a transition that lasted for twenty years with events coalescing around protests, inclusion, schisms, and a redefined nature of the Scouting Movement in America.

Ramifications from the *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale* case fell under two categories: (1) severe public backlash and retaliatory actions; and (2) the BSA's unilateral control over membership standards. The most common retaliatory actions from third-party sponsors were to withdraw monetary funding from local units, councils, or the national organization. More severe punishments included organizations ending unit charters, prohibiting access to meeting spaces, or advocating for individuals not to volunteer or join the BSA. These retaliatory actions continued into the 2010s as the issues drew more public scrutiny and media coverage.¹⁸⁶ Even against the backdrop of public backlash, the BSA endured these actions and continued developing their discrimination policies throughout the 2000s. In 2002, the BSA published a resolution, more so a declaration, of strict membership standards that stated avowed atheists, agnostics, and gays could not be a part of the organization. The BSA also reaffirmed its stance to hold true to traditional American values.¹⁸⁷ In this changed landscape, new challengers and Eagle Scouts emerged to confront the BSA on the grounds of morality, while the organization aggressively enforced conservative views of masculinity and religious faith.

¹⁸⁶ Andrew Jacobs, "Victory Has Consequences of Its Own," *The New York Times*, June 29, 2000, 27; Dana Liebelson, "Boy Scouts Losing Big Funders Over Anti-Gay Policy," *Mother Jones*, January 23, 2013; Laurie Goodstein, "Jewish Group Recommends Cutting Ties to Boy Scouts," *The New York Times*, January 10, 2001; Maria Newman, "United Way to Continue Aid To Central Jersey Scouts," *The New York Times*, August 31, 2001; "Pentagon Agrees to End Direct Sponsorship of Boy Scout Troops in Response to Religious Discrimination Charge," *ACLU of Illinois*, November 15, 2004; Richard Weizel, "In Hopes of Reviving Donations: A Pamphlet," *The New York Times*, February 11, 2001; Shari Finkelstein, "The Boy Scouts [60 Minutes]," *Columbia Broadcasting System*, Video, 2001, <https://video-alexanderstreet-com.ezproxy.mtsu.edu/watch/the-boy-scouts/details>; and Socio, *Morally Straight*, 113-122.

¹⁸⁷ Marc R. Poirier, "Hastening the Kulturkampf. Boy Scouts of America v. Dale and the Politics of American Masculinity: Appendix 1: Boy Scouts of America Resolution of February 6, 2002," *Law & Sexuality* 12, (2003): 271-336, <https://journals.tulane.edu/tjls/article/view/2769>.

Darrell Lambert, an Eagle Scout and young adult volunteer from the Chief Seattle Council, challenged the BSA in October of 2002 by refusing to change his attitude as an avowed atheist. Lambert did not bring the issue to court and instead challenged the BSA on moral grounds. After a short grace window, the BSA and Chief Seattle Council revoked Lambert's membership and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to strict membership requirements.¹⁸⁸ These moral challenges against the BSA, built on the platform of public opinion, were one of the primary means of resistance for organizational members. Another avenue of resistance for Eagle Scouts to challenge membership standards was to return their Eagle Scout Badges and Awards to local councils and the BSA out of protest. It is hard to measure the impact of returning these awards, but these actions certainly made headlines that continued to publicly challenge the BSA.¹⁸⁹ Court cases shifted away from direct gay and religious discrimination litigation to indirect challenges, third-party lawsuits, and sexual abuse scandals and cases that challenged the entire nature of the organization.¹⁹⁰ Sexual abuse lawsuits and scandals are a significant narrative in the history of the BSA starting in the 1980s, but the national-level Eagle Scout history is more tied to sexuality, gender, and religious attitudes stories.¹⁹¹ By and large, national coverage and negative public opinion became the nexus of

¹⁸⁸ "Atheist Eagle Scout Faces Expulsion." *CBS News*, October 31, 2002; Dean E. Murphy. "Eagle Scout Faces Official Challenge Over His Lack of Faith." *The New York Times*, November 3, 2002, 20; John Iwasaki. "Atheist expects Boy Scouts to change, but not soon." *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, December 29, 2002; Marsha King. "Atheist Scout fights decision to boot him." *The Seattle Times*, October 29, 2002; Marsha King. "Scouts kick out avowed atheist; Kitsap County case drew nationwide attention." *The Seattle Times*, November 5, 2002; Robert Siegel. "Atheist Boy Scout." *NPR*, November 4, 2002; and Reprint from the *Associated Press*, "National Briefing/Northwest: Washington: Scout Says He's Been Ejected." *The New York Times*, November 5, 2002, 18.

¹⁸⁹ "Some Eagle Scouts Turn In Their Badges To Protest Ban On Gays," *Chicago Tribune*, August 6, 2000.

¹⁹⁰ "Boy Scouts Vs. Philly: Battle Over Rent, Gay Rights," *NBC Philadelphia*, June 14, 2010; "Cradle of Liberty Council, Inc. v. City of Philadelphia," *Casetext.com*, accessed July 21, 2024, <https://casetext.com/case/cradle-of-liberty-council-inc-v-city-of-phila>; "Girl Scout of the United States of America v. Boy Scouts of America," *Casetext.com*, accessed July 21, 2024, <https://casetext.com/case/girl-scout-of-united-states-v-boy-scouts-of-am>; and Ian Urbina, "Boy Scouts Lose Philadelphia Lease in Gay-Rights Fight," *The New York Times*, December 6, 2007.

¹⁹¹ "A Timeline of Sexual Abuse by the Boy Scouts of America," *HM&M*, April 15, 2024, <https://www.hurley-law.com/chicago-injury-lawyers/a-timeline-of-sexual-abuse-by-the-boy-scouts-of-america/>; "Fifth man files sexual abuse case against Boy Scouts," *The Oregonian: Oregon Live*, September 27, 2007; "History of Scouting Abuse,"

resistance to try to leverage National Council officials or high profile individuals to change the BSA's policies.

Age of Reform and Schism, 2012-2024

Going into the late 2000s and early 2010s, the BSA celebrated several centennial anniversaries and experienced renewed public backlash due to several discrimination incidents. Cate Wirth and Elizabeth Wirth, a lesbian couple, volunteered to serve as Cub Scout leaders in 2009m but the local district and council rejected their membership after learning about their relationship. The issue gained enough national attention in early 2010 for several Congressmen, led by Eagle Scout Gary Ackerman, to call on the BSA to end their ban on gays.¹⁹² Against the backdrop of this high-profile issue, the BSA celebrated its centennial in 2010 with the Eagle Scout's 100-year anniversary being held two years later in 2012. In a strange twist, 2012 became not only an anniversary year for Eagle Scouts but also a significant moment in the history of discrimination in the BSA. During 2012, Jennifer Tyrrell was dismissed from her Cub Scout Pack, having served more than a year as an adult leader, after local Scouting officials learned of her sexual orientation. Tyrrell started a Change.org petition, calling for an end of discrimination in the BSA, that garnered hundreds of thousands of signatures from the public.¹⁹³ With support

Abused in Scouting, accessed July 21, 2024, <https://abusedin scouting.com/history-of-abuse/>; Patrick Boyle, *Scout's Honor: Sexual Abuse in America's Most Trusted Institution* (Rocklin: Prima Publishing, 1994); and *Scouts Honor: The Secret Files of the Boy Scouts of America*, directed by Brian Knappenberger (Insight Film and Luminant Media, 2023), documentary.

¹⁹² "Members of Congress call on Boy Scouts to end discrimination," *Windy City Times*, February 1, 2010; Nick Wing, "Members Of Congress Demand Boy Scouts End Gay Discrimination," *HuffPost*, April 4, 2010; Susan Allen, "Congressional group critical of Scouts' leadership policy," *Rutland Herald*, February 10, 2010; and Susan Allen, "Scouts reject lesbian leaders," *Rutland Herald*, December 30, 2009. It is important to note that U.S. Representative Gary Ackerman was accused of sexual abuse in 2019 while he was a staffer at a Scout camp in New York several decades ago. For more information, see: "Ex-congressman Gary Ackerman accused of violating a teenager," *Associated Press*, August 24, 2019; and "Former New York congressman accused of sexually abusing teen in 1960s," *CBS News*, August 26, 2019.

¹⁹³ Jennifer Tyrrell, "Boy Scouts of America: Reinstate Cub Scout leader who was removed for being gay," *Change.org*, April 17, 2012, <https://www.change.org/p/boy-scouts-of-america-reinstate-cub-scout-leader-who-was-removed-for-being-gay>; KJ Dell'Antonia, "Dear Boy Scouts: Let a Gay Mom Lead the Pack," *The New York Times*, April 26, 2012; and LZ Granderson, "Boy Scouts feel a mother's wrath," *CNN*, April 24, 2012.

from Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout and co-founder of Scouts for Equality, Tyrrell and anti-discrimination groups launched a vigorous media campaign against the BSA. This campaign led the organization to perform an internal review of its discrimination policy.¹⁹⁴ In July of 2012, the BSA reaffirmed its membership policies to discrimination against gays and other groups. This prompted more Eagle Scouts to send their badges and awards to the National Council in protest.¹⁹⁵ The year was not yet over, and more Eagle Scouts pressured the BSA to end its membership ban.

Missouri Eagle Scout Eric Jones was working at a local BSA summer camp, which he had done for several years, when he stated his queer sexual orientation to one of the directors. The director reported Jones' orientation to the local council and due to BSA policy, Jones' membership was revoked. Jones' story disseminated mostly throughout smaller publications and newspapers in 2012.¹⁹⁶ Even though Jones' story did not create large ripples across national medias, these local incidents of discrimination continued to occur and affect the organization. Out of these regional incidents, one story became crucial in the national sphere to influence

¹⁹⁴ "About Us," *Scouts for Equality*, accessed July 21, 2024, <https://www.scoutsforequality.org/about/>; Phil Gast and Alta Spells, "Boy Scouts to study ban on gay leaders," *CNN*, June 7, 2012; and Socio, *Morally Straight*, 152-161.

¹⁹⁵ For the BSA's reaffirmation for their discrimination policy, see: "After Two-Year Evaluation, Boy Scouts of America Affirms Membership Standards and Announces No Change in Policy," *Boy Scouts of America*, circa June-July 2012, 1-2, <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/400600/boy-scouts-of-america-statement-reaffirms-ban-on.pdf>; "Boy Scouts leadership affirms policy of excluding 'open or avowed' gays," *CNN*, July 18, 2012; and Erik Eckholm, "Boy Scouts to Continue Excluding Gay People," *The New York Times*, July 17, 2012. For Eagle Scouts returning their badges and medals in protest, see: "Eagle Scout returns medal in protest," *CNN*, August 7, 2012; Kelsey Timmerman, "An Eagle Scout No More: Why I'm Sending My Badge Back to Boy Scouts of America," *HuffPost*, July 24, 2012; and Miranda Leitsinger, "Eagle Scouts return badges to protest policy banning gays," *NBC News*, August 2, 2012.

¹⁹⁶ Aimee Levitt, "Missouri Eagle Scout Eric Jones Kicked Out of Boy Scouts for Being Gay," *River Front Times*, July 19, 2012; "Eric Jones, Missouri Eagle Scout, Axed As Summer Camp Counselor For Being Gay," *HuffPost*, July 17, 2012; "Gay Boy Scout loses job," *Columbia Daily Tribune*, July 26, 2012; Jessica Lussenhop, "Hidden Camera Footage of Eagle Scout Eric Jones Being Kicked Out for Being Gay (VIDEO) (UPDATE)," *River Front Times*, May 24, 2013; and Kate Sosin, "Gay Boy Scout allegedly removed from camp," *Windy City Times*, July 18, 2012. Eric Jones was originally to be featured in the documentary, *Second Class Citizens*, but the film was not finished as of 2024, for more information, see Andrew Joseph Pegoda, "Second Class Citizens and the film that never was: UH professor calls on filmmaker to release his documentary," *The Daily Cougar*, circa 2020, <https://thedailycougar.com/2020/07/01/second-class-citizens-release/>.

public opinion against the BSA. Ryan (later changed to Ry) Andresen from the Mount Diablo Silverado Council of California suffered discrimination for his sexual identity. Andresen's membership was revoked and the BSA denied his application to the rank of Eagle Scout in September-October of 2012. Several Eagle Scouts rallied to Andresen's side including Matthew Kimball, an older Eagle Scout from Andresen's troop. Kimball revealed his sexual orientation and gave his Eagle Scout medal to Andresen in defiance of the BSA. With over 470,000 signatures on Change.org for a petition to change BSA policy, Andresen's story persisted in the news sphere and reignited media coverage of the discrimination controversy. This coverage culminated in January of 2013 as the BSA reversed course from their earlier July decision and began reevaluating its membership policies.¹⁹⁷

In response to negative publicity created by Jennifer Tyrrell and Ry Andresen, members of the National Council proposed, in late January of 2013, to reconsider the membership policy. The new idea was to allow local units and charter organizations to set membership standards, of allowing or excluding gays, rather than keeping the policy at the national level. In the lead up to the February National Executive Board and Committee meetings, the proposal garnered a range of support and condemnation.¹⁹⁸ This compromise to appease conservative church members and

¹⁹⁷ Eyder Peralta, "Teenage Boy Scout Denied Organization's Top Rank Because He's Gay," *NPR*, October 5, 2012; "Gay Boy Scout, Bullied by Troop, Denied Eagle Rank," *ABC News*, October 4, 2012; "Gay Scout Denied Eagle Award Says He Believes in God: Ryan Andresen refutes Boy Scouts of America after they oust him," *ABC News*, October 4, 2012; Karen Andresen, "Overturn ban on gay scouts," *Change.org*, October 2, 2012, <https://www.change.org/p/overturn-ban-on-gay-scouts>; KJ Dell'Antonia, "'Coming Out' as a Boy Scout Has a Price," *The New York Times*, October 6, 2012; "Local review board urges Boy Scouts to award Eagle rank to gay teen," *NBC News*, January 8, 2013; Michael Martinez, Amanda Watts, and Deanna Hackney, "Gay Scout's request for Eagle rank rejected," *CNN*, January 9, 2013; Miranda Leitsinger, "Almost-Eagle Scout denied award because he is gay," *NBC News*, October 4, 2012; Miranda Leitsinger, "Gay Scouts come out, rally around teen's Eagle Scout bid," *NBC News*, October 9, 2012; Miranda Leitsinger, "Gay teen denied Eagle Scout: 'Change is happening' over Boy Scouts anti-gay policy," *NBC News*, October 12, 2012; "Ryan Andresen, Gay Teen Denied Eagle Scout, Submits Petition Asking For Policy Change," *HuffPost*, October 19, 2012; and Socio, *Morally Straight*, 182-196.

¹⁹⁸ Clare Kim, "Boy Scouts of America may end long-time policy of banning gays," *MSNBC*, January 28, 2013; Kirk Johnson, "In a Quick Shift, Scouts Rethink a Ban on Gays," *The New York Times*, January 28, 2013; Kirk Johnson, "Scout Plan to Allow Gays Ignites Debates on Local Level," *The New York Times*, January 29, 2013; Lauren D'Avolio and Kirk Johnson, "Vote to Eliminate Ban on Gays in Boy Scouts Is on Agenda at Board Meeting," *The*

pro-identity groups proved not to satisfy either since both sides of the issue wanted a clear-cut policy with no muddy middle-ground. Due to the outpouring of opinions and national coverage, the BSA postponed the decision until May of 2013.¹⁹⁹ In the interim, a survey was sent to local, council, and national members and affiliated groups asking for their opinion on the issue and to send feedback by early April. The survey revealed a clear division in the organization on both allowing or barring gays and on the compromise itself.²⁰⁰ Not giving up on finding a middle-ground solution, the BSA proposed the idea to allow gay youth members but continue to discriminate against queer adult leaders and members. This idea garnered support from several prominent groups in the organization including the LDS Church.²⁰¹ In late May of 2013, hundreds of National Council members voted to approve the legislation of allowing gay youth but continuing to exclude gay adult leaders and volunteers.²⁰² The decision had several consequences including a continued ban on atheists and agnostics, an exodus of BSA members

New York Times, February 4, 2013; Lisa Fernandez, "Gay Moraga Eagle Scout Hopeful of National Change," *NBC Bay Area*, January 29, 2013; and Miranda Leitsinger, "Gravely distressed': Religion looms large over Boy Scouts decision on gays," *NBC News*, February 4, 2013.

¹⁹⁹ Channon Hodge, "Indecision on Gays for Boy Scouts," *The New York Times*, February 7, 2013; Kirk Johnson, "After Floating Idea of Lifting Ban on Gays, Scouts Delay Decision," *The New York Times*, February 6, 2013; and Kirk Johnson, "Boy Scouts Say Gay Debate Was Ignited by a Leak," *The New York Times*, February 8, 2013.

²⁰⁰ Kirk Johnson, "Boy Scouts Sends Survey to Members About Ban on Gays," *The New York Times*, March 12, 2013; and "Membership Standards Study Initiative Executive Summary," *Boy Scouts of America National Council*, circa April-May 2013, 1-5, <https://graphics8.nytimes.com/us/2013/scoutssummary.pdf>.

²⁰¹ Atossa Araxia Abrahamian, "Boy Scouts proposal: let in gay youth, keep out gay adults," *Reuters*, April 19, 2013; Boy Scouts of America, "Membership Standards Review: Voting Member Information Packet," May 2013, 1-58, https://web.archive.org/web/20221108233305/https://scoutmastercg.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/310-561_WB.pdf; Erik Eckholm, "Boy Scouts Move to Lift Ban on Gay Youth Members," *The New York Times*, April 19, 2013; Erik Eckholm, "Mormons Endorse Plan to Admit Gay Scouts," *The New York Times*, April 26, 2013; Erik Eckholm, "On Eve of Vote, Boy Scouts Are Divided Over Accepting Gay Youths," *The New York Times*, May 22, 2013; and Juliet Lapidus, "Boy Scouts May Lift Ban on Gay Youths," *The New York Times*, April 19, 2013.

²⁰² Boy Scouts of America, "Membership Standards Implementation: Frequently Asked Questions for Unit Leaders," August 2013, 1-10, https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/training/membership/pdf/Unit_Implementation_FAQ.pdf; Erik Eckholm, "Boy Scouts End Longtime Ban on Openly Gay Youths," *The New York Times*, May 23, 2013; Miranda Leitsinger and Jason White. "Boy Scouts vote to lift ban on gay youth." *NBC News*, May 23, 2013; and Phil Gast, Greg Botelho, and Devon M. Sayers, "Boy Scouts to allow gay youths to join," *CNN*, May 24, 2013.

for conservative Christian-oriented organizations, and support for allowing gay youth but criticism for excluding gay adults.²⁰³

The new membership policy came into effect on January 1, 2014, and until July of 2015, the BSA sustained a strict ban on avowed gay adult members. However, the organization continued facing negative public sentiments and experienced potential new legal cases due to the compromise.²⁰⁴ Geoffrey McGrath, a 49-year-old Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout from Seattle, Oregon, was dismissed by the BSA in late March of 2014. The dismissal came after an in-progress NBC news article alerted the local council to McGrath's status as an avowed homosexual.²⁰⁵ McGrath's chartering organization and troop refused to remove him from the Scoutmaster position and the BSA revoked the charter from the organization and associated units.²⁰⁶ Besides the compromise's effects on adult members, youth in the BSA now had the opportunity to become Eagle Scouts and be avowed homosexuals without being expelled. A good demonstration of the duality of the compromise are siblings Pascal Tessier, seventeen-years-old, and Lucien Tessier, twenty-one-years-old, from Kensington, Maryland. Both individuals were gay and Eagle Scouts, but they were separated in Scouting through the membership policy. Pascal Tessier was openly gay and earned his Eagle Scout in February of 2014, becoming one of the first youth to hold this distinction without repercussions under the revised policy. Lucien Tessier became an Eagle Scout prior to 2014 and kept his sexual

²⁰³ Connie Sommer, "Why I Let My Son (Finally) Join the Boy Scouts," *The New York Times*, November 11, 2013; Kimberly Winston, "One Scouts ban remains intact: Atheists," *Religion News Service*, May 30, 2013; and Malia Wollan, "Earning Merit Badges and Learning Knots Under New Flags," *The New York Times*, June 3, 2013.

²⁰⁴ Dorothy J. Samuels, "A Mixed Message From the Boy Scouts," *The New York Times*, January 3, 2014; and The Editorial Board. "Scouting's Incomplete Evolution." *The New York Times*, January 2, 2014.

²⁰⁵ Emma Roler and National Journal, "The Boy Scouts Just Kicked Out an Openly Gay Scoutmaster," *The Atlantic*, April 1, 2014; Erik Eckholm, "Boy Scouts Dismiss a Gay Troop Leader in Seattle," *The New York Times*, April 1, 2014; and "'Extremely Disappointing': Scouts Boot Openly Gay Troop Leader," *NBC News*, March 31, 2014.

²⁰⁶ Devon M. Sayers and Elliott C. McLaughlin, "Boy Scouts revoke Seattle church's charter over gay scoutmaster," *CNN*, April 22, 2014; and Kirk Johnson, "Boy Scout Troop Loses Charter Over Gay Leader," *The New York Times*, April 21, 2014.

orientation hidden under the BSA policy. As an adult, Lucian could not serve as a volunteer in the organization, due to the adult membership policy, even though he was only several years older than his brother.²⁰⁷ Pascal Tessier remained in the media throughout 2014 and protested various aspects of discrimination in the BSA. The next major events in 2014 were the refusal by the BSA to hire Yasmin Cassini and Robert M. Gates' appointment as president of the BSA.²⁰⁸

Robert M. Gates, Eagle Scout and former Secretary of Defense and Director of the CIA, was elected as the national president of the BSA in May of 2014.²⁰⁹ His appointment as the BSA president gave substantial influence to potentially end the membership ban against gay adults, but this would not be decided until 2015. Another major event in 2014 was the decision by a local council in Colorado to refuse to hire Yasmin Cassini, an avowed lesbian, to a professional leadership position in the organization.²¹⁰ Cassini filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission in March of 2015. The agency began the first stages of an investigation, which could lead to a full legal case against the BSA.²¹¹ A short time later in early April of 2015, a council in New York hired Pascal Tessier to work at a local summer camp. Tessier was now eighteen years old and an adult in the eyes of the BSA, which violated the organization's policy of no gay adult members.²¹² Later in the same month, the New York state attorney general's

²⁰⁷ "First Openly Gay Eagle Scout Under New Policy, But Brother Excluded From Scouting," *ABC News*, February 11, 2014; Lucien Tessier, "My brother just became an openly gay Eagle Scout. But we're still 'unfit' to be leaders," *The Guardian*, February 16, 2014; and Paresh Dave, "Openly gay Eagle Scout a first since new Boy Scout policy," *Los Angeles Times*, February 13, 2014.

²⁰⁸ Kirk Johnson, "Compromise on Gays Pleases No One, Scouts Are Learning," *The New York Times*, May 8, 2014; and Theresea Vargas, "Gay Maryland Eagle Scout Pascal Tessier protests Amazon's support of Boy Scouts," *The Washington Post*, May 19, 2014.

²⁰⁹ Timothy Williams, "Former Defense Secretary Gates Is Elected President of the Boy Scouts," *The New York Times*, May 22, 2014.

²¹⁰ "Woman Says Boy Scouts offered her a job, then took it back because she's gay," *Fox 31 Denver*, October 2, 2014.

²¹¹ Erik Eckholm, "Rising Dissent and Lawsuits Pushed Scouts to Change," *The New York Times*, May 22, 2015; and "Scouts for Equality Timeline," *Scouts for Equality*, accessed July 24, 2024, <https://www.scoutsforequality.org/timeline/>.

²¹² James Barron, "With Hire, Boy Scouts Affiliate in New York Defies Ban on Gays," *The New York Times*, April 2, 2015.

office launched an investigation into the hiring and employment practices of the BSA in New York, specifically in relation to discrimination.²¹³ With preliminary investigations beginning across the country, the BSA faced renewed legal pressure on top of negative publicity and loss of major sponsors since the early 2000s. Two years after the change in youth membership policy, Robert M. Gates called on the BSA to end discrimination against avowed gay adults while at the annual national meeting in May of 2015.²¹⁴

A path was laid before the BSA that would radically affect the future of the organization and the Scouting Movement in America. First, the BSA could side with conservative elements and continue to enforce a somewhat relaxed, but still dogmatic policy of discrimination based on the idea of traditional American values. Or the BSA could choose to disassemble over forty years of discriminatory attitudes and allow inclusion to change the organization and the nature of the movement. A decision had to be reached by the BSA's National Executive Board on July 27, 2015; their next meeting. James Dale and Tim Curran returned to the media sphere to share their experience and reflection at this crucial juncture.²¹⁵ It is hard to uncover the hidden efforts and actions behind the scenes leading up to July 27, 2015, but the BSA seemed to be deeply reflecting on its nature, legacy, and future.

Historically, the BSA has not been a clearly defined organization but an amalgamation of many institutions, cultures, and communities. It was a grassroots movement with oversight and regulation through a national council. Scouting was understood and applied differently

²¹³ Eckholm, "Rising Dissent," 2015; and James Barron, "New York Investigates Whether Boy Scouts' Employment Practices Discriminated Against Gays," *The New York Times*, April 20, 2015.

²¹⁴ Dr. Robert M. Gates, "National Annual Business Meeting Remarks," May 21, 2015, <https://www.scoutingnewsroom.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/DR-GATES-REMARKS.pdf>; Erik Eckholm, "Boy Scouts' President Calls for End to Ban on Gay Leaders," *The New York Times*, May 21, 2015; and Eckholm, "Rising Dissent," 2015.

²¹⁵ James Dale. "I Am a Gay Boy Scout: The Policies Remain Wrong." *TIME*, May 22, 2015; and Tim Curran, "What the Boy Scouts - and I - lost," *CNN*, July 21, 2015.

throughout the entire country. Discrimination exposed the heterogenous nature of the organization, and those competing interests came to a head in the 2010s. Staunch conservative institutions such as the LDS Church held immense authority for decades, but changing social attitudes and new leadership in the BSA gave gay rights a stronger voice in the 2010s. The BSA's Key Three, the National President, National Commissioner, and Chief Scout Executive, released a statement on July 13, 2015, that the Executive Committee unanimously adopted a resolution to end discrimination against the sexual orientation of adult members and hiring professionals while allowing religious institutions to select adult leaders that align with their moral values.²¹⁶ In a 79%-to-21% decision, the National Executive Board voted in favor of the resolution and effectively reversed the 2000 ban on gay adult members.²¹⁷ This decision amplified an emerging rift in the organization and movement that developed into one of the darkest moments in the BSA's history.

Between 2013 and 2024, the Scouting Movement in America underwent a massive schism that centered on the BSA and adult attitudes on running youth movements. Religious groups left to form their own youth organizations while the BSA integrated new inclusion and diversity policies. The beginning of this schism is muddled by the different approaches taken by religious authorities and the BSA. Since religious entities could still decide who became adult leaders in their units, this effectively allowed discrimination on the local level.²¹⁸ The LDS

²¹⁶ Boy Scouts of America, "Adult Leadership Standards Update and Resources, July 2015," July 13, 2015, 1-12, <https://www.scoutsforequality.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Adult-Leadership-Standards-Update-and-Resources-for-Key-3.pdf>; and "Church Comments on Boy Scouts of America Resolution on Adult Leader Standards," *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Newsroom*, July 13, 2015.

²¹⁷ "Boy Scouts of America Amends Adult Leadership Policy," *Scouting Newsroom*, July 27, 2015; Church Re-evaluating Scouting Program: Concern expressed over BSA policy change, lack of global reach," *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Newsroom*, July 27, 2015; Erik Eckholm, "Boy Scouts Are Poised to End Ban on Gay Leaders," *The New York Times*, July 26, 2015; and Erik Eckholm, "Boy Scouts End Ban on Gay Leaders, Over Protests by Mormon Church," *The New York Times*, July 27, 2015.

²¹⁸ Greg Bourke, "End your unnecessary ban on gay Boy Scout leaders and reapprove my membership!" *Change.org*, August 18, 2015, <https://www.change.org/p/archbishop-joseph-kurtz-end-your-unnecessary-ban-on->

Church began to discuss separating from the Scouting Movement to form their own youth organization after more than a century of ties between the two groups.²¹⁹ In December of 2016, a transgender youth from New Jersey, Joe Maldonado, was expelled from the Cub Scout program after being listed as female on his birth certificate but identifying as male.²²⁰ One month later on January 30, 2017, the BSA reversed the transgender ban and allowed these youth into its programs. This incident furthered the separation between the conservative religious groups and the organization.²²¹ With these rapid changes, the LDS Church decided to sever their partnership with the BSA to start their own youth organization for church membership. The timeline for separation started from January 1, 2018, and was completed by December 31, 2020.²²² This decision by the LDS Church devastated Scouting enrollment around the nation but particularly in Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, and the American territories that had a deep Mormon presence and infrastructure. Subsequently, LDS youth rushed to finish their Eagle Scout Ranks. The 2019

[gay-boy-scout-leaders-and-re-approve-my-membership](#); and Greg Bourke, "I'm Still Banned From Being a Boy Scout Leader," *American Civil Liberties Union*, August 20, 2015.

²¹⁹ *Century of Honor*, 2013, 34-5; David Crary and Lindsay Whitehurst, "End of Boy Scouts' ban on gays prompts elation and alarm," *Associated Press*, July 28, 2015; Erik Eckholm and Laurie Goodstein. "Top Mormons Could Meet Soon About Leaving Scouts." *The New York Times*, July 28, 2015; and Lorenzo Laing, "Don't Clap Just Yet for the Boy Scouts," *American Civil Liberties Union*, August 10, 2015.

²²⁰ Abbott Koloff, "8-year-old transgender boy barred from Cub Scouts," *NorthJersey*, December 27, 2016; and Daniel Victor, "Cub Scouts Kick Out Transgender Boy in New Jersey," *The New York Times*, December 30, 2016.

²²¹ Christine Hauser, "'I Felt Like I Belonged There': Transgender Cub Scout Breaks Barrier," *The New York Times*, February 9, 2017; Claudia Lauer, "Boy Scouts will allow transgender children into programs," *Associated Press*, January 30, 2017; Jacqueline McGrance, "To The Editor: The Boy Scouts' Inclusiveness," *The New York Times*, February 2, 2017; Mitch Smith, "Conservatives Alienated by Boy Scouts' Shift on Transgender Policy," *The New York Times*, January 31, 2017; Niraj Chokshi, "Boy Scouts, Reversing Century-Old Stance, Will Allow Transgender Boys," *The New York Times*, January 30, 2017; and The Editorial Board, "Welcoming Transgender Boy Scouts," *The New York Times*, February 2, 2017.

²²² Brady McCombs and David Crary, "Boy Scouts take a hit as LDS Church removes 400,000 youths from program," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, December 17, 2019; Bryan Wendell, "What you need to know about the LDS church's announcement about its future relationship with the BSA," *Aaron on Scouting*, May 9, 2018, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/05/09/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-lds-church-announcement/>; Christine Hauser, "Mormon Church Ends Sponsorship of Boy Scouts for Older Teenagers," *The New York Times*, May 11, 2017; Gary Fields and Brady McCombs, "Mormon leader: We didn't leave Boy Scouts, they left us," *Associated Press*, November 15, 2019; James Dale, "The Boy Scouts Can Do a Good Turn Finally," *The New York Times*, May 19, 2017; Jason Swensen, "Church to End Relationship with Scouting; Announces New Activity Program for Children and Youth," *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Newsroom*, May 8, 2018; Laurie Goodstein and Christine Hauser, "Mormon Church Ends Century-Old Partnership With Boy Scouts of America," *The New York Times*, May 9, 2018; and "Statement on BSA-LDS Relationship," *Scouting Newsroom*, May 8, 2018.

class was the biggest to date with over 61,000 Eagles before falling in 2020 to 46,044 Eagle Scouts.²²³

Two major issues remained for the BSA after dismantling gay and transgender discrimination: (1) atheists and agnostics; and (2) female youth in the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs. The discrimination against atheists and agnostics in the BSA has not ended as of the summer of 2024. "Duty to God" remains a relevant component of the organization's programming and materials.²²⁴ Throughout 2017, the BSA deliberated on allowing female youth to join Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Finally, the organization announced in October of 2017 the first step of a plan to allow female youth into Cub Scouts with single gender units or single gender Dens in Packs.²²⁵ In preparation for female youth to join the traditional Boy Scouts program on February 1, 2019, the BSA changed the program's name from Boy Scouts to Scouts

²²³ "Be The Change," *Boy Scouts of America*, Livestream, February 21, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZbHsoWHzWg>; "Celebrating the Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts," *Piedmont Council of the BSA*, February 23, 2021, <https://www.piedmontbsa.org/2021/02/23/celebrating-the-inaugural-class-of-female-eagle-scouts/>; Jean Lotus, "Eagle Scout rolls expected to drop after Mormon church ends partnership," *UPI News*, July 17, 2019; and Wendell, "Eagle Scout Class of 2019," 2020. With the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 and other developments, the numbers for post-2019 Eagle Scout Classes and the BSA's annual reports are difficult to find online.

²²⁴ Aaron Derr, "BSA reaffirms Duty to God aspect of all programs through resolution adopted at 2018 National Annual Meeting," *Aaron on Scouting*, May 31, 2018, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/05/31/bsa-reaffirms-duty-to-god-aspect-of-all-programs-through-resolution-adopted-at-2018-national-annual-meeting/>; and Herb Silverman, "Boy Scouts, Unitarians, and Atheists," *HuffPost*, May 31, 2016.

²²⁵ Amy Held, "Boy Scouts 'Exploring' Co-Ed Programming Provokes Girl Scout Ire," *NPR*, August 24, 2017; "Boy Scouts allowing girls into Cub program, but will keep them separate," *ABC News*, October 11, 2017; Boy Scouts of America, "The BSA Expands Programs to Welcome Girls from Cub Scouts to Highest Rank of Eagle Scout," October 11, 2017, 1-2, <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/BSA-Family-Entry-Fact-Sheet.pdf>; Bryan Wendell, "BSA invites girls into Scouting programs," *Aaron on Scouting*, January-February 2018, <https://scoutingmagazine.org/2017/12/bsa-invites-girls/>; Bryan Wendell, "BSA to welcome girls into Scouting programs -- here's what that means for your pack or troop," *Aaron on Scouting*, October 11, 2017, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/10/11/bsa-welcomes-girls/>; Holly Yan and AJ Willingham, "Boy Scouts' decision to welcome girls isn't completely welcome," *CNN*, October 12, 2017; Julie Bosman and Niraj Chokshi, "Boy Scouts Will Accept Girls, in Bid to 'Shape the Next Generation of Leaders,'" *The New York Times*, October 11, 2017; Pete Williams, "Boy Scout Leaders to Discuss Offering More Opportunities for Girls," *NBC News*, May 4, 2017; Sydney Ireland, "Boy Scout Leaders: Speak Out Against Discrimination and Harassment of Girls in Scouting," *Change.org*, November 29, 2015, <https://www.change.org/p/boy-scout-ceo-roger-mosby-chairman-jim-turley-please-speak-out-against-gender-discrimination-and-the-bsa-adult-leader-cyberbully>; Tasneem Nashrulla, "The Girl Scouts Have Accused The Boy Scouts Of Secretly Trying To Recruit Girls To Appeal To Millennial Parents," *BuzzFeed*, August 22, 2017.

BSA to reflect the increased gender diversity. Female youth joined single gender Troops and began a year and a half journey to become the first class of Female Eagle Scouts in October of 2020.²²⁶ The First Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts refers to individuals that earned the rank from October 2020 to February 2021. This includes both youth and young adults up to 21-years-old due to an age extension allowed by the BSA with the special circumstances around the event. Around 1,000 female youth became the First Female Eagle Scouts in the nation 108-years after Arthur R. Eldred became the first Eagle Scout in 1912.²²⁷ Besides the BSA's name rebranding to Scouting America in 2024, the 2020-2021 class of Eagle Scouts is the last major national event for the group as of early 2025. As seen in these events, Eagle Scouts became central actors in court cases and the history of discrimination in the BSA. These narratives and stories resulted in a changed organization and movement.²²⁸

²²⁶ Boy Scouts of America, "Scouts BSA: Program Update," May 3, 2018, 1-2, <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Scouts-BSA-FAQ-050218-2.pdf>; Bryan Wendell, "50 states, 50 photos: Scouts BSA launch week was a huge success," *Aaron on Scouting*, February 8, 2019, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/02/08/50-states-50-photos-scouts-bsa-launch-week-was-a-huge-success/>; Bryan Wendell, "BSA unveils name of program for older boys and girls," *Aaron on Scouting*, May 2, 2018, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/05/02/scout-me-in/>; Camila Domonoske, "Boy Scouts Changing Name To 'Scouts BSA,' As Girls Welcomed Into Program," *NPR*, May 2, 2018; John Bacon, "Boy Scouts are dropping the word 'Boy' from flagship program; Girl Scouts shrug," *USA Today*, May 2, 2018; Maya Salam, "Boy Scouts Will Drop the 'Boy' in Its Namesake Program, as It Welcomes Girls Next Year," *The New York Times*, May 2, 2018; and Sophie Lewis, "Girls can now join Scouts BSA, once known as Boy Scouts," *CBS News*, February 1, 2019.

²²⁷ "1,000 female Eagle Scouts make history as part of inaugural class," *World Organization of the Scouting Movement*, March 8, 2021; "Be The Change," 2021; Norah O'Donnell, "Nearly 1,000 girls become first female Eagle Scouts," *CBS News*, February 23, 2021; and "Saluting the Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts," *Scout Life*, February 2021, https://scoutlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/InauguralClass_SpecialEdition_Yearbook_compressed.pdf.

²²⁸ While the court cases, Female Eagle Scouts, and other topics pervade the 2000s and 2010s narratives, African American Eagle Scouts continued creating new histories relevant for the BSA and for American society. Daniel Jeffrey Nibbs became California's "first African American to be awarded Eagle Scout of the Year 2007 by the American Legion, Department of California Scouting Commission," see: "African American Named Eagle Scout of Year," *Los Angeles Sentinel*, November 1, 2007; and "Scouting Commission," *Department of California*, accessed October 1, 2024, <https://calegion.org/scouting/>. The BSA developed the Citizenship in Society merit badge between 2020 and 2021, the newest Eagle Scout required merit badge, in response to supporting racial equality, de-gendering of the organization, and other changes in institutional culture, see: "Introducing Citizenship in Society, the BSA's newest merit badge," *Aaron on Scouting*, November 1, 2021, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/11/01/introducing-citizenship-in-society-the-bsas-newest-merit-badge/>; Mihir Zaveri, "Boy Scouts Announce Diversity Merit Badge and Support for Black Lives Matter," *The New York Times*, November 15, 2020; and Scottie Andrew, "Boy Scouts of America shows support for Black Lives Matter and will require some scouts to earn diversity badge," *CNN*, June 17, 2020. In 2020, Eagle Scout Noah

This is not the end of the national story of Eagle Scouts, but at the time of this thesis, Female Eagle Scouts was the last major event. There are many more individual stories and local histories that can be told which can fill countless pages and books. I encourage other scholars to continue the exploration of this remarkable group of individuals. I envisioned this thesis as a starting point for future research since there are so many stories that I had to leave out. The history of Scouting is in many ways tied to the history of our nation and its people. This history of Eagle Scouts was born out of a respect for their legacy but also a desire to understand some of their stories. I hope that other people find it at least half as interesting as I have throughout this entire journey.

Thesis Conclusion

The history of Eagle Scouts encapsulates two main themes that links the group to American society, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Scouting Movement in the United States: microcosm and representation. Microcosm, or society in miniature, relates to Eagle Scouts' connections to major social and organizational events, conflicts, attitudes, and practices. Representation is demonstrated by individual Eagle Scouts and how they chose to interact with the BSA, the Scouting Movement, and American society. Eagle Scouts also chose how they wanted to define themselves, and the award itself, and what Scouting meant in any specific context. Eagle Scouts is a diverse group of individuals that tread different paths and ideologies, but share an overall status connected to the award and Scouting Movement. Since American society is so integrally tied to the history of the BSA, that connection also extends to the

Harris became the first African American president of Harvard University's Undergraduate Council, see: Bryan Wendell, "Noah Harris, Harvard's student body president, is an Eagle Scout," *Aaron on Scouting*, February 26, 2021, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/02/26/noah-harris-harvards-student-body-president-is-an-eagle-scout/>. Eagle Scout Evan Green participated in the first all-Black expedition to summit Mount Everest in May of 2022, see: Michael Freeman, "Eagle Scout makes history by summiting Everest with all-Black crew," *Aaron on Scouting*, August 25, 2022, <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2022/08/25/eagle-scout-makes-history-by-summiting-everest-with-all-black-crew/>.

narratives and stories of Eagle Scouts. What is experienced in a person's youth reverberates throughout their entire lives.

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Appendix A

Eagle Scouts from August 1912 to October 1917

This appendix catalogs the Eagle Scouts listed in *Boys' Life* from 1912 to 1917. From the author's reading of the sources, the magazine is the best publicly available list for the earliest Eagle Scouts. This appendix is a mixture of narrative and catalog. The author provides discussions, when relevant, about the history of the *Boys' Life* list. This includes the list's noticeable drawbacks, missing details, and additional contexts from the BSA and national events. This appendix represents the information from *Boys' Life* and what the author was able to find in primary and secondary sources. Some information and knowledge will be inherently missing which can only be uncovered by specific research in local contexts. In many portions, the author attempted to interpret missing information according to historical patterns of the list over time.

For one major inferred interpretation, *Boys' Life* did not start listing the month of the Eagle class until September 1913. After a certain period, the magazine dropped the month for each class. To the best of the author's abilities, he continued with the estimated month for each class from February 1915 to October 1917. For the 1912 to August 1913 timeframe, the Eagle Scouts are organized by year and order of appearance in *Boys' Life*. Starting from the September 1913 class, Eagle Scouts are further subdivided by the month and in order of appearance.

Another note is the number of each Eagle Scout. The only definitive numbered list from the National Council ends at the 25th Eagle Scout, Vernon Byus of Maryland. *Boys' Life* stopped numbering the Eagles in their publications after Byus. The number corresponding with each Eagle (for example: 30th Eagle Scout ... or 100th Eagle Scout ...) the author's estimation based on the order of appearance in the magazine. The 1912 and 1913 Eagle Scout classes are the most definitive in numbering and placement with the subsequent years thrown off by missing information and details. Newspapers or other media that number Eagle Scouts as specifically "14th," "35th," or "59th," are typically wrong since records of Eagle Scouts were not available nationwide and the organization stopped official numbers early on.

The last major problem with the *Boys' Life* list is the BSA's decision to begin their yearly operations based on the incorporation date of the organization. The yearly operation of the BSA begins and ends on February 8th. So, the 1912 Eagle Scouts range from February 8, 1912, to February 8, 1913, rather than from a simple January to December timeframe. The graphic on the next page, from *Boys' Life* in 1924, illustrates this unique historical element of the Eagle Scout classes. The author follows the historical convention of listing Eagle Scouts according to the BSA's operational year rather than by a January to December timeframe. Keen observers will notice that the graphic lists twelve Eagle Scouts from February 8, 1911, to February 8, 1912. The *Boys' Life* list is most likely based on the National Court of Honor approval, rather than local approval, of Eagle Scout applications. Arthur R. Eldred was only approved as early as March 29, 1912, well after the 1911 operational year. It is most likely an editing mistake that created an additional twelve Eagles for the 1911 operational year. Eagle Scouts simply did not exist during that timeframe based on national approval.

DEVELOPMENT YEAR BY YEAR

First Year—February 8, 1910–February 8, 1911.

Incorporated February 8, 1910, under the laws of the District of Columbia. Temporary office opened 124 East 28th St., New York City. Present National Council headquarters opened January 2, 1911. Estimated 3,000 troops registered. Badges issued 5,076. Merit awards 83, **Eagle Scouts**—none. Boy membership, unknown.

Second Year—February 8, 1911–February 8, 1912.

First Annual Meeting of National Council opened at the White House by President Taft, Washington, D. C. First Handbook released, with revised Scout Oath and Law, and organization policy. **BOYS' LIFE** purchased and copyright and trademark protection secured from Patent Office. Estimated 5,882 troops registered. Badges issued 5,693. Merit awards 1,906. **Eagle Scouts** 12. Boy membership, unknown.

Third Year—February 8, 1912–February 8, 1913.

First nationally organized service in connection with "Safe and Sane" Fourth of July Movement. Estimated number of troops 6,772. Badges issued 7,895. Merit awards 5,521. **Eagle Scouts** 23. Boy membership, unknown.

Fourth Year—February 8, 1913–February 8, 1914.

Service which brought scouting prominently before the public rendered by Washington, D. C., scouts in connection with the Suffragist Parade and the Inauguration of President Wilson and in connection with the Fiftieth Anniversary of Gettysburg. Registration plan adopted and at the end of the year 104,599 scouts and officials registered. Badges issued 88,475. Merit awards 5,521. **Eagle Scouts** 54.

	<i>Registered Scouts & Officials</i>	<i>Badges Issued</i>	<i>Merit Awards</i>	<i>Eagle Scouts</i>
Fifth Year.....	127,894	101,197	10,499	165
Sixth Year.....	181,522	146,240	11,976	96
Seventh Year.....	245,073	199,452	15,050	103
Eighth Year.....	356,609	362,024	26,728	219
Ninth Year.....	418,984	423,979	30,160	276
Tenth Year.....	475,839	428,850	72,142	468
Eleventh Year.....	484,825	507,953	65,728	629
Twelfth Year.....	513,015	610,728	110,836	1,306
Thirteenth Year.....	533,415	660,166	144,268	2,067
Fourteenth Year.....	590,501	794,448	149,858	2,117

Of the 24 officers and members of the Executive Board of the National Council during the first year, the following 14 are still active: Honorary Vice-President, William H. Taft; President, Colin H. Livingstone; Vice-President, Mortimer L. Schiff; Vice-President, Milton A. McRae; Vice-President, Benjamin L. Dulaney; National Scout Commissioner, Daniel Carter Beard; Treasurer, George D. Pratt, John Sherman Hoyt, Jeremiah W. Jenks, William D. Murray, George D. Porter, Frank Presbrey; and Chief Scout Executive, James E. West.

Graphic 1: BSA Development Year by Year.²²⁹

²²⁹ William B. Ashley, "Fourteen Years of Scouting: What Has Happened Since the First Incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910," *Boys' Life*, February 1924, 21.

1912 Eagle Class
February 8, 1912 - February 8, 1913
(23 Eagle Scouts)

- 1st Eagle Scout: Arthur Rose Eldred of Rockville Centre, New York
- 2nd Eagle Scout: Earl Marx of Jacksonville, Florida
- 3rd Eagle Scout: Roy D. Young of St. Paul, Minnesota
- 4th Eagle Scout: Jack Langthorn of West Shokan, New York
- 5th Eagle Scout: Robert Pleasants of West Shokan, New York
- 6th Eagle Scout: Scoutmaster Sydney K. Clapp of West Shokan, New York
- 7th Eagle Scout: Bertram Van Vilet of West Shokan, New York
- 8th Eagle Scout: Leon Van Vilet of West Shokan, New York
- 9th Eagle Scout: Francis R. Edwards of Jacksonville, Florida
- 10th Eagle Scout: Scoutmaster (Mr.) D. Mac O. Little of Morristown, New Jersey
- 11th Eagle Scout: Scout Commissioner J. Van Bueren Mitchell of Morristown, New Jersey
- 12th Eagle Scout: William Bennett of Cohoes, New York
- 13th Eagle Scout: Charles D. Johnson of Jacksonville, Florida
- 14th Eagle Scout: Mr. Abner H. Barker of Medford, Massachusetts
- 15th Eagle Scout: Wayne Tifft of Troy, New York
- 16th Eagle Scout: Archie Ecklund of Coatesville, Pennsylvania
- 17th Eagle Scout: Walter Ecklund of Coatesville, Pennsylvania
- 18th Eagle Scout: Ralph Woodworth of New Jersey
- 19th Eagle Scout: Fred E. Woodson of Virginia
- 20th Eagle Scout: J. Levering Early of Virginia
- 21st Eagle Scout: James A. Plummer of New Jersey
- 22nd Eagle Scout: (Probably) Charles F. Stuart of Forsyth, Georgia
- 23rd Eagle Scout: (Probably) Cullen Goolsby of Forsyth, Georgia

1913 Eagle Class
February 8, 1913 - February 8, 1914
(54 Eagle Scouts)

- 24th Eagle Scout: (Probably) Wesley W. Muma of Romeo, Michigan
- 25th Eagle Scout: Vernon Byus of Baltimore, Maryland
- 26th Eagle Scout: (Approximate) Jephtha Castleberry of Forsyth, Georgia
- 27th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Oscar Chapman of Forsyth, Georgia
- 28th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Vern J. Ketchem of Michigan
- 29th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Scoutmaster Audley J. Bliss of New Jersey
- 30th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) David M. Aby of New Jersey
- 31st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Scoutmaster Dr. Edwin F. Stewart of New York
- 32nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Dwight Seaman of (Romeo?), Michigan
- 33rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Voyle Robertson of (Romeo?), Michigan
- 34th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Scout Comm. Joseph A. Evarts of St. Albans, Vermont
- 35th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edmund M. Townsend of New Jersey
- 36th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ward Denison of (Romeo?), Michigan
- 37th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Scoutmaster Rev. Thomas B. Ironside of New Jersey
- 38th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Theodore Gaty, Jr., of Morristown, New Jersey
- 39th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Norman Newton of Brooklyn, New York
- 40th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) W. E. Merrem of Shiner, Texas
- 41st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Julian H. Salomon of Brooklyn, New York
- 42nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Sewell Dixon of Forsyth, Georgia
- 43rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William S. Mitchell of Morristown, New Jersey
- 44th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Kleinpell of Wilmette, Illinois
- 45th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Bernard Armstrong of Detroit, Michigan

September (1913)

- 45th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Bernard Armstrong of Detroit, Michigan

Boys' Life records Armstrong twice in the October and November issues, probably a mistake on their part. So, 54 Eagle Scouts from the 1913 class is still the correct number even though there are 55 entries recorded in the magazine issues.

- 46th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James P. Murphy of Broadland, South Dakota
- 47th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward Lindley Bowles of St. Louis, Missouri
- 48th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Barton L. Jenks of Rutherford, New Jersey
- 49th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harry J. Farwell of Detroit, Michigan
- 50th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frank W. Bryant of Greenfield, Indiana

See Appendix B Indiana section for an additional discussion on how some Eagle Scouts numbered themselves with the information in *Boys' Life* and BSA annual reports.

October (1913)

- 51st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) E. Knowlton of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
- 52nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Rev. H. E. Rompel of Belvidere, Illinois

- 53rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) E. R. Smiley of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 54th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Clarence Bacon of North Chelmsford, Massachusetts
 55th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Leslie V. Barger of Danville, Illinois
 56th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Rev. Gilruth Fischer of St. Paul, Minnesota
 57th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Chester Taylor of St. Paul, Minnesota

November (1913)

- 58th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert Hopkins of Buffalo, New York
 59th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Russell Steele (sometimes Steel) of Muskogee, Oklahoma
 60th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Merritt Lamb of Muskegon, Michigan
 61st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Johnson of Muskogee, Oklahoma
 62nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Rev. Joseph B. Williamson of Greenfield, Indiana
 63rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. St. Clair Mendenhall of Kansas City, Missouri

December (1913)

- 64th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Randolph Scott of Boston, Massachusetts
 65th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Dr. W. A. Oelschlagel of West Orange, New Jersey
 66th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Gilmour Fisher of St. Paul, Minnesota
 67th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. Graham Maxwell of Brooklyn, New York

January (1914)

- 68th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Willis Breyfogle of West Pullman, Illinois
 69th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. T. Shaeffer of Lockport, New York
 70th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Burdett Greene of Pryor, Oklahoma
 71st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) E. Robert Craine of Brookfield, New York
 72nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Alfred C. Kinsey of South Orange, New Jersey
 73rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Lonsdale of South Orange, New Jersey
 74th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harry Waggener of South Orange, New Jersey
 75th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lawrence Schanck of South Orange, New Jersey
 76th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) W. Somers Martin of Watkins, New York
 77th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Wilmer Hoff of Saxton, Pennsylvania

1914 Eagle Class
February 8, 1914 - February 8, 1915
(165 Eagle Scouts)

February (1914)

78th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Norris Barrymore Gaddess of Washington, D.C.
79th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Christopher D. G. Lueschen of Buffalo, New York
80th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Terry Mitchell of Richmond, Virginia
81st	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Fred Reed of Washington, D.C.
82nd	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) G. T. Smallwood of Washington, D.C.
83rd	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) James D. Eggleston of Washington, D.C.
84th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Cleon Throckmorton of Washington, D.C.
85th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Thomas B. Huestis of Buffalo, New York
86th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Harrison Wood of Rutherford, New Jersey
87th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) George Andrews of Rutherford, New Jersey
88th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Sanford Potter of Buffalo, New York

March (1914)

89th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Paul Gustav Wehle of Brooklyn, New York
90th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) E. Judson Griswold of Albany, New York
91st	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Edwin G. Foster, S.M. (SM?), of Rochester, New York
92nd	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Delmer S. Fahrney of Vinita, Oklahoma
93rd	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Merritt Harris, S.C. (Scout Comm.?), of Utica, N.Y.

April (1914)

Boys' Life, in the June 1914 issue, states "March, 1914" Eagle Scouts. This was most likely an error on part of the magazine and should instead be the April 1914 class.

94th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Franklin Harrington of Utica, New York
95th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) H. Ame Babcock, S.C. (Scout Comm.?), of Rushville, Illinois
96th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Howard K. Hogan of Parkersburg, West Virginia
97th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Franklin Van Pelt of Baltimore, Maryland
98th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Charles W. Trigg of Baltimore, Maryland
99th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Norman Huber of St. Paul, Minnesota

May (1914)

100th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Scoutmaster C. LeRoy Kinport of Minneapolis, Minnesota
101st	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Arthur Koch of Minneapolis, Minnesota
102nd	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Bruce W. Emerson of Buffalo, New York
103rd	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Kenneth H. Davis of Buffalo, New York
104th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Willis R. Buck, Jr., of Buffalo, New York
105th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Milford Tracy of Buffalo, New York
106th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Stephen H. Porter of Fayetteville, New York
107th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Carl Schmidt of Montgomery, New York
108th	Eagle Scout:	(Appx.) Frederick M. Cutler of Wenham, Massachusetts

- 109th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Richard Kimmon of Dallas, Texas
 110th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Sam W. Clark of Dallas, Texas
 111th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. E. Williams of Rochester, New York
 112th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) G. Theoren Bynum of Tulsa, Oklahoma

June (1914)

- 113th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Worthington G. Schenk of Buffalo, New York
 114th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Hobart Turner of Weston, West Virginia
 115th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frank L. Murray of Nashville, Tennessee
 116th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Maurice Keese of Baltimore, Maryland
 117th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John P. Huestis of Buffalo, New York
 118th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) A. M. Lindsay of Rochester, New York
 119th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Collins Denny, Jr., of Richmond, Virginia
 120th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Henry Lawrence of Richmond Virginia
 121st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) W. H. Brown, Jr., of Richmond Virginia
 122nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Julius K. French of Brooklyn, New York
 123rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Atwood Townsend of Brooklyn, New York
 124th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur Kohn of Brooklyn, New York
 125th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Hordon Babcock of Brooklyn, New York
 126th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George Heyen of Brooklyn, New York
 127th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Z. A. Biggs of Washington, D.C.
 128th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles S. Thurtell of Washington, D.C.
 129th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Scoutmaster Albert L. Thomas of Auburn, Alabama
 130th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Raymond Ballinger of North Chelmsword, Massachusetts

July (1914)

- 131st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Howard Brown of Rochester, New York
 132nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Hubert D. Rose of Rochester, New York
 133rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Norman E. Douthwaite of Buffalo, New York
 134th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Marion J. Steele of West, West Virginia
 135th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. Kennedy Vickers of Roland Park, Maryland
 136th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frank Carpenter of Richmond, Virginia
 137th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Evan Massey of Richmond, Virginia
 138th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) H. S. Douglas of St. Huberts, New York
 139th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Spencer Morton of Richmond, Virginia
 140th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Alva Livermore of Mercer, Pennsylvania
 141st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) E. S. Wood of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania
 142nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. S. Barksdale of Richmond, Virginia
 143rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Winguit R. Turner of Dallas, Texas

August (1914)

- 144th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Valentine Gephart of Denver, Colorado
 145th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Henry B. Bosworth of Buffalo, New York
 146th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John W. Helstern of Rochester, New York
 147th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Alex H. Holcombe, Jr., of Bala, Pennsylvania
 148th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) C. C. Fisher of Columbia, South Carolina

- 149th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) W. A. Fitzgerald of Nashville, Tennessee
 150th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Jack Dearden of Ashbourne, Pennsylvania
 151st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) T. Ashley Bissell of Buffalo, New York

September (1914)

- 152nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John Connor of Buffalo, New York
 153rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Henry Jacoby of Dallas, Texas
 154th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frank Wilson of Richmond, Virginia
 155th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Irving Williams, Jr., of Buffalo, New York
 156th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Kenneth Harries of Washington, D.C.
 157th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. Mansfield Bailey of Nashville, Tennessee
 158th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Raymond Dudley of Richmond, Virginia
 159th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Homer E. Greenfield of Richmond, Virginia
 160th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William H. McIntyre of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 161st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Issac Kershaw of Bala, Pennsylvania
 162nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Halsey Pierson of Morristown, New Jersey
 163rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) W. L. MacGowan of Warren, Pennsylvania
 164th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Henry Walker of Warren, Pennsylvania
 165th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) O. G. Williams of Warren, Pennsylvania
 166th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Roy Kenneth Smathers of Canton, North Carolina
 167th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harry Davidson of Portsmouth, Ohio
 168th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Horace Thomas of Rochester, New York
 169th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George Batterson of Rochester, New York
 170th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) F. A. Schaeffer of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 171st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Daniel Jamieson of Morristown, New Jersey
 172nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. G. Gravins of Richmond, Virginia
 173rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Howard Pimlott of Dallas, Texas
 174th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Bryan Phillips of Dallas, Texas
 175th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lawrence L. Smith of Watkins, New York
 176th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Winquit Turner of Dallas, Texas
 177th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harlan Bosworth of Buffalo, New York

October (1914)

- 178th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) A. R. Forbush of Worcester, Massachusetts
 179th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Snow of Worcester, Massachusetts
 180th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Burkhart of Warren, Pennsylvania
 181st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ralph Dudley of Richmond, Virginia
 182nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Paul Dean of Clarksville, Texas
 183rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) David Dean of Clarksville, Texas
 184th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lawrence L. Smith of Watkins, New York
 185th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) C. M. Richmond of Dallas, Texas
 186th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur Gorman of Dallas, Texas
 187th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Thomas Clark of Dallas, Texas
 188th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) C. Kenneth Scull of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 189th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Hammond Armstrong of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 190th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edwin W. Armstrong of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- 191st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Paul E. Kallenback of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 192nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) A. M. Orr of Greenville, Pennsylvania
 193rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John P. Lawton of Hinsdale, Illinois
 194th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lynn C. Palmer of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 195th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Kenneth Briggs of Rochester, New York
 196th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) E. B. Willingham of Richmond, Virginia
 197th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Sewell Wingfield of Richmond, Virginia
 198th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edwin MacCauley of Brooklyn, New York
 199th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) P. B. Collison of Brooklyn, New York
 200th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) E. Paufve of Brooklyn, New York
 201st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Martin Freeman of Brooklyn, New York
 202nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Leonard Scharf of Brooklyn, New York
 203rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Wm. LeRoy Jenkins of Brooklyn, New York
 204th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Earl Runge of Brooklyn, New York
 205th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Baum of Brooklyn, New York
 206th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John DeMott of Brooklyn, New York
 207th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Raymond Greenwood of Brooklyn, New York
 208th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Raymond John of Brooklyn, New York
 209th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Lockwood of Brooklyn, New York
 210th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Douglas Murphy of Brooklyn, New York
 211th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur Keleher of Brooklyn, New York
 212th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Wm. Hutchings of Brooklyn, New York
 213th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) D. S. Stophlet of Kansas City, Missouri
 214th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles E. Rich of Plainfield, New Jersey
 215th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Curtis Bellamy of Portsmouth, Ohio
 216th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) N. H. Benefield of Schoolfield, Virginia
 217th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John W. Estlow of Schoolfield, Virginia
 218th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Russell Williams of Portsmouth, Ohio
 219th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George S. Champaign of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania
 220th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John Rinkenbach of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 221st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harry A. Ferria of Bala, Pennsylvania
 222nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold W. Tashenberg of Buffalo, New York

November (1914)

- 223rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Wilbur H. Collier of Baltimore, Maryland
 224th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Scoutmaster William Saunders of Bala, Pennsylvania
 225th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Dart Wantland of Denver, Colorado
 226th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George Sheriff of Washington, D.C.

December (1914)

- 227th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) H. A. Ingraham of Bala, Pennsylvania

January (1915)

- 228th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Jack Rawlings of Rochester, New York
 229th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Earl Talbot of Utica, New York
 230th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. Stanley Light of Boston, Massachusetts

- 231st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Leslie Sherman of Kansas City, Missouri
 232nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Earl Staats of Emporia, Kansas

This is one of the first February-February crossover events and discrepancies in the list from the national figures. There are only 155 names listed between February 1914 and January 1915 even though official figures state there were 165 Eagle Scouts in this class. There are several examples of Eagle Scouts missing from the record in *Boys' Life*. Starting from the beginning of the 1914 Eagle class, the number associated with each Eagle Scout should be considered a rough placeholder and not an accurate representation of a numbered ordering of the Eagles. The only truly numbered Eagle Scouts were the 1st through the 25th. The subsequent order was only semi-representative of the placement of each Eagle Scout according to their appearance in *Boys' Life*. The following paragraph discusses the examples, found by the author, of Eagle Scouts missing from the 1914 class. The only definitive names and placement of Eagles in the *Boys' Life* list are from the 1912 and 1913 classes since the subsequent classes are missing Eagles and the February-February crossover complicates where each scout is placed.

In the author's home region of Middle Tennessee, four Eagle Scouts are known to have earned the award in 1914: Frank L. Murray, W. A. Fitzgerald, J. Mansfield Bailey, and Victor Hartman. The fourth Eagle, Victor Hartman, is not in the *Boys' Life* list but is referenced in council histories of the region.²³⁰ Through online research, the author encountered the name Dan Houston from Bessemer, Alabama, who supposedly became the first Eagle Scout from Alabama in 1914. Houston's name is also not on the *Boys' Life* list.²³¹ Another missing Eagle Scout is Arthur Frank Kolm, probably from a council in the Greater New York City area, who supposedly earned the award on July 16, 1914.²³² Finally, a newspaper in Ohio printed an unreadable article about Eagle Scout Imboden Hudson on February 2, 1914. Hudson is also missing from the *Boys' Life* list.²³³

With these missing Eagles and the minute details caused by the February-February crossovers, the following order of Eagle Scouts will be a rough placement according to year and month. Without direct information of when, the exact day of the month, the National Court of Honor approved the applications, the numbers for each class are inaccurate. This is in addition to any missing Eagles from the list. This appendix will not speculate on the discrepancies of numbers from the national figures and the *Boys' Life* list, since numerous variables complicate the figures starting from the 1914 Eagle class.

February (1915)

- 233rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Victor Miller of Denver, Colorado
 234th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Burnet Moses of Timpson, Texas
 235th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lawrence T. Prentice of Washington, D.C.
 236th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. Boyd Paul of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

²³⁰ Wilbur F. Creighton, Jr., and Leland R. Johnson, *Boys Will Be Men: Middle Tennessee Scouting Since 1910* (Nashville: Middle Tennessee Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1983), 24.

²³¹ Mildred Moore McCrimmon Crain, "Jonesboro United Methodist Church and Its Two Locations," *Journal of History by West Jefferson County Historical Society* XIII, no. 1 (Winter 1987): 19-42.

²³² "From Tenderfoot To Official," *Cordova Daily Times*, June 17, 1918, 5, available at Chronicling America.

²³³ "Imboden Hudson An Eagle Scout," *The Portsmouth Daily Times*, February 2, 1914, 8.

- 237th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Francis (Frank) W. Watson of Washington, D.C.
238th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward Pardoe of Washington, D.C.
239th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James Prescott of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania
240th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Daniel C. Beard of Flushing, Long Island
241st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Samuel W. Hardy of Washington, D.C.
242nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) W. Clinton Allard of Washington, D.C.
243rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward Sheiry of Washington, D.C.
244th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ralph Frank of Kansas City, Missouri
245th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Clifford Appleton of Bridgeport, Connecticut
246th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Max A. vonder Hayden of Elizabeth, New Jersey

1915 Eagle Class
February 8, 1915 - February 8, 1916
(96 Eagle Scouts)

March (1915)

- 247th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Herbert P. Page of St. Paul, Minnesota
248th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Donald Metcalf of Glenwood, Minnesota
249th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Louis Carnes of St. Paul, Minnesota
250th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Milton B. Sackett of River Edge, New Jersey

April (1915)

- 251st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John J. Super of Detroit, Michigan
252nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Cecil Pickard of Indianapolis, Indiana
253rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ernest Pickard of Indianapolis, Indiana
254th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Glenn Bertels of Indianapolis, Indiana
255th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur Richards of Mercer, Pennsylvania
256th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Corydon Jones of Minneapolis, Minnesota
257th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Wesley L. Billings of Walbridge, Ohio
258th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Byron V. Dexter of Morristown, New York
259th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John A. Baker of Buffalo, New York
260th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Leland S. Slater of Cairo, New York

May (1915)

- 261st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ralph W. Smith of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
262nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George Salak of Racine, Wisconsin
263rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Howard Griffith of Port Allegheny, Pennsylvania
264th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ralph W. Henn of Cleveland, Ohio
265th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James W. Holroyd of Jamestown, New York
266th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Herbet G. Underwood of Poughkeepsie, New York

June (1915)

- 267th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles Webb of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania
268th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. E. Knott of Boston, Massachusetts
269th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Paul E. Stevenson of Boston, Massachusetts
270th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) B. Roming of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
271st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John H. Keller of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

July (1915)

- 272nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) R. C. Sutton of Akron, Ohio
273rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Gordon T. Runcie of Camden, Indiana
274th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Norman Bull of New York City, New York
275th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Sidney Acker of Kansas City, Missouri
276th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lockwood Day of Baltimore, Maryland
277th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Richard Munson of Pekin, Illinois
278th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frank F. Fitch of Prophetstown, Illinois
279th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lowell Tatman of Portsmouth, Ohio

August (1915)

- 280th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Henry Williamson of Morristown, New Jersey
 281st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Earle W. Wright of Cortland, New York
 282nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Isaac Henry of Easton, Maryland
 283rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Graham P. Curry of Siloam Springs, Illinois
 284th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Earl Smith of Kansas City, Missouri
 285th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Roderick Osborne of Kansas City, Missouri
 286th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edgar Crosby of Kansas City, Missouri
 287th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Silas Woody of Park Ridge, Illinois
 288th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Woody of Park Ridge, Illinois
 289th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Donald Winnifred Smith of Barre, Vermont

September (1915)

Starting with the November 1915 issue of *Boys' Life*, the magazine began just listing the month for the Eagle Class rather than the month and the year. This appendix will still include the month and suspected year going forward.

- 290th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Clarence Reitter of Bridgeport, Connecticut
 291st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frank C. Wilson of Bridgeport, Connecticut
 292nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) L. O. Wetzel of Logansport, Indiana
 293rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frank Parater of Richmond, Virginia
 294th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Carl H. Reid of Lebanon, Ohio
 295th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Howard A. Gifford of New Brunswick, New Jersey
 296th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Kenneth Greene of New London, Connecticut
 297th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Tracey W. Ames of New London, Connecticut
 298th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Francis W. Fitch of Prophetstown, Illinois
 299th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Thomas Fitch of Plainfield, New Jersey
 300th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) T. E. Hubby of Waco, Texas

October (1915)

- 301st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Donald Parson of Park Ridge, Illinois
 302nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Luther Hearne of West Orange, New Jersey
 303rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Leon Mayfield of Richmond, Virginia
 304th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frank McNamer of Prophetstown, Illinois
 305th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Peter Isaksen of Woodmere, Long Island, New York
 306th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Earl D. Dryfoose of Toldeo, Ohio

November (1915)

- 307th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Rounds of New London, Connecticut
 308th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George A. Peiffer, Jr., of Glenside, Pennsylvania
 309th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert H. Gard of Washington, D.C.
 310th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Floyd Meck of Cleveland, Ohio
 311th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Raymond M. Thomas of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

December (1915)

- 312th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edwin Ramage of Emsworth, Pennsylvania
 313th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert Mitchell of Indianapolis, Indiana
 314th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Richard Stevens of Homestead, Pennsylvania
 315th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William J. Groetzinger of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 316th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edgar S. Wylie of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 317th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harry Lapp of Kansas City, Missouri
 318th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frank L. Snell of Kansas City, Missouri
 319th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Gorman Mattison of Worcester, Massachusetts
 320th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Howard Utter of Montclair, New Jersey
 321st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Richard McArdie of Norfolk, Virginia
 322nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) S. Chudleigh Hicks of Morristown, New Jersey
 323rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Raymond Hawke of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January (1916)

- 324th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John McC. Dickson of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 325th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ralph Winter of Waterbury, Connecticut
 326th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Russell Hemeon of Boston, Massachusetts
 327th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Bayard C. Fausett of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 328th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John R. Lamb of Muskegon, Michigan
 329th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. Roy Zoeller of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February (1916)

- 330th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Milton D. Lowenstein of New York City, New York
 331st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John Keppie of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
 332nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Andrew R. de Rouville of Albany, New York
 333rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Raymond Scaggs of Washington, D.C.

1916 Eagle Class
February 8, 1916 - February 8, 1917
(103 Eagle Scouts)

March (1916)

- 334th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Francis Alward of Buffalo, New York
 335th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles Daugherty of Indianapolis, Indiana
 336th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) L. Willis Bugbee of Southbridge, Massachusetts
 337th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ernest Voss of Racine, Wisconsin
 338th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Stork of St. Paul, Minnesota
 339th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) F. J. Holl of Buffalo, New York
 340th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John Beazley of La Porte, Texas
 341st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Mahion E. Lewis of Emsworth, Pennsylvania
 342nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Merritt I. Taylor of Emsworth, Pennsylvania

April (1916)

- 343rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Walter Whyatt of Middleport, New York
 344th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Max Kendell of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 345th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles Drennon of Kansas City, Missouri
 346th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Eugene Swingley of Norfolk, Virginia
 347th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edwin J. Draper of Greeley, Colorado
 348th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Philip Schaible of Albany, New York
 349th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Perham of West Paris, Maine
 350th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Bronson Cooke of Denver, Colorado
 351st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Warren Bailey of New York City, New York

May (1916)

For unknown reasons, *Boys' Life* decided to list both the month and the year for the July and August 1916 issues of the magazine but made an abrupt change in September. That change will be discussed in the September section.

- 352nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert Mowry of Ensworth, Pennsylvania
 353rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Jack Parker of Morristown, New Jersey
 354th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Clinton Kirk of Syracuse, New York
 355th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert Totten of Morristown, New Jersey
 356th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Courtlandt Parker of Morristown, New Jersey
 357th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Everett C. Myers of Cleveland, Ohio
 358th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Clark Boyd of Morristown, New Jersey

June (1916)

- 359th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Paul B. King of Buffalo, New York
 360th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward E. Parsons of Baltimore, Maryland
 361st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John B. Starkweather of Boston, Massachusetts
 362nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Hall Marmon of Indianapolis, Indiana
 363rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles Ballard of Springfield, Massachusetts

- 364th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. Brownie Wadsworth of LaPorte, Texas
 365th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Clifford M. Myers of New Haven, Connecticut
 366th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Rochert Mitchell of Indianapolis, Indiana

July (1916)

From the September of 1913 Eagle class to the July 1916 Eagle Scout class (September 1916 magazine issue), the magazine listed the month, and sometimes year, for the Eagle classes and it typically ran two months behind. For example, the January 1914 Eagles would be listed in the March 1914 issue of *Boys' Life*. Starting with the July 1916 Eagle class, the magazine dropped both the month and the year in subsequent issues. From the author's reading of the magazine, *Boys' Life* seems to continue the two-month delay all the way until January of 1918. This appendix will continue organizing the Eagles by the estimated month and year but there could potentially be some inconsistencies unknown to the author.

- 367th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Elmer F. Fry of Atlantic City, New Jersey
 368th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Percy L. Smith of Austin, Texas
 369th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Scoutmaster H. A. Miller of Austin, Texas
 370th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Rupert T. Berry of West Paris, Maine²³⁴
 371st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Assistant Scoutmaster Noel Amstead of Austin, Texas
 372nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) F. L. Murray of Nashville, Tennessee
 373rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Austin O. Long of Buffalo, New York

August (1916)

- 374th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Theodore W. Douglas of Indianapolis, Indiana
 375th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Burt Walker of Carlisle, Arkansas
 376th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Henry Roehrich of Passaic, New Jersey
 377th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Matthews of Rockaway, New Jersey
 378th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lawrence A. Vezien of Denver, Colorado
 379th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Walter N. Davis of Worcester, Massachusetts
 380th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Frederick W. Heinz of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
 381st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. L. Sawyer of Tenants Harbor, Maine

September (1916)

- 382nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Daniel MacMorris of Hazleton, Pennsylvania
 383rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Dunworth of Miami, Florida
 384th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Walter H. Combs of Miami, Florida
 385th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ralph P. Yaw of Hartford, Connecticut
 386th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Walter Johnson of Hartford, Connecticut
 387th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur C. Booth of Waterbury, Connecticut
 388th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Jay Buechley of Carlisle, Arkansas
 389th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Benjamin Schlein of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

²³⁴ In the *Boys' Life* edition for September of 1916, the magazine spells Berry's name as "R. L. Berry." During the author's investigation of local newspapers for Maine, Berry's name was often spelled as Rupert T. Berry. The author has changed the spelling to include the first name and correct the probable misspelling of the middle initial. The author has done this for several of the names of the list.

- 390th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Julian Davis of LaPorte, Texas
 391st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Sidney Redman of LaPorte, Texas
 392nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Reuben A. Wright of LaPorte, Texas
 393rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Albert S. Redway of Lowell, Massachusetts
 394th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward J. McGrew of Lexington, Missouri

October (1916)

- 395th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edwin F. Harper of Waterbury, Connecticut
 396th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Alfred I. Merritt of Hartford, Connecticut
 397th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Donald F. Lanc of Hartford, Connecticut
 398th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Allen Wilcox of Bloomfield, New Jersey
 399th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Morton Simpson of LaPorte, Texas
 400th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charlie Riggs of LaPorte, Texas
 401st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George W. Good of Winchester, Virginia
 402nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. G. Rogers of Winnetka, Illinois
 403rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John von Hofe of Jamaica, Long Island, New York
 404th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John D. Anderson of Nashville, Tennessee
 405th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Donald Hurlburt of Waterbury, Connecticut

November (1916)

- 406th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ross Wheat of Winchester, Virginia
 407th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) B. B. Wilson of Washington, D.C.
 408th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert Drake of Chicago, Illinois
 409th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James Edward Mellen of Cambridge, Massachusetts
 410th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Burnett N. Ackenbausen of Kansas City, Missouri
 411th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Wendell D. Mansfield of New Haven, Connecticut
 412th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Randolph DeFosse of Worcester, Massachusetts
 413th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Scoutmaster Arthur Myer of Bakersfield, California
 414th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. D. Dillingham of Austin, Texas
 415th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Otto R. Sielaff of Detroit, Michigan

December (1916)

- 416th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) S. Cleage Field of Knoxville, Tennessee
 417th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Donald Lindley of Chrisman, Illinois
 418th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward Thimme of Paterson, New Jersey
 419th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William H. Backus of Hackensack, New Jersey
 420th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Alatau (sometimes Alatan) T. Wilder of Honolulu, Hawaii
 421st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Samuel Schultz of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 422nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Wilfred R. Price of Rochester, New York
 423rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Morrison Coryell of Rochester, New York
 424th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Jerome Atkinson of Bayside, Long Island, New York
 425th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert Monro of New Haven, Connecticut
 426th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Walter Scott of Chrisman, Illinois
 427th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Wallace Green, Jr. of Hackensack, New Jersey

January (1917)

- 428th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Myron Owen of Denver, Colorado
- 429th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harvey Cook of Highland Park, New Jersey
- 430th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Stuart Dodd of Montclair, New Jersey
- 431st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Walter L. McNemar of Chrisman, Illinois
- 432nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Owen H. Whitney of Denver, Colorado
- 433rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Russell Wilkinson of Memphis, Tennessee
- 434th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Richard Victor, Jr., of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
- 435th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Everett E. Warner of Chrisman, Illinois
- 436th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James R. Warner of Chrisman, Illinois
- 437th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harry Lindeman of East Orange, New Jersey
- 438th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Carl Law of Chrisman, Illinois
- 439th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Keifer Vest of Chrisman, Illinois
- 440th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Michael Klein of Austin, Texas
- 441st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harry Storm of Chrisman, Illinois
- 442nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Hulbert McCaulley of Chrisman, Illinois
- 443rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Floyd W. Damp of Albany, New York
- 444th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward D. Mitchell of Memphis, Tennessee
- 445th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Willie Chumney of Austin, Texas

1917 Eagle Class
 February 8, 1917 - February 8, 1918
 (Really February 8, 1917 – October of 1917)
 (219 Eagle Scouts)

February (1917)

- 446th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward F. Moore of Detroit, Michigan
- 447th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Gummere of Pataskala, Ohio
- 448th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Floyd Berard of Pataskala, Ohio
- 449th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) S. Marshall Baker of Winchester, Virginia
- 450th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Floyd Leverett of Llano, Texas
- 451st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Karl W. Youtz of Chrisman, Illinois
- 452nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Marion Pouts of Chrisman, Illinois
- 453rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) J. Carl Earhart of Chrisman, Illinois
- 454th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Alva Fouts of Chrisman, Illinois
- 455th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Walker of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 456th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Stanley S. McKee of Chrisman, Illinois
- 457th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur C. Neeley of Honolulu, Hawaii
- 458th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Bray of Syracuse, New York
- 459th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George L. Wissig of Baltimore, Maryland
- 460th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ramon Scott of Chrisman, Illinois
- 461st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Paul L. Scott of Chrisman, Illinois
- 462nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Kenneth Eifert of Lancaster, Ohio
- 463rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) E. W. Hall of Catskill, New York

March (1917)

- 464th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lucian Hamm of Denver, Colorado
- 465th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) C. Milton Heistand of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania
- 466th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Russell Baltis of Kansas City, Missouri
- 467th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Bert Longacre of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 468th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Sterner P. Meek of Chicago, Illinois
- 469th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur Doll of Portsmouth, Ohio
- 470th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Julian H. Steward of Washington, D.C.
- 471st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George Geisel of Albany, New York
- 472nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Sheldon Stainton of Buffalo, New York
- 473rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James J. Gallo of Jersey City, New Jersey
- 474th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Fritz Taylor of Indianapolis, Indiana

April (1917)

- 475th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Donald M. Lockett of Chicago, Illinois
- 476th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) S. Hobart Lockett of Chicago, Illinois
- 477th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John Nolen, Jr., of Boston, Massachusetts
- 478th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ralph Stewart of Denver, Colorado
- 479th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward P. Kerr of Bellevue, Pennsylvania
- 480th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Alfred Holmes of Hoboken, New Jersey
- 481st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Louis Leyerzapf of New Haven, Connecticut

- 482nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) W. W. Blakely of Shelbyville, Indiana
 483rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Erwin Thomas of Richmond, Virginia
 484th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John Muenchow of Chicago, Illinois
 485th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Francis V. W. Mason of Chicago, Illinois
 486th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Nilson Rutherford of Chicago, Illinois
 487th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Staley Archibald of Chicago, Illinois
 488th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) G. Ludwig King of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 489th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Elliott Jones of Knoxville, Tennessee
 490th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Hershel Horner of Bloomdale, Ohio
 491st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Clarence Huff of Richmond, Virginia

May (1917)

- 492nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Carl Motensen of Honolulu, Hawaii
 493rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Kenneth Weidler of Jacksonville, Florida
 494th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) M. L. Mattern of Richmond, Virginia
 495th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edwin Schempp of Broadhead, Wisconsin
 496th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Herbert Boyce of Rochester, New York
 497th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Floyd M. Gish of Camden, Indiana
 498th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) LeRoy Pritchard of Ithaca, New York
 499th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) George Geisel of Albany, New York
 500th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) A. W. Kierulff of Paterson, New Jersey
 501st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Raymond F. Overholz of Chicago, Illinois
 502nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Graham Lacy of Winchester, Virginia
 503rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Albert Klien of Lockport, New York
 504th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) P. F. Barrows of Lockport, New York
 505th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John W. Cooper of Davenport, Iowa
 506th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert P. Stock of Albany, New York
 507th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) True Brown of Boston, Massachusetts
 508th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) W. B. King of Buffalo, New York

June (1917)

- 509th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lester W. Haddon of Ridgewood, New Jersey
 510th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edwards Brower, Jr., of Ridgewood, New Jersey
 511th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Phelps Yocum of Scranton, Pennsylvania
 512th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Richard Helman of Kansas City, Missouri
 513th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Grafton Smith of Kansas City, Missouri
 514th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Richard Cutting of Bradford, Pennsylvania
 515th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Clifford Pinkham of Boston, Massachusetts
 516th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) G. Barrett Rich of Buffalo, New York
 517th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Thomas Morony of Valparaiso, Indiana
 518th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) S. Mayer Feldenheimer of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 519th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Eugene Davis of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 520th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert L. Macconel of Honolulu, Hawaii
 521st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John James Wear of Buffalo, New York
 522nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert Loomis of East Hartford, Connecticut
 523rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ernest Gray of Honolulu, Hawaii

- 524th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Maurice Hesse of Madison, Wisconsin
 525th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Paul P. Coggins of Boston, Massachusetts
 526th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Walla Bunnell of Scranton, Pennsylvania
 527th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward W. Eames of Buffalo, New York
 528th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James D. Ewing of Yonkers, New York
 529th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Eddie N. Slyva of Honolulu, Hawaii

July (1917)

- 530th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William E. Dake of Rochester, New York
 531st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lewis Kayton of San Antonio, Texas
 532nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John Patek of Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 533rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Jim Geilfuss of Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 534th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Joseph Ogden of Fall River, Massachusetts²³⁵
 535th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Vance Smith of Indianapolis, Indiana
 536th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Noble C. Butler of Indianapolis, Indiana
 537th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Herbet E. Coyer of North Tonawanda, New York
 538th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Cosh of Vineland, New Jersey
 539th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur C. Gulliver of Waterbury, Connecticut
 540th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Warren Gilbert of Detroit, Michigan
 541st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edwin F. Storey of Detroit, Michigan
 542nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert Miller of Chicago, Illinois
 543rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Robert Leath of Denver, Colorado
 544th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harry Williams of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 545th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Paul W. Knauf of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 546th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William G. Hunsicker, Jr., of Albany, New York
 547th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ernest R. Humphrey of Albany, New York
 548th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edson Severn of Olean, New York
 549th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Machinson Ellis of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania
 550th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward Pittock of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania
 551st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Joseph Voita of Chicago, Illinois
 552nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Royal Vander Hoef of New Brunswick, New Jersey
 553rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Walter Wood of Denver, Colorado
 554th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Hilan B. Hecox of Denver, Colorado
 555th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James Bardwell of Denver, Colorado
 556th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Roy Hecox of Denver, Colorado
 557th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Rodney Bardwell of Denver, Colorado
 558th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Harold Berger of Chicago, Illinois
 559th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Signard Manusen of Chicago, Illinois
 560th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Stafford Potter of Denver Colorado

²³⁵ While reviewing some local-level resources available through digital platforms, the author found an obituary entry for this Eagle Scout who died in 1918; about one year after earning the award in 1917: “He died June 3, 1918, at Washington, D.C., of lobar pneumonia and was buried at Somerset.” Primary Source: “Souvenir Program of the Welcome Home Day to the World War Veterans of the Town of Somerset, Mass.,” *Lawlor Press*, August 28, 1919, <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/server/api/core/bitstreams/43276f3d-d1ad-4a08-ae9d-f38494ff41e5/content>.

August (1917)

- 561st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Neil C. Hartley of Denver, Colorado
 562nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Chester Tirrell of Worcester, Massachusetts
 563rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) W. J. Von Behren of West Palm Beach, Florida
 564th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Barnett D. Warren of Newark, New Jersey
 565th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Emery Brooks of Salem, Ohio
 566th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Dunne W. Kirby of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 567th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Clayton Mack of Bakersfield, California
 568th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Roy Gilbert of Bakersfield, California
 569th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles Kauffman of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 570th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Bob Mathews of Denver, Colorado
 571st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Jack H. Kerans of Washington, D.C.
 572nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur Payne of Flushing, Long Island
 573rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James Sutton of Memphis, Tennessee
 574th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Walter Bernstein of Jacksonville, Florida

September (1917)

- 575th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Leo de Roo of Honolulu, Hawaii
 576th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Cassius W. Freeman of Hartford, Connecticut
 577th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Sidney R. Thorsen of Madison, Wisconsin
 578th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Ralph Swicker of Madison, Wisconsin
 579th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Nathaniel Bowie, Jr., of Rochester, New York
 580th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William C. Parker of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 581st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Edward Evans of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 582nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Alfred Norman Harris of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 583rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Kirkman of Paterson, New Jersey
 584th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles Walker of Hartford, Connecticut
 585th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Leroy Cooke of Paterson, New Jersey
 586th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William Burnham of Hartford, Connecticut
 587th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Philip Nelson of Buffalo, New York

October (1917)

- 588th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Jefferson Bordon of Fall River, Massachusetts
 589th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles Fish of Fall River, Massachusetts
 590th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) William M. Simmons of East Orange, New Jersey
 591st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Charles Schoke of Chicago, Illinois
 592nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James Clough of Lowell, Massachusetts
 593rd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Terence O. Clark of Kansas City, Missouri
 594th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) James Gillen of New York City, New York
 595th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Maryle J. Edwards of Siloam Springs, Arkansas
 596th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) L. D. Van Antwerp of Rockford, Illinois
 597th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Joseph Greenbaum of New York City, New York
 598th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Wayne Dancer of Toledo, Ohio
 599th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) John E. Boice of Toledo, Ohio
 600th Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Seldon Spencer Nye of San Antonio, Texas
 601st Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Lawrence Munro of Somerset, Massachusetts

602nd Eagle Scout: (Appx.) Arthur Harrington of Somerset, Massachusetts

After the December 1917 issue of *Boys' Life*, the magazine stopped publishing the names of Eagle Scouts in a specific list and only occasionally provided the number of Eagles for specific months.

November (1917)

“Our total membership on December 7 was 283,378 boys representing 13,237 different troops. Of these, 4,600 are in communities of less than 2,500 inhabitants. During the month of November 30,061 various badges were awarded as compared with 15,845 during November of 1916. 2,186 Merit Badges were awarded, 25 boys qualified as Eagle Scouts, 44 secured Life Scout Badges and 39 Star Scout Badges. Up to December 1, 24,694 Merit Badges were issued as compared with 18,396 for the year 1916.”²³⁶

Summary of the Data

The removal of Eagle Scout names from *Boys' Life* probably stems from the introduction of the United States in the First World War and the BSA retailoring the magazine for more wartime coverage and articles. Due to change, the magazine removed certain sections which probably included Eagle Scouts. Additionally, more youth were becoming Eagles from year to year. This necessitated more space in *Boys' Life* but with wartime resource demands diminishing a readily available supply of paper, it was easy to remove lengthy name lists in favor of other, more concise stories to conserve on paper.

Even the National Council was inconsistent with the official number of Eagles from year to year, as evidenced from figures cited in *Boys' Life* in February of 1918: “Scouting activities during the year 1917 set a new high-water mark in the history of Scouting. 27,041 merit badges were issues as compared with 19,047 in 1916. Two hundred and nineteen boys qualified as Eagle Scouts compared with 99 in the year before.”²³⁷ The 99 Eagles probably refers to 1916 which has an official number of 103 Eagles.

These numbers tell the story of human error and how official numbers do not necessarily reflect, or remain consistent across, the historical moment of the BSA and Eagle Scouts in the 1910s. *Boys' Life* is the best available list of Eagle Scouts for identifying people, not numbers. The 1912 and 1913 Eagle classes are the most consistent to their official numbers. Starting in 1914, the *Boys' Life* list starts to deviate and miss certain Eagle Scouts, which can be attributed to a general standard of human error and judgement. Back in the day, numbers were compiled by people, not computers. How Eagle Scouts were counted and listed differed depending on the person or team overseeing the project. This is why Chapter Two, where this appendix is most important to, deals with people and not numbers. The story and significance of Eagle Scouts lays within the individual and their contributions rather than the number of Eagles per year.

²³⁶ “Official News: what every Scout wants to know: Interesting Records,” *Boys' Life*, January 1918, 41-42.

²³⁷ “Scouting Activities,” *Boys' Life*, February 1918, 37.

Appendix B

A Historical Study into the First Eagle Scouts from Each State

This appendix describes the author's research into the first Eagle Scout from each state according to the *Boys' Life* list, the *Chronicling America* newspaper resource, and the Newspapers.com database. Due to the time constraints and the large scale of research needed for this appendix, the author chose to limit his search through two major databases of historical newspapers that provide decent coverage across the entire United States. In some cases where both databases lack coverage for a particular state, the author performed a more detailed search of digital resources available at the time of the thesis. This appendix and historical information should be considered just a starting point for the history of the first Eagle Scout from each state. The author's method throws a broad net and lacks a detailed investigation into the numerous newspapers and resources available in each individual state and territory. This appendix is organized alphabetically by state and then by miscellaneous regions.

A significant detail that needs to be addressed is how the author has defined the "first Eagle Scout in each state." If local newspapers align with the *Boys' Life* list, then the name of the Eagle Scout is explicitly stated in the paragraph and then a description of the available resources is discussed. The author has tried to present the first Eagle Scouts that have completed the requirements for the award within the boundaries of their state. Several issues of migration appear in this appendix, notably from Virginia and Wyoming, which affect the history of each state. In Wyoming, a Chicago Eagle Scout moved to the state and was the only one present. Thus, he technically became the "first Eagle Scout" in Wyoming. In Virginia, a scout from Oklahoma completed most of the requirements in Oklahoma, moved to Virginia for some time and became an Eagle Scout before moving back out west. In these instances, the appendix provides information pertaining to the various claims or situations regarding the first Eagle Scout in each state. In the event that a state is not covered by the *Boys' Life* list, this appendix presents the claims for the first Eagle Scout in each state but does not make a definitive conclusion of the first Eagle due to the limited depth of research. There are many perceptions about *who* should be the first Eagle Scout according to personal opinion. In reality, there were multiple ways to become the first Eagle Scout in any given state. These unique histories help to demonstrate the complex and diverse narratives in the early history of Eagle Scouts.

While this appendix primarily covers national- and state-level histories of Eagle Scouts, the theme can be extended to various regions, towns, counties, and other geographical boundaries. In some cases, areas and communities could have taken years or decades before producing their first Eagle Scouts which would have been affected by several factors including population density, local interest, communal resources, etc. Many local-level troops from the 1910s to the 1940s focused on activities and progression up to the First-Class Rank rather than an advancement-oriented attitude and program which would ultimately lead to individuals becoming Eagle Scouts. Of course, these common practices related to activities and advancement in the BSA changed over time to the point where tens of thousands of individuals become Eagle Scouts each year. Also, many original *firsts* are created through new units forming, councils or

districts merging or dividing, distinct genders entering into the programs, and so many other narratives that cannot be covered in a short appendix.²³⁸

Alabama

As discussed in Appendix A, there are several competing claims for the first Eagle Scout in Alabama and the narrative is complicated as Eagle Scout consistently emerged in the state in 1918, right after the *Boys' Life* list ended in 1917. *Boys' Life* only recorded one Eagle Scout from Alabama in the June 1914 class, Scoutmaster Albert L. Thomas of Auburn. In an online secondary source, Dan Houston of Bessemer, Alabama, reportedly became an Eagle Scout sometime in 1914 and the first in the state.²³⁹ Houston was not recorded on the *Boys' Life* list. Digital newspapers from *Chronicling America* and *Newspapers.com* did not provide any information for either Thomas or Houston. The earliest Eagle Scouts in the digital newspapers appear in 1918 with some individuals claiming to be the first Eagle in Alabama, but there were not enough primary sources to comprehensively understand the history.²⁴⁰ Thomas and Houston are the most likely candidates for the first Eagle Scout in Alabama, but the history requires additional research at the state and local levels to identify more information and sources.

Alaska

Eagle Scouts and Alaska have a rather extensive history beginning in the 1920s that involves migration, cross-state interactions, and efforts by locals to earn the award. The first Eagle Scout in Alaska is extremely subjective as the Eagles, that operated and earned the award in the state, can be divided into two major groups: (1) migratory Eagle Scouts that came to the region and participated in Scouting activities; and (2) locals that became Eagle Scouts by doing most of the requirements while living in the state. For migration and cross-state interactions, the first group of Eagle Scouts began operating in Alaska around 1922 as professional scouters and Eagle Scout George McCauley from Seattle assisted in establishing Scouting in the southeast region of the state. Eagle Scout McCauley was especially active in training and assisting troops in Alaska with activities and camp selection.²⁴¹ Later in the early 1930s, other Eagle Scouts from

²³⁸ The primary sources in these footnotes are organized by date rather than alphabetically. Since this appendix focuses on the earliest Eagle Scouts in each state and when the state consistently produced Eagle Scouts, the author thinks a time-based organization better presents this dynamic of the appendix.

²³⁹ Alabama, Dan Houston: Mildred Moore McCrimmon Crain, "Jonesboro United Methodist Church and Its Two Locations," *Journal of History by West Jefferson County Historical Society* XIII, no 1 (Winter 1987): 19-42.

²⁴⁰ Alabama, first appearance: "Week's News Of The Boy Scout Troops Of Birmingham," *The Birmingham Age-Herald*, September 8, 1918, 8; "News Of The Week Among Birmingham Boy Scouts," *The Birmingham Age-Herald*, December 15, 1918, 16; "News Of The Week Among Boy Scouts Of Birmingham," *The Birmingham Age-Herald*, December 29, 1918, 8; "Week's News Among The Boy Scouts Of Birmingham," *The Birmingham Age-Herald*, March 2, 1919, 36; "Week's News Of The Boy Scouts Of Birmingham," *The Birmingham Age-Herald*, March 9, 1919, 45; "News Of The Boy Scouts," *The Birmingham Age-Herald*, March 23, 1919, 7; Chas. Gross, "A History Of Troop 16," *The Birmingham News*, June 15, 1919, 52; and "Troop 15 Elects Scout Officers," *The Birmingham Age-Herald*, September 28, 1919, 5.

²⁴¹ Alaska, migration and cross-state interactions: "Scout Work Is Started; Troop Meets Tonight. Schurman Meets Douglas and Juneau Troops—To Have Camp Near Town," *The Alaska Daily Empire*, May 23, 1922, 8; "Scout Executive Talks On Troop Administration. Schurman Outlines Patrol Systems — Business Men Learn First Lessons," *The Alaska Daily Empire*, May 25, 1922, 8; and "Schurman Spends Day At Auk Lake; Scout Leaders For Douglas," *The Alaska Daily Empire*, May 27, 1922, 7.

the continental U.S. migrated to Alaska and helped to lead local troops.²⁴² The first locals to become Eagle Scouts is not entirely obvious from available digital newspapers, but there was a clear narrative that Alaskans began consistently earning the award in the 1930s. Three individuals from Cordova, Alaska, Dick Downing, John DeLeo, and John Foode, reportedly became Eagle Scouts in April of 1932.²⁴³ From Ketchikan in May of 1933, a newspaper proclaimed Baird Lervick as the first Eagle Scout in Alaska.²⁴⁴ J. A. Paradis became an Eagle Scout around June of 1939 and newspapers stated he was the first Eagle in the state.²⁴⁵ In a similar way to Wyoming and Virginia, the first Eagle Scout in Alaska is subjective based on several factors but locals began consistently earning the award in the 1930s.²⁴⁶

Arizona

Even after researching through Chronicling America, Newspapers.com, and the Arizona Memory Project, the author was unable to identify even a candidate for the first Eagle Scout in Arizona. The newspapers did provide a general timeline for the emergence of Eagle Scouts in the state. The *Arizona Daily Star*, a newspaper from Tucson, Arizona, on January 25, 1921, reported that “the ‘Y’ [Y.M.C.A.] has the only Eagle Scout, who has succeeded in passing the merit test to attain that degree, to be found in the city, it is believed.”²⁴⁷ The author was unable to find the name of the Eagle Scout from the digital newspapers but it is probable that they earned the award sometime between late 1917 and January of 1921. Beginning in the second half of 1921 and

²⁴² Alaska, migration: “Boy Scouts On Hike Out Highway,” *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, May 13, 1932, 6; “Scouts Hold Examinations Last Night. Meeting Dismissed Early By Scoutmaster So Membes Can Attend Pal Night At Empress Theatre,” *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, April 26, 1933, 8; and “Scoutmaster Leaves Friday For States. Harold Bennett, Member Of Second Polar Year Expedition, Has Been Active In Troop Work,” *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, October 25, 1933, 4.

²⁴³ Alaska, Cordova: “[Untitled Boy Scout Article],” *Weekly Herald*, April 17, 1932, 1.

²⁴⁴ Alaska, Ketchikan: “All-Alaska News,” *The Daily Alaska Empire*, May 22, 1933, 7.

²⁴⁵ Alaska, J. A. Paradis: “Eagle Scout Rank Won By J. A. Paradis. 24 Awards Made at Board of Review—Hoch Now Star Scout,” *The Daily Alaska Empire*, June 21, 1939, 8; and “Scouter’s Key Is Awarded To J.A. Paradis, Jr. Highest Honor for Scout Leader Is Extended to Juneau Man,” *The Daily Alaska Empire*, June 24, 1939, 7.

²⁴⁶ One last major narrative of Eagle Scout history from Alaska in the 1920s and 1930s was the visits of Robert D. Douglas, Jr., to Alaska to hunt a brown bear, go whaling, and study volcanos. Please see Chapter Three of this thesis for a more thorough discussion of Douglas’s history in Africa. Douglas primary sources: “Eagle Scout Is Coming To Alaska Brown Bear Hunt. Leaves Seattle May 15 On Admiral Evans For Kodiak,” *Seward Daily Gateway*, May 8, 1929, 2; “Dick Douglas Coming North Aboard Evans. Eagle Scout Sails from Seattle Today — Be Greeted in Juneau,” *The Daily Alaska Empire*, May 15, 1929, 1; “Boy Scout Adventurer Is En Route To Alaska To Hunt Kodiak Bear,” *The Wrangell Sentinel*, May 16, 1929, 3; “Noted Boy Scout Enroute To Seward On Admiral Evans,” *Seward Daily Gateway*, May 17, 1929, 3; “Famous Scout Juneau Guest For Tomorrow. Dick Douglas to Visit Here Tomorrow Enroute to Kodiak for Hunt,” *The Daily Alaska Empire*, May 18, 1929, 3; “Douglas Finds Alaska To Be To His Liking. Noted Eagle Scout Charmed with Trip to North—Visits Here Sunday,” *The Daily Alaska Empire*, May 20, 1929, 8; “Eyes Of Scouts Upon Kodiak For Next Few Weeks. Dick Douglas, The American Eagle Scout, Westward On Admiral Evans,” *Seward Daily Gateway*, May 21, 1929, 2; and “Famous Writer And Explorer To Address Scouts. Dick Douglas, Companion of Martin Johnson to Be Guest of O. D. Council,” *Suffolk News-Herald*, August 24, 1938, 8. Douglas secondary sources: Bryan Wendell, “Dick Douglas, the longest-serving Eagle Scout in history, dies at 103,” *Aaron on Scouting* (formerly *Bryan on Scouting*), December 28, 2015,

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/12/28/dick-douglas-the-longest-serving-eagle-scout-in-history-dies-at-103/>; “Obituary: Robert D. Douglas Jr,” *Dignity Memorial*, circa December 2015,

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/greensboro-nc/robert-douglas-6729508>; and Robert D. McFadden, “Robert D. Douglas Jr., Eagle Scout Elder, Dies at 103,” *The New York Times*, December 26, 2015.

²⁴⁷ Arizona, Tucson: “Boy Scout Troop For Y.M.C.A. Is Planned,” *Arizona Daily Star*, January 25, 1921, 6.

ramping up throughout 1922, anticipation grew for local scouts to become Eagle Scouts and even a cash prize was posted for the first to do so in Cochise county.²⁴⁸ In December of 1922, a newspaper reported that a scout from Nogales, Arizona, earned enough merit badges to qualify as an Eagle Scout and was one of the first to do so in the Catalina council.²⁴⁹ The author did not find any newspapers for 1923 related to Eagle Scouts. More Eagles emerged in the state in the second half of 1924.²⁵⁰ With an uptick of newspapers covering Arizona Eagle Scouts in 1925, it seems the state began consistently producing Eagles by this year.²⁵¹ The author did not find any information regarding the first Eagle Scout in Arizona but the primary sources indicate that a potential timeframe of late 1917 to January of 1921 as the most likely time for the first Eagle in the state.

Arkansas

Arkansas has a couple of competing claims for the first Eagle Scout in the states and the primary sources from Chronicling America, Newspapers.com, and *Boys' Life* each support different candidates. The earliest Arkansas Eagle Scouts from the *Boys' Life* list are Burt Walker and Jay Buechley from Carlisle in 1916. Walker was recorded in the August 1916 class with Buechley following a month later. The author did not find any digital newspapers that covered Walker or Buechley's achievement. In Jonesboro, in the months of September and October of 1920, William Haltom and George Metzler became Eagle Scouts with the newspapers proclaiming these two individuals as the first in the state. Haltom earned the award first and subsequent newspapers reiterated his claim as the first Eagle Scout in Arkansas throughout 1920 and 1921.²⁵² Haltom even received a silver loving cup from a local scout executive for supposedly becoming the first Eagle Scout in Arkansas.²⁵³ After this point and especially in 1921, Arkansas scouts consistently became Eagle Scouts which just leaves the conflicting claims

²⁴⁸ Arizona, anticipation: "Boy Scout News," *Tucson Citizen*, August 14, 1921, 18; "Boy Scout News," *Bisbee Daily News*, July 30, 1922, 4; "Boy Scout News," *Bisbee Daily Review*, August 13, 1922, 3; "Offers \$20 Prize to Scout Making Eagle Rank First," *Bisbee Daily Review*, August 18, 1922, 6; and "Boy Scout News," *Bisbee Daily Review*, August 20, 1922, 3.

²⁴⁹ Arizona, Nogales: "Scout Badges Ordered," *Tucson Citizen*, December 12, 1922, 4.

²⁵⁰ Arizona, emergence: "Local Scouts Leave Monday For Mogollon," *The Winslow Mail*, June 6, 1924, 1; "Five Winslow Eagle Scouts The Only Ones In District," *The Winslow Mail*, October 10, 1924, 1; and "Six Winslow Lads Have Won Eagle Badges In Boy Scouts," *The Winslow Mail*, October 17, 1924, 1.

²⁵¹ Arizona, consistency: "Boy Scouts and Citizenship," *The Winslow Mail*, February 13, 1925, 2; "Ajo Troop Of Boy Scouts Receive High Honor. Lawrence Ball And Charles Denison Of Ajo Surprised When State-Wide Court Of Honor At Tucson Grants Them Life Scout Rank—Only Five Receive Awards In Arizona, And Ajo Boys Get Two Out Of The Five Places," *Ajo Copper News*, February 14, 1925, 1; "News Of The Boy Scouts," *The Coconino Sun*, March 6, 1926, 6; "Boy Scouts," *The Coconino Sun*, March 27, 1925, 7; "New Cornelia Co. To Give Boy Scouts Big Copper Plaque," *Ajo Copper News*, April 11, 1925, 1; "Boy Scout Notes," *Ajo Copper News*, April 18, 1925, 1; "Boy Scout Notes," *Ajo Copper News*, April 25, 1925, 8; "Winslow Boy Scout Saves Life Of Little Girl At Dam," *The Winslow Mail*, June 9, 1925, 1; "Pima County," *The Arizona Teacher and Home Journal* 15, no. 2 (October 1925): 1-40; and "Boy Scout Notes," *Ajo Copper News*, November 28, 1925, 1.

²⁵² Arkansas, Jonesboro: "Local Scout Applies For Rank Of Eagle Scout," *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, September 8, 1920, 1; "High Honor In Scout Craft Won By Willie Haltom," *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, September 8, 1920, 1; "George Metzler Made An Eagle Scout," *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, October 16, 1920, 1; "Boy Scout Wins a Fire Prevention Essay Prize," *The Arkansas Gazette*, January 25, 1921, 9; and "Civic Clubs Hear Scout Work Plan," *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, May 17, 1921, 1.

²⁵³ Arkansas, cup: "Eagle Scout Receives Silver Loving Cup," *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, October 20, 1920, 1.

between Walker and Haltom.²⁵⁴ It could be that Haltom became an Eagle Scout after the local council was formed and received credit for the wrong position. Walker and other pre-1920 Eagle Scouts could have been overlooked and forgotten as states span a massive geographic area so spreading knowledge and information could have been limited and lost with time. Walker is the most likely candidate to be the first Eagle Scout in the state, but this thesis does not have enough information to fully support that claim.

California

For the first Eagle Scout in California, the digital resources from Chronicling America and Newspapers.com only provided indications for a candidate but a website dedicated to California Scouting history claimed Arthur Myer, from Bakersfield, as the first Eagle in the state. According to *Boys' Life*, Myer is the first Eagle Scout record from California in the November 1916 class. The author could not find any other Eagles from the state in digital newspapers between 1912 and 1916. The author also did not find a dedicated newspaper article covering Myer's accomplishment, but several sources in 1917 reiterate that Myer was an Eagle Scout.²⁵⁵ The next set of Eagle Scouts in the state, also from Bakersfield, were Calyton Mack and Roy Gilbert with Myer being referenced as the only other Eagle in the town.²⁵⁶ A short biography of Myer was published online with additional information from Myer's family and acquaintance and this article credits Myer as the first Eagle Scout in the state.²⁵⁷ California did not start consistently producing Eagle Scouts until 1918 and beyond so there is a high likelihood that Myer is the best candidate for the position of Eagle Scout in the state.²⁵⁸

Colorado

Chronicling America and Newspapers.com did not have any significant digital newspapers for the first Eagle Scout in Colorado, but local digital resources provided some clues

²⁵⁴ Arkansas, consistency: "Chas. Frierson, Jr., Has Won The Rank Of Eagle Scout," *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, January 8, 1921, 4; "Report Of Scout Court Of Honor," *Jonesboro Evening Sun*, July 18, 1921, 2; "Boy Scout Column," *Jonesboro Daily Tribune*, August 11, 1921, 2; "Richard Barnett Now Eagle Scout; Is First In City. Scout of Troop One First in City to Get Highest Honor Obtainable," *Pine Bluff Daily Graphic*, September 7, 1921, 1; "Pine Bluff Boy Is Eagle Scout," *Arkansas Democrat*, September 8, 1921, 3; and "Boy Scouts To Receive Honors," *Arkansas Democrat*, October 10, 1921, 4.

²⁵⁵ California, Myer: "Fishing, Swimming and Games Order of Day—Tan and Appetites Are Results," *Oakland Tribune*, June 10, 1917, 35; and "Boy Scouts Off To Hills Today," *Bakersfield Morning Echo*, August 5, 1917, 6.

²⁵⁶ California, Mack and Gilbert: "Bakersfield Troop Has 3 Eagle Scouts," *Bakersfield Morning Echo*, August 25, 1917, 5.

²⁵⁷ "California's First Eagle Scout," *San Francisco Bay Area Council History*, https://www.sfbac-history.org/Misc_FirstEagle.html#:~:text=Arthur%20earned%20the%20highest%20rank,a%20Scout%20could%20earn%20Eagle.

²⁵⁸ California, consistency: "Judge Will Address Boy Scouts Rally," *San Francisco Bulletin*, November 22, 1918, 11; "Boy Scout Host To Parade Tomorrow. Walter Westcott, Only Los Angeles Eagle Scout, Who Will Sound The Bugle Call That Will Launch Big Parade Tomorrow Afternoon Marking High Point In Local Drive To Secure Associate Members," *Los Angeles Evening Express*, June 11, 1919, 10; "Laid At Rest By Comrades," *Petaluma Argus-Courier*, July 9, 1919, 5; "Boy Scout Notes," *The San Diego Sun*, December 20, 1919, 19; "Boy Scout Given High Honor At Banquet Tuesday," *Petaluma Argus-Courier*, January 21, 1920, 4; "Boy Scouts Their Column," *The Pasadena Post*, May 26, 1920, 10; "Boy Scout News," *Stockton Daily Evening Record*, June 17, 1920, 19; "3 L.A. Boy Scouts Go To World Convention," *Los Angeles Evening Express*, June 26, 1920, 3; and "Oakland Boy, Eagle Scout," *The San Francisco Examiner*, July 26, 1920, 3.

that point towards Valentine Gephart as the first Eagle in the state in 1914. Several newspapers in Colorado claimed Gephart to be the first Eagle Scout west of the Mississippi River.²⁵⁹ While not outright stated, Gephart did earn the award in Denver, Colorado, and to be the first Eagle west of the Mississippi River, it can be inferred he is also the first in the state at the same time. There is additional evidence that is somewhat more direct. A newspaper from May of 1917 listed all the Eagle Scouts from Denver up to that point. Gephart is the first name listed and the order of the Eagle Scouts in the newspaper directly corresponds to their appearance in *Boys' Life*.²⁶⁰ The digital records for Colorado do not provide direct evidence for the first Eagle Scout in the state, but through analysis and inference the author thinks that Gephart is the most likely candidate for the position.

Connecticut

Clifford Appleton, from Bridgeport, is the first Connecticut Eagle Scout recorded in *Boys' Life*, but the digital newspapers only provided indications of the first Eagle in the state. Appleton probably became an Eagle Scout sometime in early 1915, but there were no digital newspapers that covered the event. In July of 1915, newspapers reported that Clarence Reitter and Frank Wilson became Eagle Scouts and that there were only three Eagles in the entire state.²⁶¹ Appleton is the most likely contender for the other Eagle Scout reported in the newspaper, since all three Eagles came from the same city. Within a couple of months, several other scouts in Connecticut became Eagle Scouts and the state consistently produced Eagles throughout 1915 and beyond.²⁶² The most likely candidate for the first Eagle Scout in Connecticut is Appleton but the available digital resources do not provide enough information to support or dispute that claim.²⁶³

Delaware

The digital newspapers from Chronicling America and Newspapers.com did not produce any significant details regarding the first Eagle Scout in Delaware but the sources provide a baseline for when Eagles consistently appeared in the historical record. Sometime after the *Boys' Life* list ended in late 1917, Paul S. Burnham of Wilmington, Delaware, reportedly became the first Eagle Scout in the city, followed by Leith Munson at a later date. Burnham's status as the first Wilmington Eagle Scout did not appear in available digital newspapers until September 20,

²⁵⁹ Colorado, Gephart: "Boy Scout News," *The Rocky Mountain News*, November 14, 1915, 4; and "Boy Scout News. Scout Sissies," *The Rocky Mountain News*, November 4, 1917, 12. Refer to Chapter Two of this thesis for a discussion on the first Eagle Scout west of the Mississippi River.

²⁶⁰ Colorado, Denver: "Boy Scout News. Eagle Scouts," *The Rocky Mountain News*, May 6, 1917, 8.

²⁶¹ Connecticut, Reitter and Wilson: "What The Boy Scouts Are Doing," *Norwich Bulletin*, July 15, 1915, 9.

²⁶² Connecticut, consistency: "Boy Scouts End Camping Period. Time Spent On Niantic River Helpful As Well As Enjoyable For The Scouts," *The Day*, August 18, 1915, 5; "Boy Scouts Will Receive Badges. First New London Troop To Have An Interesting Ceremony Thursday Evening," *The Day*, September 28, 1915, 8; "What The Boy Scouts Are Doing," *Norwich Bulletin*, September 30, 1915, 8; "Two Boy Scouts Win High Honor. Eagle Scout Badge Awarded To Tracy W. Ames And Kenneth Greene," *The Day*, October 1, 1915, 7; "What The Boy Scouts Are Doing," *Norwich Bulletin*, October 7, 1915, 4; and "What The Boy Scouts Are Doing," *Norwich Bulletin*, October 21, 1915, 9.

²⁶³ While researching Connecticut Eagle Scout history, the author found that the Connecticut Digital Archive has an extensive digital historical collection related to 21st century Eagle Scouts and some 20th century materials.

1921.²⁶⁴ After this point, more Eagle Scouts began consistently appearing in Delaware newspapers in subsequent years throughout the 1920s.²⁶⁵ Delaware and Maryland both represent a curious oddity in the data of the first Eagle Scouts. These two states are sandwiched between Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia which are areas that produced high quantities of Eagle Scouts in the 1910s. The author does not have enough historical information or sources to speculate why Delaware and Maryland produced less Eagle Scouts during this time period, but it is evident from the compiled data for this thesis.

Florida

Earl Marx is the second Eagle Scout approved by the National Court of Honor in 1912 and also holds the position of the first Eagle Scout in Florida.²⁶⁶ The other Eagle Scouts from Marx's hometown, Jacksonville, were Francis R. Edwards and Charles D. Johnson who became Eagles a short time after Marx.²⁶⁷ While Florida did not produce another Eagle Scout for several years, the state did have some migration narratives that influence the overall history. Mr. I. H. Henry moved to Florida sometime around early 1916 and joined a local troop in the Miami area. The newspaper proclaimed Henry as an Eagle Scout from Maryland. According to the *Boys' Life* list, the closest match appears to be Isaac Henry from the August 1915 class that earned the award while in Easton, Maryland.²⁶⁸ The next set of individuals that became Eagle Scouts in Florida were Harold Dunworth and Walter Combs in Miami and reported by newspapers in September of 1916.²⁶⁹ After this point in time, Florida produced Eagle Scouts at a more consistent pace into the late 1910s and into the 1920s. For more information on Marx's history as the second Eagle Scout in the nation, please see Chapter Two of this thesis.

²⁶⁴ Delaware, Wilmington: "Boy Scout Troops Start On Fall Work. Delaware Given Opportunity to Send Two Scouts to Mohawk Indian Village," *Every Evening*, September 17, 1921, 2; and "Eagle Scouts At Mass. Exposition," *The Evening Journal*, September 20, 1921, 12.

²⁶⁵ Delaware, consistency: "Edward Saddler Gets Eagle Certificate. Fourth Boy Scout in City and First of His Troop so Honored," *Every Evening*, March 4, 1922, 3; "Delaware Plays Leading Part In Inaugural Parade," *Milford Chronicle*, March 8, 1929, 1; and "Troop 1 Eagle Scouts," Troop 1 website, <https://www.troop1lewes.org/troop-1-eagle-scouts/>.

²⁶⁶ Florida, Marx: "Boy Scouts Were Entertained In A Royal Manner," *The Metropolis*, June 8, 1912, 13; "Sixteen Badges Of Merit Are Awarded Florida Boy Scout. Jacksonville Boy is Highly Honored by the National Headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America—Will Soon Become an Eagle, Highest in the Rank," *The Miami Metropolis*, June 20, 1912, 2; "The Boy Scouts of America. Movement for Betterment Among Future Men of the Nation," *The Miami Metropolis*, August 22, 1912, 6; "Florida Boy Scout Wins High Honors," *The Enterprise*, August 23, 1912, 1; and "Jacksonville Boy Is Given Scout Badge," *The Metropolis*, August 29, 1912, 9.

²⁶⁷ Florida, Edwards and Johnson: "Jacksonville Boy Scout News," *The Metropolis*, July 19, 1913, 3.

²⁶⁸ Florida, Henry: "Boy Scouts Awarded Higher Ranks At The Meeting Last Night. Examinations Held and Lads Pass Creditably—I. H. Henry, A Scout From Maryland, Made Assistant Scout Master," *The Miami Metropolis*, March 11, 1916, 5.

²⁶⁹ Florida, Dunworth and Combs: "Miami Scouts Are Awarded Highest Honor By Council. Harold Dunworth and Walter Combs Given Eagle Badges—Be Banqueted by Their Troop," *Miami Daily Metropolis*, September 16, 1916, 1 and 10; "Miami Scouts Are Awarded Highest Honor By Council. Harold Dunworth and Walter Combs Given Eagle Badges—Be Banqueted by Their Troop," *The Miami Metropolis*, September 22, 1916, 2; and "Fifth Anniversary Boy Scout Movement In Miami Celebrated. Eagle Scout Badges, First Awarded in Miami, Bestowed on Walter Combs and Harold Dunworth; Rolland Dean Inaugurated President of Troop 2; and Reese Combs Relinquishes Hish Five-Year Tenure of Office of Scoutmaster," *The Miami Metropolis*, September 30, 1916, 1 and 6.

Georgia

Georgia's history of early Eagle Scouts is fascinating since the first set of five earned the award within the first 100 Eagles in the nation, but the state did not begin consistently producing Eagle Scouts until the early 1920s. In a similar history of the West Shokan Five of New York, several scouts and adult leaders from a single troop in Forsyth became Eagle Scouts far before any other in Georgia. Over the course of several months, from April to July of 1913, local newspapers reported five Eagle Scouts: Charles F. Stuart, Cullen Goolsby, Oscar Chapman, Jephtha Castleberry, and Sewell Dixon.²⁷⁰ Stuart is the first recorded in the *Boys' Life* with Goolsby in the next spot on the list. The local newspapers reported both these Eagles at the same time so whoever became the first Eagle Scout in Georgia is probably a matter of interpretation. Who went before the local court of honor first? Which application was read first by the National Court of Honor? Since Chapman, Castleberry, and Dixon were reported after these first two candidates, they are not likely contenders to be the first Eagle Scout in the state. The newspapers resources began reporting new Eagle Scouts in the state beginning in late 1920 and beyond.²⁷¹ In this regard, Georgia is more similar to rural states that began consistently producing Eagle Scouts in the 1920s rather than northern states that started in the 1910s.

Hawaii

As discussed in Chapter Two of this thesis, Alatau T. Wilder is the leading candidate for the first Eagle Scout in Hawaii through placement on the *Boys' Life* list and modern consensus drawn from 2010s newspaper articles. Wilder is recorded in the December 1916 class. The second candidate, Leo de Roo, appeared in local newspapers in July of 1916 and these sources claimed him to be an Eagle Scout. A Leo de Roo is recorded in the September 1917 class in *Boys' Life*, but the author was unable to confirm if this was the same individual as in 1916. For more information, please see Chapter Two of this thesis.

²⁷⁰ Georgia, Forsyth: "Forsyth Has Eagle Scouts," *Atlanta Georgian*, April 11, 1913, 6; "Two Forsyth Boys Are Eagle Scouts," *The Atlanta Journal*, April 11, 1913, 2; "Forsyth Boy Scouts Become Eagle Scouts," *The Atlanta Journal*, May 10, 1913, 2; and "Eagle Scout Honor For a Forsyth Boy," *The Atlanta Journal*, July 4, 1913, 11.

²⁷¹ Georgia, consistency: "Fifteen Merit Badges Awarded Boy Scouts At Thursday Meeting," *The Atlanta Journal*, November 21, 1920, 11; "Boy Scouts To Hold Rally At Second Baptist," *The Atlanta Journal*, November 27, 1920, 3; "Scout Wins Highest Honor," *Atlanta Tri-Weekly Journal*, December 7, 1920, 1; "Macon Eagle Scout Joins Troop 19 Here," *The Atlanta Journal*, December 19, 1920, 31; "Court of Honor Will Hold Session Monday; Another Eagle Scout," *The Atlanta Journal*, January 2, 1921, 6; "[Untitled Boy Scout News Section]," *The Americus Times-Recorder*, August 19, 1921, 6; "Waycross Boasts Of Eagle Scout," *Atlanta Tri-Weekly Journal*, November 12, 1921, 3; "Albany Scouts Will Celebrate. Five-Day Program To Be Stages Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 8," *The Americus Times-Recorder*, February 1, 1922, 3; "Five Day Celebration Albany Boy Scouts. Program Replete With Interesting Meetings And Entertainments, Celebrating 20th Anniversary," *The Cordele Dispatch*, February 2, 1922, 7; "Albany Scout Makes Record For America," *The Americus Times-Recorder*, February 6, 1922, 1; "Third Eagle Scout In Albany Qualifies," *The Americus Times-Recorder*, May 16, 1923, 5; and "Twelfth District Has Its First Eagle Scout," *The Cordele Dispatch*, May 24, 1923, 2. For an interview with a 1920s Georgia Eagle Scout, see: Alvin Townley, *Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2007), 20-31.

Idaho

For the first Eagle Scout in Idaho, *Chronicling America* did not have any substantial sources but *Newspapers.com* provides a wealth of information that demonstrates several candidates for the position towards the end of 1921 and beginning of 1922. At the forefront of the candidates are George Dean of Moscow, Kenneth Marchesi of Kellogg, and John Rogers of Wallace. On October 6, 1921, a local newspaper stated that Assistant Scoutmaster George Dean became the first Eagle Scout in Moscow after completing multiple merit badge tests at a summer camp near Spokane and returning to the town.²⁷² The dates for Marchesi's and Roger's achievement of Eagle Scout is unspecified but several newspapers point towards the early months of 1922. Newspapers for 1922 and 1923 continually stated Marchesi as the first Eagle Scout in the council and proclaimed him as the first in the state. It is likely that Roger earned the award after Marchesi.²⁷³ Dean appears to have a slight edge on Marchesi on who became the first Eagle Scout in the state of Idaho, but there is not one definitive candidate for the position in the available digital resources. After Dean, Marchesi, and Rogers, newspapers for Idaho consistently reported more scouts earning the award beginning in 1922 and beyond.²⁷⁴

Illinois

The resources from *Chronicling America*, *Newspapers.com*, and local digital websites did not provide much information regarding the first Eagle Scout in Illinois in the 1910s. Illinois Eagle Scouts from the *Boys' Life* list began earning the award towards the middle of 1913 with the first being William Kleinpell of Wilmette. Many more Eagles Scouts came from Illinois throughout the 1910s but the available digital resources do not provide a lot of primary sources for this time period.²⁷⁵ The first Eagle Scout in Illinois is unclear but Kleinpell is a leading

²⁷² Idaho, Dean: "Boy Scout Campaign Progresses Rapidly. Movement Well Under Way In Other Towns—University Helps Out Drive," *The Daily Star-Mirror*, October 6, 1921, 1.

²⁷³ Idaho, Marchesi and Roger: "Scout Banquet Great Success. Biggest Affair of Kind Ever Held in Kellogg Draws Record Attendance," *Wallace Press-Times*, February 2, 1922, 5; "Fine Record Is Made By Scouts. During 1922 There Were Five Hundred and Fifty-Three Who Passed Tests," *Wallace Press-Times*, February 7, 1922, 4; "Kellogg Youth Highly Honored. Kenneth Marchesi to Be Presented Eagle Badge; Wallace Boy Gets One Later," *Wallace Press-Times*, March 16, 1922, 6; "Scouts Will Aid Spread Good Will On Christmas. Boys Ready to Assist in Distribution of Holiday Cheer; Report Is Made on Past Year's Work," *Wallace Press-Times*, December 17, 1922, 15; and "Scout Banquet Great Success. Father and Son Dinner Biggest of Kind Ever Held in Wallace," *Wallace Press-Times*, February 9, 1923, 6.

²⁷⁴ Idaho, consistency: "Boy Scout Camp Comes To Close," *Bonnors Ferry Herald*, August 17, 1922, 8; "Merit Badge Class," *The Daily Star-Mirror*, December 14, 1922, 1; "Hawley Is Now An Eagle Scout. Palouse Council Executive Attains Highest Rank—17 Scouts Awarded Honors," *The Daily Star-Mirror*, January 2, 1923, 4; "Court Of Honor Makes 13 Awards. Boy Scouts Win Merit Badges—Local Work Rules Adopted," *The Daily Star-Mirror*, January 25, 1923, 4; "Honor Scout Troop At Chamber Meet. Veteran Troop Awarded Flag—Lieuallen Eagle Scout—Delegates To St. Maries," *The Daily Star-Mirror*, May 16, 1923, 1; "Troop Four Notes," *The Idaho Republican*, May 24, 1923, 3; "Melvin Bliss Eagle Scout. Sandpoint Boy Given Highest Rank in Organization—Bonnors Ferry Boy Best 'All Around' Scout," *Northern Idaho News*, August 7, 1923, 5; and "Scout Executive Moves To Pullman. More Central Location For Palouse Council Work—Camp Grizzly Dismantled," *The Daily Star-Mirror*, August 10, 1923, 1.

²⁷⁵ Illinois, Eagle Scouts: "Honor Badges Are Awarded. Among Boy Scouts Nationally And Rev. Mr. Rompel, Scoutmaster Of Black Hawk Troop Of Belvidere Is High In The List," *Belvidere Daily Republican*, December 12, 1913, 5; "Stuart Wood Wants Eagle Scout Badge. First Boy to Win Star and Life Merit Badges and Hopes for Higher One Soon," *The Decatur Herald*, August 30, 1915, 3; "Boy Scout News," *The Rock Island Argus*, June 4, 1918, 4; and "Boy Scout News," *The Rock Island Argus*, July 16, 1918, 2.

candidate. Illinois does have some extensive digital scholarship for local Scouting histories available online.²⁷⁶

Indiana

The first Indiana Eagle Scout recorded in *Boys' Life* was Frank W. Bryant from Greenfield, but digital resources did not provide any conflicting or corroborating evidence related to the earliest Eagle Scout. Bryant was listed in the September 1913 class from *Boys' Life* and other individuals from Indiana continually earned the award throughout the 1910s. While digital newspapers and resources did not provide any substantial evidence or conflicts for the first Eagle Scout in Indiana, there are other historical primary sources that relate to this history.²⁷⁷ During the author's time at the National Scouting Museum researching for this thesis, the museum provided a primary source letter from Frank W. Bryant that detailed his personal investigation into early Eagle Scouts. In the letter, dated June 12, 1950, Bryant explained how he used *Boys' Life* and the 1914 *Fourth Annual Report of the BSA* to see if he was the first Eagle Scout in Indiana and the 39th Eagle in the nation. The 1914 Annual Report recorded the 54 Eagle Scouts for 1913, and Bryant is the 16th Eagle on the list. Bryant used this list and added in the 23 Eagles from 1912 to demonstrate how he was the 39th Eagle in the nation. In the *Boys' Life* list for this thesis, Bryant is recorded as the 50th Eagle in the nation by appearance in the magazine.²⁷⁸ This letter is an extraordinary primary source for the history of Eagle Scouts and helps to demonstrate that the early history is messy about how Eagles were recorded and interpreted in order of achievement. While Bryant is a likely contender for the first Eagle Scout in Indiana, the author did not find any evidence supporting or refuting Bryant's claim in major national newspaper databases.

²⁷⁶ For local histories of Boy Scouts in Illinois, John L. Ropiequet wrote several short books on Scouting in his community and surrounding towns. Several of these works have been made available through the Illinois Digital Archives online resource. For an overview of Ropiequet's research, see: John L. Ropiequet, "Treasure Hunt: Disinterring Ancient Scouting History From Your Local Paper," circa 2021, 1-6. For Ropiequet's scholarship on the Illinois Digital Archives, see: John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Glencoe, Illinois 1910 to 1947* (self-published, circa 2020); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Highland Park and Highwood, Illinois: Park One: 1911 to 1945* (self-published, circa 2020); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff, Illinois 1910 to 1944* (self-published, circa 2020); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Libertyville, Illinois 1913 to 1935* (self-published, circa 2020); John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Wilmette, Illinois 1910 to 1939* (self-published, circa 2020); and John L. Ropiequet, *An Illustrated History of Boy Scouting in Winnetka, Illinois 1911 to 1935* (self-published, circa 2020).

²⁷⁷ Indiana, Eagle Scouts: "Boy Scouts Hold Big Meeting. Organization Hears Final Reports Of Money Making Stunts. The Organization Now Has All Bills Paid and Can Go Forward With a Clean Page," *Fort Wayne Daily News*, September 16, 1913, 14; "City News," *The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, September 17, 1913, 13; "Scout Commissioner. Well-Known Worker Will Make Fort Wayne His Home," *Fort Wayne Daily News*, September 11, 1915, 2; "State Scout Head To Move Here Next Month; To Aid Boys," *The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, September 11, 1915, 8; "Notes of Schools and Workers," *The Indianapolis News*, April 22, 1916, 18; "Scout Makes City Map," *The Indianapolis News*, July 7, 1917, 11; "Mayor Receives His Scoutmaster's Pin. Oath Administered To The Street Newsboys Troop," *The Indianapolis News*, May 1, 1918, 17; and "Promotions for Boy Scouts," *The Indianapolis News*, September 16, 1918, 6.

²⁷⁸ "Letter to Mr. H. F. Pote from F. W. Bryant," dated June 12, 1950, 1-2, courtesy of the National Scouting Museum.

Iowa

In the historical sources for the first Eagle Scout in Iowa, there is a discrepancy between the digital newspapers and the *Boys' Life* list. Earnest E. Voss of Des Moines was declared by newspapers in February-March of 1917 as the first Eagle Scout in Iowa.²⁷⁹ This was well before *Boys' Life* stopped publishing the names of Eagle Scouts later in the same year. With the lead time of two-months for the National Court of Honor to approve Eagle Scout applications and to publish the results in *Boys' Life*, Voss' name should have appeared in the April or May 1917 classes of the magazine. But the name that appears in the July 1917 edition of the magazine is John W. Cooper of Davenport, Iowa. This is the only Eagle Scout from Iowa recorded in *Boys' Life* and Cooper was a part of the May 1917 class. Cooper was never mentioned as an Eagle Scout in newspapers, but he played a prominent role in Davenport as a scout commissioner for the local council.²⁸⁰ The author did not find Voss' name in any of the April to July 1917 editions of *Boys' Life*. Any number of different scenarios could have occurred for Voss not to be included in the list for *Boys' Life*: local officials did not send off the paperwork, the National Court of Honor misplaced the application or mixed-up Cooper for Voss, the postman could have lost the envelope, etc. The author does not have enough information, newspapers, or secondary sources to speculate or argue why this discrepancy exists. The first Eagle Scout in Iowa is unclear but there are two standout candidates in 1917. Other individuals in Iowa became Eagle Scouts in 1918 and 1919, the state consistently produced Eagle Scouts starting in 1920 and beyond.²⁸¹

Kansas

Earl Staats of Emporia is the leading candidate to be the first Eagle Scout in Kansas but due to the proximity of a major town, Kansas City, Missouri, the story is somewhat complicated by potential cross-border interactions. On March 18, 1915, the *Fairview Enterprise* referenced *Boys' Life* about how Earl Staats was the first Eagle Scout in the state. The available sources from Newspapers.com align with Staats' candidacy as the first Kansas Eagle Scout.²⁸² Staats was the only Eagle Scout listed from Kansas in *Boys' Life* and the next Eagle in the state, by

²⁷⁹ Iowa, Voss: "Iowa's Only Eagle Scout," *Manchester Democrat*, February 28, 1917, 4; and "Iowa State News. Late Happenings Throughout the Commonwealth," *The Boyden Reporter*, March 1, 1917, 2.

²⁸⁰ Iowa, Cooper: "Boy Scout Movement Seeks To Train Lads To Be Good Citizens," *The Daily Times*, February 12, 1916, 15; "Scouts Give A Demonstration At Blackhawk. Give First Aid to the Injured and Resuscitate the Drowned," *The Davenport Democrat and Leader*, February 24, 1916, 14; "Accepts And Then Declines To Be Scout Executive," *The Davenport Democrat and Leader*, March 27, 1916, 13; "Million And Half Reached In Bond Sales. Boy Scouts Sell \$27,000," *The Davenport Democrat and Leader*, June 15, 1917, 9; and "Boy Scouts Are Feasted At The Commercial Club. Carl Becker Announces Results of the Boys' Liberty Loan Work," *The Davenport Democrat and Leader*, October 31, 1917, 11.

²⁸¹ Iowa, consistency: "Award Honors To Boy Scouts. Court Of Honor Holds Regular Monthly Meeting," *The Daily Times*, June 4, 1918, 14; "Scout Work Is Highly Praised. Results Of Training Shown In Public Demonstration," *The Daily Times*, July 16, 1918, 12; "R.I. Scout Gets Highest Rank In the Tri-Cities," *The Daily Times*, February 18, 1920, 20; "Boy Scouts In Roundup," *The Daily Times*, May 6, 1920, 22; "Many Scouts Go Into Camp," *The Daily Times*, August 6, 1920, 21; "Frank Otis Is A Life Scout," *The Daily Times*, September 9, 1920, 17; "First Eagle Scout Named," *The Daily Times*, March 17, 1921, 17; and "Scout Honor To Frank Otis," *The Daily Times*, April 22, 1921, 27.

²⁸² Kansas, Staats: "The Boy Scouts. Put on a Demonstration and Entertainment in the City Hall Saturday Night," *Fairview Enterprise*, October 1, 1914, 1; and "Scout Work," *Fairview Enterprise*, March 18, 1915, 2.

appearance in newspapers, was Mark Mitchell from Salina in May of 1919.²⁸³ With a careful reading of the *Boys' Life* list, several of the Eagle Scouts were recorded from Kansas City, Missouri, which sits right on the border with Kansas. There is potential for scouts to be living in Kansas but troops to be registered in Missouri and then subsequently reported to the National Council as Eagle Scouts from Kansas. Only three Eagle Scouts from Kansas City are listed prior to Staats in *Boys' Life*, so the potential of this cross-border interaction is probably small.

Kentucky

Kentucky is not represented in the *Boys' Life* and *Chronicling America* did not have any relevant information for the first Eagle Scout in the state. Kentucky at least began consistently producing Eagle Scouts by the early summer months of 1920 as evidenced from the resources available on Newspapers.com. However, the primary sources from Newspapers.com mostly came from *The Paducah Sun* which covered the town of Paducah and the surrounding region of western Kentucky. There is a high likelihood that other parts of the state, such as Louisville, began producing Eagle Scouts between late 1917 and early 1920 but the newspapers are not readily available on major digital platforms at the time of this thesis. Returning to the first Paducah Eagle Scouts, it seems to be a close race between two individuals, Geno Paro and Jack Bradley, for the first Eagle in the city and in the western Kentucky region. Paro seems to have earned the award first since newspapers proclaimed him as the first Eagle Scout in Paducah and in the western region in May of 1920. Bradley seemingly became an Eagle Scout shortly after or during the summer months of 1920 as newspaper articles in the fall mention that there were two Eagles in the city.²⁸⁴ William Burch was the third Eagle Scout from Paducah, earning the award sometime in very late 1920 or during the early months of 1921 as he received his medal in March of 1921.²⁸⁵ Into the summer months of 1921 and beyond, Paducah consistently began producing Eagle Scouts which probably represents a wider state-level increase of scouts earning the award.²⁸⁶ The first Eagle Scout in Kentucky is unknown at the time of this thesis but the specific timeframe between late 1917 and early 1920 probably contains more information if a more targeted and comprehensive study was to be conducted at a future date.

²⁸³ Kansas, Mitchell: "Mark Mitchell First Eagle Scout in Salina," *The Salina Daily Union*, May 21, 1919, 3; "First Salina Boy To Win Eagle Scout Medal," *The Salina Daily Union*, September 23, 1919, 2; and "Eagle Scout Medal Here. Mark Mitchell is First Salina Boy to Win It," *The Salina Evening Journal*, September 23, 1919, 2.

²⁸⁴ Kentucky, Paro and Bradley: "Do a Good Turn Daily," *The Paducah Sun*, April 25, 1920, 19; "Troop 5 Wins Scout Contest. Interesting Competition Comes to Close; Paro Passes Test As Eagle Scout, Highest Merit in Craft," *The Paducah Sun*, May 4, 1920, 1; "Scout Efficiency Contest Finished, Troop Five In Lead," *The Paducah Sun*, May 4, 1920, 1; "Gene Paro Is Named New Captain Football Paducah High School," *The Paducah Sun*, October 23, 1920, 3; and "Do a Good Turn Daily," *The Paducah Sun*, October 31, 1920, 16.

²⁸⁵ Kentucky, Burch: "Scouts Given Merit Medals. Court of Honor Holds Session; Burch is Made Eagle," *The Paducah Sun*, March 8, 1921, 5; and "Boy Scouts Win Honors In Tests. Present Merit Badges Last Night at Court of Honor Sessions," *The Paducah Sun*, March 8, 1921, 8.

²⁸⁶ Kentucky, consistency: "Boy Scouts Say Dixon Best Camp Scout History," *The Paducah Sun*, July 2, 1921, 7; "Scouts Revive Activities In Autumn," *The Paducah Sun*, August 17, 1921, 3; "Boy Scouts To Take Up Work Fall Season. Plans for Hikes and Other Activities Are Being Made," *The Paducah Sun*, August 18, 1921, 2; "Merit Badges Are Received. Will Be Awarded to Scouts Who Have Passed Tests," *The Paducah Sun*, August 20, 1921, 4; and "Scouts Have Made Splendid Summer Record. Largest Class Will Appear Before Court of Honor Monday," *The Paducah Sun*, September 11, 1921, 17.

Louisiana

Many of the available digital newspapers and resources only provide fragmentary information towards the earliest Eagle Scouts in each state and this is the case for Louisiana. Between the end of 1917 and February of 1921, three individuals named Cline, Miller, and Flord became the first Eagle Scouts in Lake Charles. A couple of the newspapers claimed Cline, Miller, and Flord to be the first Eagle Scouts in the state.²⁸⁷ These were the earliest Louisiana Eagle Scouts the author was able to identify from digital newspapers and other sources. The main state-level narrative that can be gleaned from newspapers presented scouts actively working towards becoming Eagle Scouts in 1920 with some earning the award in 1921.²⁸⁸ In the digital newspapers, Louisiana consistently produced Eagle Scouts around the early 1920s, especially starting in 1923 and 1924.²⁸⁹ The author did not find any substantial information related to the first Eagle Scout in the state.

Maine

For the first Eagle Scout in the state of Maine, *Boys' Life* has several candidates and a clear order of appearance, but digital newspapers do not provide any significant evidence or conflicting information. Out of the three Maine Eagle Scouts from 1916, Harold Perham is listed in the April 1916 class, Rupert Berry in the July 1916 class, and J. L. Sawyer in the August 1916 class. Digital newspapers reference both Perham and Berry at several points in the late 1910s, but no articles proclaim either one as the first Eagle Scout.²⁹⁰ The most likely candidates is Perham from West Paris as the first Eagle Scout in Maine, but more research is needed to refine and expand the history.

²⁸⁷ Louisiana, Lake Charles: James E. West, "National Council Official News: Scouting In Louisiana," *Boys' Life*, February 1921, 28-9; and "Louisiana State News," *The Patriot*, September 12, 1924, 7.

²⁸⁸ Louisiana, emergence: "Boy Scouts Elect New Officers For Coming Year," *Bogalusa Enterprise and American*, October 21, 1920, 6; "Scout News," *Bogalusa Enterprise and American*, March 24, 1921, 4; "Local Scout Wins Highest Honors," *Bogalusa Enterprise and American*, June 30, 1921, 1; "Scout News," *Bogalusa Enterprise and American*, June 30, 1921, 6; and "Boy Scout News," *The Herald*, February 16, 1922, 3.

²⁸⁹ Louisiana, consistency: "Elizabeth Scouts Have Program," *The Oakdale Journal*, April 5, 1923, 2; "Scout Writes On Forestry," *The Oakdale Journal*, April 12, 1923, 3; "Benefits Of Scouting," *The Monroe News-Star*, June 6, 1923, 4; "Elizabeth Notes," *The Oakdale Journal*, August 23, 1923, 1; "[Untitled Boy Scout Section]," *Abbeville Progress*, December 29, 1923, 2; "Boy Scout Court Of Honor Awards 38 Merit Badges," *The Monroe News-Star*, April 22, 1924, 5; "Caspari Is The 1st Eagle Scout In This District. Local Lad Qualifies For Honor, Leader in the Scout Work," *The Monroe News-Star*, July 14, 1924, 6; "Two More Eagle Scout Honors Are Accorded. Robert Dubose and Prentice Gray Are to Get Badges Friday," *The Monroe News-Star*, July 19, 1924, 5; "Robt. Dubose Second To Get Eagle Badge. Popular High School Senior is Rewarded for Faithful Work," *The Monroe News-Star*, July 26, 1924, 5; "Joe Y. Calhoun Really Frist To Get High Honor. Lad Who Captured First Eagle Honors Full of Ambition," *The Monroe News-Star*, August 8, 1924, 7; "Boy Scout Camp On Lake Pontchartrain Closes; Was Wonderfully Successful," *Bogalusa Enterprise and American*, August 21, 1924, 7; "Boy Scouts," *The Monroe News-Star*, September 20, 1924, 7; "Eagle Scouts In New Activity; Print A Paper. Little One-Page Publication Is to Be Started Here Soon," *The Monroe News-Star*, October 2, 1924, 5; and "Elected Honorary Member," *The Herald*, December 18, 1924, 4.

²⁹⁰ Maine, Eagle Scouts: "West Paris," *Oxford Democrat*, February 13, 1917; "West Paris," *The Advertiser-Democrat*, February 13, 1917, 2; "West Paris," *Lewiston Evening Journal*, March 30, 1917, 4; "West Paris. Regular Safe and Sane Fourth Celebrated—Athletics," *The Lewiston Daily Sun*, July 7, 1917, 9; "The News of Belfast," *The Republican Journal*, February 7, 1918, 5; and "Boy Scouts Meeting," *Biddeford Daily Journal*, November 7, 1918, 8.

Maryland

Being the 25th Eagle Scout recorded in *Boys' Life*, Vernon Byus of Baltimore, Maryland, is the most likely candidate to be the first Eagle Scout in the state. Other competitors for the position would not appear for an over year after Byus in early 1913. The next set of Maryland Eagle Scouts after Byus were Franklin V. Pel and Charles W. Trigg of Baltimore and they were recorded in the April 1914 class. Maryland consistently produced small quantities of Eagle Scouts throughout the 1910s but digital newspaper coverage was limited at the time of this thesis.²⁹¹ Additional research is needed to corroborate Byus' status as the first Eagle Scout in Maryland, but he is at least the leading candidate among the individuals recorded in *Boys' Life*.

Massachusetts

The author found little digital newspaper resources related to the first Eagle Scout in Massachusetts at the time of this thesis. Abner H. Barker of Medford became the 14th Eagle Scout recorded in *Boys' Life* during the latter half of 1912. The next Eagle Scout from Massachusetts on the *Boys' Life* list would not appear for around a year in the October 1913 class; he was Clarence Bacon of North Chelmsford. With 1912 and 1913 being the most accurate years of the *Boys' Life* list, there is a high likelihood of Barker being the first Eagle Scout in Massachusetts.

Michigan

Merritt Lamb has been cited by some sources as the first Eagle Scout in Michigan and the thirteenth Eagle in the nation, but these claims do not match with the information in *Boys' Life*.²⁹² Lamb, who became an Eagle Scout in Muskegon in the November 1913 class, was about the ninth Eagle from the state and about the 60th recorded Eagle on the national list. Merritt Lamb is very notable as one of the Eagle Scouts who died in the First World War. Unfortunately, the digital newspapers did not provide any significant details regarding the first Eagle Scout in Michigan. The *Boys' Life* list is the best indication available at the time of this thesis for the first Eagle Scout in the state. The earliest Michigan Eagle Scout in *Boys' Life* is Wesley W. Muma from Romeo in the early months of 1913 and he was followed closely by Vern J. Ketchem in the same year.

Minnesota

Since Roy D. Young of St. Paul was the third Eagle Scout approved by the National Council in 1912, he is the best candidate for the first Eagle in the state of Minnesota. The author did not find any conflicting statements from newspapers about Young's position as the first Eagle Scout in Minnesota, but a curious oddity was a lack of coverage about Young in local

²⁹¹ Maryland, Eagle Scouts: "Hyattsville Items," *The Prince George's Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser*, May 7, 1915, 3; "Greensboro," *Denton Journal*, August 7, 1915, 5; and "High Honor For Young Day. Eagle Badge Given Him—Address by Dr. Davies—Greensboro Notes," *Denton Journal*, August 14, 1915, 5.

²⁹² Michigan, Lamb: Ben Solis, "Michigan's 1st Eagle Scout, war hero honored 100 years after death," *MLive*, August 29, 2018, https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2018/08/muskegons_first_eagle_scout_wa.html; and Tim J. Todish, *A Legacy for the Future: Reminiscences of Scouting in West Michigan* (Grand Rapids: Gerald R. Ford Council, Boy Scouts of America, 2009), 129-30.

newspapers during 1912 and 1913. This lack of coverage could simply be due to missing newspapers on the digital platforms or other modern technical problems. For more information on Young, see Chapter Two of this thesis.

Mississippi

The author was unable to find any claims or sources related to the first Eagle Scout in Mississippi in the digital newspapers, but there was a clear narrative of when Eagles began to consistently earn the award in the state. Many of the available digital newspapers cover Jackson, Mississippi, that began producing Eagle Scouts in March of 1921 and continued throughout the entire year.²⁹³ The rate of individuals becoming Eagle Scouts continued in 1922 with more towns producing their first Eagles.²⁹⁴ Since *Boys' Life* did not record any Eagle Scouts from Mississippi between 1912 and 1917, there is a high chance the first Eagle in the state earned the award sometime between October of 1917 to March of 1921.

Missouri

In Chapter Two of this thesis, there was a discussion on the first Eagle Scout west of the Mississippi River. Edward L. Bowles of St. Louis appears as a potential contender in *Boys' Life* that was simply beaten by other Eagle Scouts in Texas and South Dakota. But the on-the-ground newspaper coverage is more complex and varied than a straightforward reading of the scout magazine. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, in September of 1913, ran a substantial article covering Bowles' achievement, scouting background, and personal history, and boldly stated in the title, "First 'Eagle Scout' West Of The Mississippi—He's a St. Louis Boy!"²⁹⁵ Bowles has an extensive primary source base which includes an oral history from 1987,²⁹⁶ papers from the

²⁹³ Mississippi, Jackson: "Jackson Boys Are Made Eagle Scouts. James Luther Enochs and Joe Tolle Attain High Rank in Scouting," *Jackson Daily News*, March 9, 1921, 8; "Coming Tolle IS Made Eagle Scout," *Jackson Daily News*, April 6, 1921, 8; "Troop Three Scouts Get Honor Badges," *Jackson Daily News*, April 11, 1921, 6; "Scout Court Makes Three New Eagles. Awarding Body of Scout Council Had Busy Day With Ambitious Boys," *Jackson Daily News*, September 14, 1921, 2; "[Untitled Boy Scout Section]," *The Port Gibson Reveille*, September 22, 1921, 1; "Louis Runge Gets Eagle Scout Honors," *Jackson Daily News*, October 13, 1921, 27; "Local Scout Council Holds Good Meeting," *Jackson Daily News*, October 26, 1921, 2; "Eagle Scout. Former Port Gibson Boy Honored in New Orleans," *The Port Gibson Reveille*, December 8, 1921, 4; and "Scout Corner," *Jackson Daily News*, December 11, 1921, 27.

²⁹⁴ Mississippi, consistency: "First Eagle Scouts To Be Instructors. James L. Enochs and Joe Tolle Appointed to Staff at Camp M'Laurin," *Jackson Daily News*, May 19, 1922, 8; "Holds Regular Meeting," *Jackson Daily News*, July 16, 1922, 7; "Jackson Has Four New Eagle Scouts," *Jackson Daily News*, July 26, 1922, 7; "Honor Court Will Meet," *Jackson Daily News*, October 1, 1922, 4; "8 Jackson Scouts Given Eagle Award," *Jackson Daily News*, October 11, 1922, 8; and "Haynes Gets Coveted Eagle Scout Badge," *The Vicksburg Post*, November 1, 1922, 10.

²⁹⁵ Missouri, Bowles: "First 'Eagle Scout' West Of The Mississippi—He's a St. Louis Boy! Successfully Passes Twenty-Four Tests in Various Crafts—Less Than 25 of His Rank in All the Country, Which Has 350,000 Boy Scouts," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, September 28, 1913, 68.

²⁹⁶ "Oral History Interview with Edward Bowles," *National Air and Space Museum and Rand Corporation Joint Oral History Project*, July 14, 1987, 1-44, https://www.si.edu/media/NASM/NASM-NASM_AudioIt-000006616DOCS.pdf. Bowles only briefly discusses his Boy Scout and Eagle Scout experience in a few sentences, but it still represents one of the few available oral histories from one of the earliest Eagle Scouts.

Harry S. Truman Library and Museum,²⁹⁷ papers from the Library of Congress,²⁹⁸ photographs from the MIT Museum of Bowles later in his professional career,²⁹⁹ and an assortment of sources from The State Historical Society of Missouri.³⁰⁰ If Bowles was proclaimed as the first Eagle Scout west of the Mississippi River, he was also declared, in an indirect way, as the first in the state of Missouri. Since both digital newspapers and the *Boys' Life* list matches well together, Bowles is the most likely candidate to be the first Eagle Scout in Missouri. It would also be good to note that Missouri Eagle Scouts consistently earned the award starting in 1913 and newspapers occasionally covered these events and individuals.³⁰¹

Montana

Boys' Life did not include any Montana Eagle Scouts, but digital newspapers pointed towards a narrative that Verne Patton of Great Falls was the first Eagle Scout in the state. On June 15, 1921, newspapers in Great Falls proclaimed Verne Patton of Troop 3 as the first Eagle Scout in the city and possibly the first in the entire state.³⁰² Two short weeks later on June 29, 1921, local newspapers in Great Falls ran headlines of Gordon Conrad of Troop 2 earning the Eagle Scout Award and the articles reiterated that Patton was the first Eagle Scout in Montana.³⁰³ Montana consistently produced Eagle Scouts after these first two individuals and there is some conflicting information from later newspapers. In late October of 1921, Clyde Eccleston and Tommy Judge became the first Eagle Scouts from Anaconda and newspapers claimed them as

²⁹⁷ "Bowles, Edward L. Papers," *Harry S. Truman Library and Museum*, dates range from 1942 to 1975, processed in 2009, <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/personal-papers/edward-l-bowles-papers>.

²⁹⁸ "Edward Lindley Bowles Papers Finding Aid," *Manuscript Division, Library of Congress*, 2023, bulk dates from 1920 to 1982, https://findingaids.loc.gov/exist_collections/ead3pdf/mss/2010/ms010308.pdf.

²⁹⁹ "Bowles, Edward Lindley," *MIT Museum*, <https://mitmuseum.mit.edu/collections/person/6094>.

³⁰⁰ "Bowles, Edward L. (1897-1990), Papers, 1883-1991," *The State Historical Society of Missouri*, materials donated in 2009, <https://files.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C4191.pdf>.

³⁰¹ Missouri, consistency: "Boy Scouts Make Trip In Balloon. Messages Wig-Wagged From Clouds to Crew Below—Map Is Drawn," *The Kansas City Post*, July 22, 1915, 7; "Boy Scouts Going Into Camp Monday. Site This Year Near Noel, Mo., and Many Maneuvers Are Planned," *The Kansas City Post*, August 15, 1915, 2; "Troop No. 1 Wins Boy Scout Contest," *The Kansas City Post*, June 18, 1916, 4; "An Eagle Scout Here," *The Chillicothe Missouri Daily Constitution*, July 25, 1918, 12; "Scout Field Day Tomorrow. Columbians Should Be Interested, H. F. Schulte Says," *The Evening Missourian*, April 4, 1919, 1; "Wins Highest Scout Honor. C. B. Green, University Student, Has Forty Merit Badges," *The Evening Missourian*, April 10, 1919, 1; "Scouts Start Drive For Fund Tomorrow," *The Evening Missourian*, April 10, 1919, 1; "Abroad In Missouri," *The Columbia Evening Missourian*, September 28, 1920, 4; and "Boy Scout Is Honored," *Potosi Journal*, October 6, 1920, 3.

³⁰² Montana, Patton: "Highest Scout Rank Attainable, That Of 'Eagle Scout,' Achieved By Verne Patton Of Troop Three," *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 15, 1921, 11; "Highest Rank In Scout Work Attained Here. Verne Patton of Troop 3 Is Only Eagle Scout Known in State of Montana," *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 18, 1921, 9; and "Boy Scout Court To Meet Tuesday. Number of Candidates Will Appear for tests for First Class Standing," *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 24, 1921, 7.

³⁰³ Montana, Conrad: "Eagle Scout Rank Awarded Gordon Conrad. Honor is Conferred at Meeting of Court of Honor in Veterans' Hall," *The Great Falls Tribune*, June 29, 1921, 9; "Only Two Eagle Scouts In State. Gordon Conrad Advanced to Eagle Standing—Verne Patton Was First—Donald Francis Is First Class Scout—Many Merit Badges," *The Great Falls Leader*, July 1, 1921, 6; "Seven Scouts Stand Tests Before Court. Examination Conducted at Camp Rotary Wins Merit Badges for Youngsters," *The Great Falls Tribune*, August 8, 1921, 8; and "Award Badges To Scouts At Rotary Lunch. Class of 16 Raised to First Class at Ceremony; Speakers Review Work," *The Great Falls Tribune*, October 27, 1921, 8.

the first in the state.³⁰⁴ The earliest Eagle Scout from Montana the author was able to identify was Verne Patton, but this does not necessarily mean he is the first. The newspapers only give an indication of when the first Eagle Scout appeared in a state and the history in Montana could indicate consistency rather than the earliest emergence of Eagle Scouts.

Nebraska

For Nebraska, there were no contenders for the first Eagle Scout recorded in *Boys' Life*, but the digital newspapers provided several candidates that came from two of the state's largest towns, Omaha and Lincoln. Newspapers from Omaha claimed that the city produced the first two Eagle Scouts in the entire state, D. L. Dimond and Herbert Lichtenberger.³⁰⁵ In November of 1918, D. L. Dimond was proclaimed as the first Eagle Scout from Omaha.³⁰⁶ A short year and a half later, in February of 1920, Omaha newspapers reported another Eagle Scout, Herbert Lichtenberger, that was presented his award by James E. West at a major local event.³⁰⁷ By the summer of 1920, Nebraska newspapers began consistently reporting the ascension of scouts to the Eagle Scout Rank.³⁰⁸ From the Lincoln newspapers, three Eagle Scouts were reported as early as May of 1918, those being George Pugh, Robert Maxwell, and Will Simmons.³⁰⁹ While it seems like the Lincoln Eagle Scouts earned the award earlier than their counterparts in Omaha, there is not a clear enough newspaper trail to follow to fully determine who was the first Eagle Scout in Nebraska.

Nevada

As with other western states, Nevada did not start consistently producing until the latter half of the 1920s. Digital newspapers from Nevada did not yield a definitive candidate for the first Eagle Scout in the state but several names begin to appear from 1926 and onwards. In July of 1926, a newspaper reported that Eagle Scout John Greeniee of Boone joined with other scouts

³⁰⁴ Montana, Anaconda: "Scouts Ready To Take Eagle Test. Two Anaconda Boys Have Passed All Other Tests Leading to Honor," *The Anaconda Standard*, October 25, 1921, 8; "Eagle Badges To Be Given To Two. Program of Scouts Is Open to Public Interested in the Work," *The Anaconda Standard*, October 27, 1921, 7; and "All Anaconda To Help Scout Drive. Five Hundred Scouts in the County Is Slogan for This Year," *The Anaconda Standard*, February 5, 1922, 23.

³⁰⁵ Nebraska, Omaha: "Fifty Scouts Are Awarded Merit Badges. Largest Court of Honor in History of Omaha Boy Scout Council Held Last Week," *The Omaha Sunday Bee*, March 28, 1920, 6.

³⁰⁶ "Dimond Made Omaha's First Eagle Scout. Qualifying for Twenty - One Merit Badges Secures Honor; Others Get Badges," *Omaha Daily Bee*, November 6, 1918, 7; and "Boy Scouts," *The Omaha Sunday Bee*, November 10, 1918.

³⁰⁷ Nebraska, Lichtenberger: "National Boy Scout Chief To Be Omaha Visitor Today. James E. West Will Arrive on Inspection Tour This Morning—Conference With Executive Board—To Decorate Omaha Scout With Eagle Badge—To Have Personal Escort," *Omaha Daily Bee*, February 14, 1920, 15; and "Boy Scout Head Pleads For Aid For U.S. Youths. Intelligent Consideration of Boyhood Needs Should Precede Radical Legislation, Says James E. West," *Omaha Daily Bee*, February 15, 1920, 6.

³⁰⁸ Nebraska, consistency: "Behmke and Lee Made Eagle Scouts at Meet of Court of Honor," *The Omaha Sunday Bee*, July 11, 1920; "Levings First Boy Scout Leader to Become Eagle Scout," *The Omaha Sunday Bee*, July 25, 1920; and "Church Eagle Scout," *The Omaha Sunday Bee*, August 29, 1920.

³⁰⁹ Nebraska, Lincoln: "Over 600 Boy Scouts of Lincoln and Eastern Nebraska in Annual Round-Up Next Saturday Will Demonstrate Their Fitness to Aid America in War Should the Occasion Arise to Call Upon Them," *The Lincoln Sunday Star*, May 5, 1918, 17; and "Boy Scout Roundup Ends. Youngsters in Khaki Uniform Contend Gallantly for Honors in Organization," *Lincoln Nebraska State Journal*, May 12, 1918, 8.

in Nevada on a camping trip to a lake.³¹⁰ Starting in 1927 and 1928, the digital newspapers for Nevada began reporting more Eagle Scouts and names included: B. Jarvis and Carlyle Thompson;³¹¹ Harold and Jack Barber;³¹² and Boo Millard.³¹³ Mentions of Eagle Scouts can be found spread across various 1929 newspaper articles.³¹⁴ While there are no major stories, complexity, or contradictions in the earliest Nevada Eagle Scouts, the author was unable to determine or find an assertive statement for the first Eagle in the state.

New Hampshire

Out of all the possible states that might not see their first Eagle Scout until the 1930s, the author considered the most rural areas, such as Alaska or far-flung Pacific Ocean territories, at the top of the list. In a bizarre turn of events for this appendix, digital New Hampshire newspapers only started discussing Eagle Scouts at the end of 1932 and Eagles consistently emerged from the state from 1933 and beyond. The *Boys' Life* list, *Chronicling America*, and *Newspapers.com* do not discuss any Eagles from New Hampshire until 1932 and the author conducted a thorough examination of the three resources. The author suspects that a lack of specific digitized newspapers impeded research into the first Eagle Scout from New Hampshire rather than local newspapers choosing not to run articles on the youth and adults earning the award. In short, this section for New Hampshire is more about problems encountered in modern historical research rather than a strict narrative of the state's earliest Eagle Scouts. Most of the information the author obtained came from *Newspapers.com* and primarily from Portsmouth sources.

Returning to the earliest New Hampshire Eagle Scout the author could identify; this individual was Robert Warner of Portsmouth with him earning the award sometime around early August of 1932 and later newspapers claiming him as the first Eagle in the city. Warner's name first appears in newspapers in December of 1932 and throughout 1933. The author did not find a full newspaper section on Warner prior to December of 1932.³¹⁵ By early 1933 and going into the mid-portion of the decade, New Hampshire started producing Eagle Scouts at a consistent rate

³¹⁰ Nevada, Greenice: "Boy Scouts Are On Way To Camp Near Lake Virgin. Truck Load Of Boys And Camping Outfit Left This Morning," *Nevada Evening Journal*, July 26, 1926, 1.

³¹¹ Nevada, Jarvis and Thompson: "Moapa Scouts Enjoy Trip To Colo. River," *Las Vegas Age*, April 23, 1927, 1.

³¹² Nevada, Barber: "Scout Troop No. 1 Is Re-Organized. Successful Meeting Held Tuesday Evening For Organization," *Nevada Evening Journal*, March 7, 1928, 4.

³¹³ Nevada, Millard: "Scouts Of Ely Return Home," *Reno Evening Gazette*, August 2, 1928, 12.

³¹⁴ Nevada, consistency: "Overton Notes," *Las Vegas Age*, January 15, 1929, 2; "Nevada Scouts In Court Of Honor. Interesting Meeting Held At Lutheran Church Last Evening," *Nevada Evening Journal*, November 13, 1929, 1; and "Scout Council Met At Ames Wednesday Eve. Several Nevada Men Gathered There For Program And Reports," *Nevada Evening Journal*, December 6, 1929, 4.

³¹⁵ New Hampshire, Warner: "M'Millan at Rotary Club. Tells Of His Flights In the Arctic in 'The Viking,'" *The Portsmouth Herald*, December 1, 1932, 5; "Boy Scouts Hold Big Father And Son Gathering. Interesting Program Presented At Dinner At North Church Parish House," *The Portsmouth Herald*, February 9, 1934, 1; "Given Highest Scout Award," *The Portsmouth Herald*, February 28, 1934, 8; "Boy Scouts Hold Court of Honor. William A. Dorney, Jr. And Philip Webber Made Eagle Scouts At Ceremony Last Night," *The Portsmouth Herald*, March 22, 1934, 1; "Local People Given Honors At Manchester," *The Portsmouth Herald*, October 22, 1934, 6; "Scout Honors Are Award To Three Portsmouth Boys," *The Portsmouth Herald*, November 22, 1934, 5; and "Eagle Scout Honor Roll," Troop 164 website, <https://www.troop164nh.org/eagle-scouts.html>.

with newspapers heavily covering the award ceremonies and individuals.³¹⁶ Other newspaper stories in the mid-1930s also complicate who should be considered the first Eagle Scout in New Hampshire. From a 1936 newspaper, Eagle Scout Leon Drew, Jr., earned the award in 1930 and moved from Worcester, Massachusetts, to New Hampshire sometime in 1932.³¹⁷ In another 1936 newspaper, a short comment stated that two adults residing in Portsmouth at the time, Albert H. Woolfson and George Stacy, had earned the Eagle Scout Award as youth at an unspecified date.³¹⁸ With the combination of 21st-century research problems, tantalizing comments, and a lack of assertive statements, the first Eagle Scout in New Hampshire is very unclear at the time of this thesis.

New Jersey

New Jersey has one of the densest concentration of early Eagle Scouts in the nation, besides Pennsylvania and New York, and it has several representatives from the 1912 class, including D. Mac O. Little (10th), J. Van Bueren Mitchell (11th), Ralph Woodworth (18th), and James A. Plummer (21st). In the January 1913 issue of *Boys' Life*, the magazine specifically states Little as the 10th Eagle Scout and Mitchell as the 11th Eagle Scout in the nation, both from Morristown.³¹⁹ The author did not find any newspapers references for these 1912 New Jersey Eagle Scouts but given how early Eagles emerged in the state, Little is the best candidate for the position of first Eagle Scout in New Jersey. Digital newspapers began to cover New Jersey Eagle Scouts in 1913 and continued to do so throughout the 1910s.³²⁰

³¹⁶ New Hampshire, consistency: "Award Letters To Football Players At High School. Impressive Exercises Held This Morning At Assembly Period," *The Portsmouth Herald*, December 21, 1932, 1; "At Meeting In Concord," *The Portsmouth Herald*, January 14, 1933, 5; "Boy Scout News," *The Portsmouth Herald*, February 9, 1933, 3; "Boy Scouts Hold Court Of Honor. Many Scouts Receive Awards Of Honor Before A Large Gathering at Senior High School Auditorium," *The Portsmouth Herald*, April 1, 1933, 1; "News of Surrounding Towns: Kittery," *The Portsmouth Herald*, May 22, 1933, 7; "Conference At Concord," *The Portsmouth Herald*, June 1, 1933, 8; "Boy Scouts At Hampton Beach. Members From All Parts of State At Annual Jamboree," *The Portsmouth Herald*, July 13, 1933, 3; "Children's Day At Hampton Beach," *The Portsmouth Herald*, July 14, 1933, 1 and 5; "To Make Eagle Scout Award," *The Portsmouth Herald*, November 14, 1933, 4; "Boy Scout Court Of Honor Held. Highest Rank in Scoutdom Bestowed On Thomas W. Englert," *The Portsmouth Herald*, November 17, 1933, 1; "Is Named As Alternate. William Locke of Kittery One of Three Youths Having Highest Rank in Examination," *The Portsmouth Herald*, November 21, 1933, 4; "Kiwanis Club Hears Speakers," *The Portsmouth Herald*, November 22, 1933, 6; "Kittery Scouts Have Parents As Guest. Jefferson Cook Receives Eagle Palm, High Scout Award," *The Portsmouth Herald*, February 2, 1934, 6; "Kittery Boy Scout Given High Honor. Eagle Palm Is Awarded To Jefferson Cook," *The Portsmouth Herald*, February 6, 1934, 10; "To Make Eagle Awards Tonight. Boy Scout Court Of Honor At Jr. High Auditorium," *The Portsmouth Herald*, March 21, 1934, 4; and "Scouts Father And Son Banquet. Interesting Event Marks Silver Anniversary Week — Governor Bridges Present," *The Portsmouth Herald*, February 15, 1935, 11.

³¹⁷ New Hampshire, Drew: "North Hampton," *The Portsmouth Herald*, February 20, 1936, 9.

³¹⁸ New Hampshire, Woolfson and Stacy: "To Sponsor Boy Scout Troop," *The Portsmouth Herald*, March 11, 1936, 10.

³¹⁹ New Jersey, Little and Mitchell: A. R. Forbush, "The Honor Roll," *Boys' Life*, January 1913, 28-9.

³²⁰ New Jersey, consistency: "Hasbrouck Heights," *Jersey Observer and Jersey Journal*, March 25, 1913, 11; "Now An Eagle Scout," *The Pleasantville Press*, April 23, 1923, 8; "Hasbrouck Heights," *Jersey Observer and Jersey Journal*, May 16, 1913, 15; "Lively Fist Fight In Absecon Restaurant," *Atlantic City Daily Press*, July 11, 1913, 3; "Boy Scouts To Camp," *Atlantic City Review*, August 1, 1914, 3; "Morristown Notes," *Newark Evening Star*, October 1, 1914, 4; "Absecon Gossip," *Atlantic City Gazette-Review*, June 7, 1917, 10; "Scout Contest To Arouse Interest. Efficiency Will Be Watchword of Boys Competing For Coveted Prizes," *Trenton Evening Times*, February 5, 1918, 10; "Guns' Roar Like Surf In Storm. Pleasantville Youth 'Somewhere in France' Writes Interesting Letter to

New Mexico

Scouts from New Mexico would not achieve the Eagle Scout Award until the mid-1920s. When Eagles began appearing in the state, the situation was somewhat complicated by migration in a similar way to Fred Woodson in Virginia. On November 13, 1924, Stanley Halberg, who migrated to New Mexico from Prescott, Arizona, reportedly became the first Eagle Scout in Albuquerque.³²¹ Several months later in February of 1925, Buell Nesbet was stated to be “the first Albuquerque Scout to complete the entire [Eagle Scout] work under the Albuquerque council.”³²² After these two Eagle Scouts, individuals in New Mexico, and particularly Albuquerque, began consistently earning the award throughout the 1920s.³²³ The author did not find an earlier Eagle Scout than Halberg in New Mexico but his story is extremely similar to Fred Woodson in that Halberg completed requirements in Arizona before earning the award in New Mexico. Some will might consider Buell Nesbet as the first New Mexico Eagle Scout by completing all requirements in-state, but it can be either be Halberg or Nesbet depending on the interpretation.

New York

The New York history of the first Eagle Scout in the state is directly tied to the larger national history since Arthur R. Eldred was also the first Eagle in the nation. As a recap, Eldred was a member of a troop at the Rockville Centre of New York and was approved by the National Court of Honor around March 29, 1912. The author still examined digital newspapers but none of the sources contradicted the existing history. For more information on Eldred, see the beginning of Chapter Two of this thesis.

North Carolina

Chronicling America and Newspapers.com did not provide any relevant details for the first Eagle Scout in North Carolina but there is a clear starting point from *Boys' Life* and other state newspaper resources, R. K. Smathers of Canton. While the *Boys' Life* list places Smathers in the September 1914 class, there is little available newspapers or sources from 1914 that proclaims Smathers as the first Eagle Scout. Instead, newspapers and articles from 1915 onward

Mother,” *Atlantic City Gazette-Review*, February 9, 1918, 2; and “Soldier Wedding In Absecon. Miss Reba Conover Wedded to Sergeant Edmund Townsend, Who Spent Twenty-three Months Overseas,” *Atlantic City Daily Press*, September 11, 1919, 4.

³²¹ New Mexico, Halberg: “Duke City Boy Will Become Eagle Scout,” *Santa Fe New Mexican*, November 13, 1924, 4; “Big Meeting Of Court Of Honor Set For Tonight. More Than 100 Merit Badges To Be Given To Boy Scouts; Stanley Halberg To Become Eagle Scout,” *Albuquerque Morning Journal*, December 8, 1924, 3; and “Boy Scout Gets Highest Honor To Be Achieved. Stanley Halberg Receives Eagle Scout Badge at Impressive Court of Honor Session,” *Albuquerque Morning Journal*, December 9, 1924, 10.

³²² New Mexico, Nesbet: “Court Of Honor Recognizes Boy Scouts' Labors. Fifty Youths Receive Investitures and Merit Badges in Public Ceremony at High School,” *Albuquerque Morning Journal*, February 14, 1925, 5.

³²³ New Mexico, consistency: “Scouts To Be Awarded Badge Of High Rank. Three Albuquerque Boys in Line for Promotion to Greatest Honor in Scouting Soon,” *Albuquerque Morning Journal*, May 19, 1925, 5; “Scouts Receive Awards At Big Court Of Honor. J. C. McGregor Becomes Eagle Scout and Joe Mozley Life Scout; 11 Receive Star Rank,” *Albuquerque Morning Journal*, June 17, 1925, 8; “Scout News,” *Albuquerque Morning Journal*, September 16, 1925, 3; and “Awards To Be Made At Scout Court Of Honor. Three Boys to Advance to Eagle Rank; Many to Receive Merit Badges; Troops to Get Charters,” *Albuquerque Morning Journal*, October 15, 1925, 8.

reiterate the idea that Smathers is the first Eagle in the state and the author did not find any conflicting stories that challenge that statement.³²⁴ Smathers is the best candidate to be the first Eagle Scout in North Carolina, but the lack of a newspaper trail shows the limitation of some digital historic newspaper resources at the time of writing this thesis.

North Dakota

Due to the rural nature of North Dakota and its population, the state did not consistently begin to produce Eagle Scouts until the second half of 1920. The narrative created by digital newspapers for the first Eagle Scout in North Dakota features an interesting twist but a straightforward choice when cross-referencing information and stories. Throughout March of 1916, multiple newspapers proclaimed Richard “Dick” Furness of Mandan as the first Eagle Scout in the state for diving into a swift river and saving a fellow youth. For his bravery, the National Court of Honor supposedly bestowed upon Furness the Eagle honor. When cross-referencing against the Eagle, Honor, and Lifesaving lists presented in *Boys’ Life*, it is clear that North Dakota newspapers incorrectly labeled Furness as an Eagle Scout. In the April 1916 issue of *Boys’ Life*, Furness is reported to have earned a Bronze Honor Medal for his bravery, which is much more in line with the context of the story. Newspaper articles of Eagle Scouts typically focus on the distinction of the award itself or on merit badges and requirements.³²⁵ Several years later in September of 1920, Calmar Narum, a fourteen-year-old scout from Fargo became an Eagle Scout and probably the first in the state.³²⁶ The author could not find another Eagle Scout from North Dakota until almost a year later in 1921 when an assistant scoutmaster from Bismarck showed up in local newspapers.³²⁷ Fargo also seemed to produce two other Eagle Scouts going into 1922 but for the first Eagle Scout in North Dakota, Narum was the earliest the author was able to identify without major inconsistencies.

Ohio

Many of the newspapers through Chronicling America and Newspapers.com are high-quality digital reproductions with clear text and lighting. In some instances, however, sections of the newspapers are damaged or missing portions of the text. The earliest and most relevant pages on Newspapers.com for the first Eagle Scouts in Ohio are missing significant portions of their text or are just outright unreadable. Google News Archive provided some alternative copies that included better images, but some newspapers remained unreadable. While Harry Davidson of

³²⁴ North Carolina, Smathers: “True Stories Which Show How Scouting Grips The Boy: Eagle Scout Seeks Camp Position,” *Scouting*, Volume 3, Number 6, July 15, 1915, 7; “Local Troop of Boy Scouts. Local Troop Embodies Three Patrols of Eight Boys Each,” *The Morning Herald*, February 18, 1917, 11; “Boy Scouts To Meet At Board Of Trade,” *The Asheville Citizen*, February 20, 1917, 9; and “Boy Scouts Are Given Their Certificates. Meeting of Troop is an Interesting One,” *The Asheville Citizen*, April 6, 1917, 10.

³²⁵ North Dakota, Furness: “Boy Scout Gets Honor Badge,” *The Grand Forks Daily Herald*, March 9, 1916; “Receives Badge For Brave Act. Richard Furness of Mandan Given High Honor by Boy Scouts Organization,” *Bismarck Daily Tribune*, March 12, 1916, 12; and “Report of National Court of Honor for February,” *Boys’ Life*, April 1916, 17.

³²⁶ North Dakota, Narum: “Fargo Boy First Eagle Scout In N.D.,” *The Fargo Forum and Daily Republican*, September 10, 1920, 1; and “Fargo Lad First In State To Earn Eagle Scout Badge,” *The Fargo Forum*, September 18, 1920, 9.

³²⁷ North Dakota, Bismarck: “Bismarck Has Eagle Scout,” *The Fargo Forum*, August 13, 1921, 6; and “Scout Notes,” *The Bismarck Tribune*, October 21, 1921, 5.

Portsmouth was the earliest recorded Ohio Eagle Scout in *Boys' Life*, from the September 1914 class, another individual appeared in the newspapers as another possible contender. *The Portsmouth Daily Times*, on February 2, 1914, printed a headline that read “Imboden Hudson An Eagle Scout.”³²⁸ Only the headline for the new section was available. The text was unreadable on Newspapers.com and Google News Archive. Hudson is not recorded in *Boys' Life* and the author was unable to find any additional information online. Later in September of 1914, the same newspaper, with a readable copy available on Google News Archive, reported that Harry Davidson became the first Eagle Scout in Portsmouth and in Ohio.³²⁹ After this point, Eagle Scouts consistently appeared in Ohio and coverage in local newspapers throughout the 1910s.³³⁰ Hudson is not the only missing Eagle Scout from *Boys' Life*, see Appendix A, but his story is unclear with the available digital newspapers. Until new information is discovered, Davidson is the best candidate for the first Eagle Scout in Ohio.

Oklahoma

While the Chronicling America resource did not have any relevant newspapers on the first Eagle Scout in Oklahoma, Newspapers.com and some additional primary sources, previously compiled by the author, demonstrate a clear narrative that points towards Russell Steele (sometimes spelled Steel) of Muskogee being the first in the state. Oklahoma newspapers in 1913 and 1914 often reference four to five Eagle Scouts in the state, those being Fred Woodson, Russell Steele, William Johnson, Burdett Greene, and Theoren Bynum.³³¹ For a sidenote, it seems that Delmer S. Fahrney, from Vinita and listed in the March 1914 class of *Boys' Life*, only received minimal local newspaper coverage of him earning the award and was not widely known throughout the state.³³² As explored in the Virginia section of this appendix, Fred Woodson spent some of his time in the Boy Scout program while in Oklahoma, but he earned the Eagle Scout Award while in Staunton, Virginia before later moving back west.³³³ With Woodson's unique migration circumstances, some historical newspapers cite Russell Steele as the first Eagle Scout in eastern Oklahoma. William Johnson followed closely behind Steele with

³²⁸ Ohio, Hudson: “Imboden Hudson An Eagle Scout,” *The Portsmouth Daily Times*, February 2, 1914, 8.

³²⁹ Ohio, Davidson: “Boy Scout News. First Eagle Scout,” *The Portsmouth Daily Times*, September 28, 1914, 11.

³³⁰ Ohio, consistency: “Another Local Eagle Scout,” *The Portsmouth Daily Times*, September 30, 1914, 3; “Boy Scout News,” *The Portsmouth Daily Times*, November 5, 1914, 9; “Akron Boy Scout Gets High Honor. Is Awarded Eagle Badge, First to be Conferred on Local Scout,” *The Akron Beacon Journal*, July 12, 1915, 1; “Honor Akron Boy,” *The Akron Times*, July 15, 1915, 3; “Another Eagle Scout,” *The Portsmouth Daily Times*, July 19, 1915, 13; “Boy Scout News. Another Eagle Scout,” *The Portsmouth Daily Times*, March 6, 1917, 16; “Boy Scout News. Another Eagle Scout,” *The Portsmouth Daily Times*, March 27, 1917, 10; “Here's Star Boy Scout Who Made New Traffic Rules Clear to Thousands Here,” *The Akron Beacon Journal*, April 5, 1918, 1; “Local News,” *The Daily Sentinel-Tribune*, August 23, 1918, 5; “Scouts Budy With Truck Trip Plans,” *Akron Evening Times*, June 13, 1919, 2; “Eagle Scout Medal For Chester Powell,” *The Daily Sentinel-Tribune*, June 30, 1919, 3; “Many Boy Scouts Given Promotion,” *The Akron Beacon Journal*, September 30, 1919, 15; and “Pin Badges Upon Akron Boy Scouts,” *Akron Evening Times*, October 30, 1919, 2.

³³¹ Oklahoma, five Eagle Scouts: “[Untitled Newspaper Section],” *Mayes County New Deal*, April 30, 1914, 8; “Tulsa Boys Are Happy In Camp,” *The Tulsa Democrat*, June 18, 1914, 5; “Scouts Enjoyed Camping Event,” *The Tulsa Democrat*, June 22, 1914, 5; and “City News In Brief,” *The Tulsa Daily World*, October 14, 1914, 4.

³³² Oklahoma, Fahrney: “Youngest Scout in the World,” *The Vinita Leader*, May 21, 1914, 8.

³³³ Oklahoma, Woodson: “An Eagle Scout,” *Muskogee Times-Democrat*, February 10, 1913, 2; and “Badges For Scouts Were Awarded Sunday—New Mounted Patrol to be Organized Soon,” *Muskogee Times-Democrat*, February 17, 1913, 8.

merit badges but ultimately Steele seemed to have completed everything first.³³⁴ This information also aligns with the *Boys' Life* list and the order of appearance. This thesis lists Russell Steele as the foremost contender to be the first Eagle Scout in Oklahoma, but an argument can be made that Fred Woodson should also be considered for the position.

Oregon

Oregon did not have any Eagle Scouts in *Boys' Life* and the author did not retrieve any information from the Chronicling America resource. Piecing together information from Newspapers.com and other digital resources, it is unclear who is the first Eagle Scout from Oregon either through migration or earning the award in the state. By mid-1921 and early 1922, there were definitely enough Eagle Scouts in Oregon for local Scouting officials to estimate their general number and location. Significantly, newspapers from Corvallis laid claim to two Eagles, Taylor H. Poore in late 1921 and John Logan by early 1922, and stated there were only six Eagles in the entire state.³³⁵ Readers should be very wary of general estimation figures for Eagle Scouts per state during this time period as the author has found such numbers very inconsistent and outright inaccurate. These sources help to show when Eagle Scouts began having an emerging presence and impact in local communities and state-level conversations rather than an accurate figure of their population. That was the available information from Newspapers.com so the author delved into other resources for additional articles.

Through September of 1915 and January of 1916, scout Lloyd Harrison of Troop 1 in Portland was stated to be the first and only Eagle Scout in the city.³³⁶ The author could not identify if Harrison earned the award while in Portland or later migrated to the city from another location after becoming an Eagle Scout. Harrison is also not included in the 1912 to 1917 list in *Boys' Life*, which could be due to oversight, lack of submission to the National Council, changing his name, or several other factors. It would be several years later, and into a new decade, that Eagles once again emerge in Portland newspapers. Rear Admiral H. A. Fields presented Portland scouts Frederick Templeton, Herbert Gordon, Harold Adams, and Murray Burns with their Eagle Scout medals at an annual Rose Festival in the summer of 1921 and these four were proclaimed as the first to earn the award in the city.³³⁷ Later in 1921 and into the early months of 1922, Portland newspapers stated more scouts that became Eagles, and this aligns with

³³⁴ Oklahoma, Steele: "Steele Wins Scout Honor," *Muskogee Times-Democrat*, November 4, 1913, 1; and "Eagle Scout Rank Conferred Upon Russell Steele Of Muskogee—Is Nineteenth In United States," *Muskogee Times-Democrat*, November 15, 1913, 1.

³³⁵ Oregon, Corvallis: "Boy Scouts May Plant Trees In City And County. Hear Proposal at Christian Church Last Night and Agree To Push Things Along. City Has Eagle Scout. Taylor [Poore] Is One of Six in Oregon to Reach Such Honor—Badges Awarded," *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, November 2, 1921, 1; and "Boy Scout Week Is Opened With Parade, Public Meeting and Merit Badge Awards," *Corvallis Gazette-Times*, February 9, 1922, 1 and 4.

³³⁶ Oregon, Harrison: "Scout Plans Proposed. Masters To Meet At Library To Form Local Council. Activities of Troop One Related at First Gathering of Fall and Field Day Is Projected," *The Sunday Oregonian*, September 12, 1915, 1; "[Untitled Newspaper Section]," *The Sunday Oregonian*, January 16, 1916, 10; and "[Untitled Newspaper Section]," *The Sunday Oregonian*, January 23, 1916, 10.

³³⁷ Oregon, Rose Festival Eagle Scouts: "World Mark Registered In Scout Meet," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, June 9, 1921, 14; "Portland's Fourteenth Annual Rose Festival Reveals Spectacles of Surpassing Beauty," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, June 12, 1921, 18; and "Boys Become Eagle Scouts," *The Oregon Daily Journal*, June 26, 1921, 11.

the other individuals from Corvallis that earned the award around the same time.³³⁸ With this information, the first Eagle Scout in Oregon is unclear in terms of both migration and earning the award but Eagles first began consistently emerging in the state starting in the early 1920s.

Pennsylvania

While *Chronicling America* did not produce any substantial newspapers regarding the first Eagle Scouts in Pennsylvania, scouts from this state quickly appeared on the *Boys' Life* list in 1912. In the sources available from Newspapers.com, the first mention of Eagle Scouts in Pennsylvania came from November 22, 1912, with two brothers earning the award, Archie and Walter Ecklund of Coatesville.³³⁹ While both brothers earned the award, probably on the same day or within a very close timeframe, *Boys' Life* distinctly states Archie as the sixteenth Eagle Scout in the nation and Walter as the seventeenth.³⁴⁰ Archie is the best candidate to be the first Eagle Scout from Pennsylvania based on the order of appearance in *Boys' Life*. However, it might be more apt to argue that both brothers are the first Eagle Scout from Pennsylvania given the nature of them earning the award together.

Rhode Island

As mentioned in Chapter Two of this thesis, the earliest Eagle Scout from Rhode Island the author was able to identify was James J. Deery in 1919 as referenced from relevant secondary sources.³⁴¹ Digital newspapers, at the time of this thesis, lack substantial materials and sources pertaining to Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts and did not provide any evidence for the first Eagle Scout in Rhode Island. The author delved into other digital newspaper resources for Rhode Island that provided more details about the history of Eagle Scouts in the state, especially from the Pawtucket Public Library. The overall argument that competition between Boy Scout organizations in Rhode Island delayed the production of Eagle Scouts in the state seems to be accurate when analyzing early newspapers. On December 29, 1919, a newspaper from Pawtucket listed Arthur Sharpe as an Eagle Scout from Troop 1 of North Providence but provided no date for when he earned the award.³⁴² Eagle Scout John Langdon from Providence was selected to represent the Greater Providence Council at an international Boy Scout gathering in London, England, in 1920.³⁴³ In late 1921, eighteen scouts received their Eagle Scout medals from Governor San Souci while visiting the State House in Providence.³⁴⁴ In the absence of

³³⁸ Oregon, consistency: "Boy Scouts Hold Rally. Entertainment Closes Campaign for Recruits by Troopers," *The Sunday Oregonian*, December 18, 1921, 17; and "1200 Scouts At Rally. Eleventh Anniversary of Founding Observed. Oath Is Administered to Officers and Members of Executive Committee for Portland," *The Morning Oregonian*, February 11, 1922, 6.

³³⁹ Pennsylvania, Ecklund brothers: "Ecklund Boys Honored. Walter and Archie Are Among Ten Eagle Scouts in U.S.," *The Coatesville Record*, November 22, 1912, 3.

³⁴⁰ Pennsylvania, Ecklund brothers: A. R. Forbush, "The Honor Roll," *Boys' Life*, February 1913, 29.

³⁴¹ *25 Years of Scouting in Rhode Island, 1910-1935* (Providence: Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1935); and J. Harold Williams, *Scout Trail 1910-1962: History of the Boy Scout Movement in Rhode Island* (Providence: Rhode Island Boy Scouts and Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1964).

³⁴² Rhode Island, Sharpe: "Boy Scouts Close State Conference. Visit to State House and Talk by Governor Enjoyed by Squad of 100," *The Evening Times*, December 29, 1919.

³⁴³ Rhode Island, Langdon: "State News in a Nutshell," *The Pawtucket Times*, August 4, 1920, 10.

³⁴⁴ Rhode Island, State House visit: "Scouts Receive Badges," *The Pawtucket Times*, December 3, 1921, 10.

competition, Rhode Island seemed as capable as other East Coast states to produce Eagle Scouts in significant quantities.

South Carolina

One of the largest discrepancies between the *Boys' Life* list and local newspapers involves the first Eagle Scout in South Carolina. C. C. Fisher is recorded in the August 1914 Eagle Scout class, but no South Carolina newspapers documented the event. Actually, no digital newspapers in South Carolina, from Historical Newspapers of South Carolina, Chronicling America, or Newspapers.com, mentions an Eagle Scout in the state until the latter half of 1920. In late September of 1920, newspapers reported that Charles Fishburne of Columbia was about to become the first Eagle Scout in the state, and he earned the award between September and January of 1921.³⁴⁵ These two names are extremely similar through outward appearance and they both come from the same town in South Carolina. Beyond those characteristics, the author was unable to identify any other newspapers for either individual. Through researching other states, the author encountered a C. C. Fisher, who the newspaper named as an Eagle Scout, in Knoxville, Tennessee, in the early days of February of 1916. Unfortunately, there was no additional mention of Fisher in other Tennessee newspapers during the 1910s.³⁴⁶ It should also be noted that South Carolina began consistently producing Eagle Scouts beginning in late 1921 and 1922 and continued to do so throughout the 1920s.³⁴⁷ The two leading candidates for the first Eagle Scout in South Carolina are Fisher and Fishburne but this history requires additional local and regional research to discover the finer details of the story.

South Dakota

South Dakota's earliest Eagle Scout, James P. Murphy of Broadland, was listed in *Boys' Life* in the September 1913 class, but digital newspapers did not provide any details for the first Eagle Scout in the state. Digital newspapers began covering South Dakota Eagle Scouts in 1928 and it seems that scouts began consistently earning the award in the state around this time.³⁴⁸ The

³⁴⁵ South Carolina, Fishburne: "State News Of Interest," *The Sumter Daily Item*, September 27, 1920, 1; "State News Of Interest," *The Watchman and Southron*, September 29, 1920, 1; "Scout News," *The Sumter Daily Item*, January 11, 1921, 6; and "Scout News," *The Watchman and Southron*, January 15, 1921, 3.

³⁴⁶ South Carolina, Fisher: "Sermon To Boys Of Scout Troops. Will Be Preached Sunday Morning by Dr. Broughton," *The Journal and Tribune*, February 9, 1916, 10.

³⁴⁷ South Carolina, consistency: "Scout News. Court of Honor Meets," *The Watchman and Southron*, February 5, 1921, 6; "Sumter's Eagle Scout. Sam Harby is First Youthful Aspirant to Title in Sumter," *The Sumter Daily Item*, January 20, 1922, 4; "Sumter's Eagle Scout. Sam Harby is First Youthful Aspirant to Title in Sumter," *The Watchman and Southron*, January 25, 1922, 2; "Boy Scouts of Rescue Orphanage," *The Watchman and Southron*, July 1, 1922, 4; "Made Eagle Scouts," *The Gaffney Ledger*, October 7, 1924, 6; "Personal News Notes," *The Camden Chronicle*, September 9, 1927, 5; "Camden Has Second Eagle Scout," *The Camden Chronicle*, September 16, 1927, 8; "Boy Scout News," *The Camden Chronicle*, December 16, 1927, 3; "Eagle Scout Duncan McRae Lang," *The Camden Chronicle*, June 14, 1929, 4; "Eagle Scouts," *The Index-Journal*, August 30, 1929, 2; "Camden's Eagle Scouts," *The Camden Chronicle*, September 27, 1929, 5; and "Scout Knowledge Saves Two Lives," *The Camden Chronicle*, November 29, 1929, 1.

³⁴⁸ South Dakota, consistency: "Redfield Boy Is Given High Scout Ranking," *The Evening Huronite*, April 19, 1928, 2; "Eleven Scouts Get Promotion," *The Evening Huronite*, May 29, 1928, 3; "Huron Area Council Adds 513 New Scouts to Roster for Year. Black Hills Region Attached to Council; Present Plan Calls for State Boy Leader Conference in Huron," *The Evening Huronite*, January 18, 1929, 7; "Parent-Teachers Hear Scout Talk," *The Evening Huronite*, January 19, 1929, 12; "De Smet Seeks Scout Charter. Twenty-One Members In Troop, With New

author did not find any information related to Murphy, but he is the most likely candidate for the first Eagle Scout in the state.

Tennessee

Tennessee Eagle Scouts began earning the award as early as 1914, with Frank L. Murray of Nashville being the best contender for the first Eagle in the state. However, it was not until 1916 that the state started consistently producing Eagle Scouts across its major three regions: Middle, East, and West Tennessee. The 1910s Eagle Scouts in Tennessee center on three major cities: Nashville in Middle Tennessee; Knoxville in East Tennessee; and Memphis in West Tennessee. Nashville has the distinction of hosting the earliest Eagle Scouts in the state in 1914 with the first being Murray in the June 1914 class as recorded in *Boys' Life*.³⁴⁹ The history of Knoxville's first Eagle Scout, S. Cleage Field in the December 1916 class, and others in the city is covered extensively in local newspapers and secondary sources available online.³⁵⁰ Eagle Scouts in West Tennessee and Memphis followed closely behind their Knoxville counterparts in

Congregational Minister As Leader," *The Evening Huronite*, February 6, 1929, 5; "Redfield Scouts Receive Honors," *The Evening Huronite*, March 21, 1929, 1; "Two Scouts Get Highest Rating. Lloyd Sherman And Milo Youel Become Eagle Scouts, 19 Given Badges," *The Evening Huronite*, March 27, 1929, 11; "Redfield Scouts Are Given Honor," *The Evening Huronite*, April 19, 1929, 1; "2 Boys Become Eagle Scouts," *The Evening Huronite*, May 2, 1929, 1; "Eagle Scouts," *The Evening Huronite*, May 3, 1929, 4; "Boy Scouts Here Get Promotions. Frank Kinyon Receives Star Rating; George Haskell Passes First Class," *The Evening Huronite*, September 25, 1929, 7; "Honor Awards Given Scouts," *The Evening Huronite*, October 31, 1929, 4; "Faulkton Boy Scouts Awarded Merit Marks," *The Evening Huronite*, November 6, 1929, 4; "Eagle Scout To Be Given Honor. Ogen Chamberlain To Receive Badge At Dinner Thursday Night," *The Evening Huronite*, December 4, 1929, 1; and "Boy At Redfield To Be Decorated For Saving Life. National Scout Court Of Honor Votes Gold Medal To Elmer Clark, Who Rescued Wayne Hagman In Cottonwood Lake," *The Evening Huronite*, December 12, 1929, 1.

³⁴⁹ Tennessee, Nashville primary sources: "Boy Scouts To Encamp In July. M. E. Holderness Receiving Registration Fees for Annual Outing," *Nashville Tennessean*, June 24, 1914, A5; "Encampment Of Local Scouts. To Be Held at Sycamore July 1 to 10—D. E. Hinkle In Charge," *Nashville Banner*, June 24, 1914, 4; and "With Boy Scouts Down At Sycamore. Youngsters Learning Many Useful Things At Their Annual Camp," *Nashville Banner*, July 9, 1914, 14. For secondary sources covering the history of Scouting in Middle Tennessee, see: Grady Eades, *For the Good of the Program: A Century of Middle Tennessee Scouting at Boxwell, 1921-2021* (Franklin: Clovercroft Publishing, 2021); *Middle Tennessee Council, BSA: A Centennial History* (Nashville: Middle Tennessee Council, Boy Scouts of America, 2021); and Wilbur F. Creighton, Jr., and Leland R. Johnson, *Boys Will Be Men: Middle Tennessee Scouting Since 1910* (Nashville: Middle Tennessee Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1983).

³⁵⁰ Tennessee, Knoxville primary sources: "Boy Scouts Given Badges. Members Hold Meeting at Second Presbyterian Church. The Investiture Ceremony Proves an Unusual Success. Several Speakers Heard," *The Journal and Tribune*, November 18, 1916, 6; "News From The Boy Scouts," *The Journal and Tribune*, April 15, 1917, 27; "News From The Local Boy Scouts," *The Journal and Tribune*, April 22, 1917, 38; "Boy Scouts Of America," *The Journal and Tribune*, July 1, 1917, 89; "Boy Scouts To Receive Honors. Investiture Service Will Be Greatest Even in Local History," *The Knoxville Sentinel*, October 19, 1917, 20; "Boy Scouts Awarded Medals," *The Journal and Tribune*, October 20, 1917, 6; "Scouts Receive Ranks Of Honor," *The Journal and Tribune*, February 10, 1918, 13; "'Eagle Scout' Joe F. Denney To Join Navy," *The Knoxville Sentinel*, February 26, 1918, 7; "Joe Denney To Enter Army And Navy Preparatory School At Washington," *The Journal and Tribune*, February 26, 1918, 5; "Likes Annapolis Naval Academy. Sam Cleage Field First Knoxville Boy to Become an 'Eagle Scout'," *The Knoxville Sentinel*, July 12, 1919, 9; and "Investiture Of Scouts Oct. 19," *The Knoxville Sentinel*, October 10, 1919, Page 23. Knoxville secondary source: Ray Ezell, "The First Eagle Scout in East Tennessee," *of Scouting in East Tennessee*, May 28, 2020, <https://historyofscoutingeasttennessee.wordpress.com/2020/05/28/the-first-eagle-scout-in-east-tennessee/#:~:text=By%20November%201916%2C%20when%20Cleage,in%20all%20of%20East%20Tennessee.> The History of Scouting in East Tennessee blog by Ray Ezell is the most accessible resource related to the history of Scouting in that region and Knoxville. Local-level histories do exist for Knoxville and other towns in East Tennessee, but to the author's knowledge, there is not a regional book that comprehensively covers the history.

the January 1917 class but the digital newspapers did not provide much information from this region since the resources tended to favor Nashville and Knoxville news outlets.³⁵¹ Tennessee's unique blend of mountainous regions in the east, rolling hills and small valleys in the center, and flat lands in the west create distinctive areas and peoples that are reflected in its Eagle Scouts and histories. The *Boys' Life* list and digital newspapers aligned with Murray being the best candidate for the first Eagle Scout in the state.

Texas

W. Elmo Merrem was discussed in Chapter Two of this thesis since he holds the status as the first Eagle Scout west of the Mississippi River, as determined by the order of appearance in the *Boys' Life* list. The digital newspapers from *Chronicling America*, *Newspapers.com*, and other Texas resources all align with Merrem being the first Eagle Scout in the state.³⁵² As a recap, Merrem was from Shiner and became an Eagle Scout in 1913. Texas Eagle Scouts consistently began earning the award in 1914 and many are included in the *Boys' Life* list.³⁵³

Utah

Hundreds of digital newspapers related to the early Utah Eagle Scouts are available through *Newspapers.com* and these resources provide a detailed narrative of the rise of Eagle Scouts in the state. Salt Lake City began the process of approving merit badges and higher ranks by establishing a court of honor in the summer of 1919 and local scouts subsequently became Life and Star Scouts throughout the rest of the year.³⁵⁴ The rapid progress of Salt Lake City

³⁵¹ Tennessee, Memphis primary sources: "High Degree Of Eagle Scout Won," *The News Scimitar*, August 20, 1919, 6. Several secondary sources are available for the history of Scouting in Memphis and West Tennessee, see: Chickasaw Council Archives Facebook Group; Fred Morton, "Kia Kima at the Beginnings of Scouting in Memphis," *Welcome to Old Kia Kima*, September 6, 2016, https://www.oldkiakima.org/okk_beginning.php; G. Wayne Dowdy, "Scouting for Memphians," in *Hidden History of Memphis* (Charleston: The History Press, 2010); G. Wayne Dowdy, *Scouting in Memphis: A History of the Chickasaw Council, BSA* (self-published, 2016); and Mark White, "Boy Scouts in Memphis," *Our Memphis History*, Podcast, circa 2018-2020, <https://ourmemphishistory.com/boy-scouts-in-memphis/>. The author also found references to another history book, but he was unable to find a digital or physical copy, see: Chuck Schadrack and Duane Klink, *100 years of Scouting, A Brief History of the Chickasaw Council, BSA* (n.a.).

³⁵² Texas, Merrem primary sources: Elmo Merrem, "How I Did It," *Shiner Gazette*, January 29, 1914, 4; "[Various Short News Segments]," *Temple Daily Telegram*, May 26, 1914, 4; and "Texas Boy Scouts May Compete For T.U. Scholarships," *The Austin American*, October 28, 1915, 5. Merrem secondary source: "Eagle Scouts," *West Texas Scouting History*, February 3, 2016, https://www.westtexasscoutinghistory.net/award_eaglepage.html#:~:text=Arthur%20R.,on%20Labor%20Day%20in%201912.

³⁵³ Texas, consistency: "'Dink' Hubby Makes Record As Boy Scout," *The Waco Times-Herald*, November 9, 1915, 8; "This Lad Acquires Choice Distinction: Is an Eagle Scout," *Waco Morning News*, November 10, 1915, 7; "Boy Scout News," *The Austin American*, July 10, 1916, 6; "Austin Boy Scout News," *The Austin Statesman*, July 22, 1916, 2; "Will Present Flag to the Boy Scouts," *The Austin Statesman*, September 1, 1916, 8; "Boy Scout News," *The Austin American*, December 18, 1916, 7; "Celebration Is Begun By Scouts. Local Body to Observe Seventh Anniversary of Organization," *The Austin Statesman*, February 8, 1917, 5; and "Boy Scout News," *The Austin American*, April 2, 1917, 5.

³⁵⁴ Utah, progress: "R. W. Young Named Boy Scout Chairman," *Salt Lake Herald*, July 19, 1919, 14; "Brig. Gen. Young Named Chairman of Scout Court of Honor," *Deseret Evening News*, July 19, 1919, 9; "Boy Scouts Decked With Medals; First Honor Court Held," *Salt Lake Herald*, August 30, 1919, 14; "Boy Scouts Close Outdoor Season.

scouts towards the becoming Eagle Scouts culminated in late January of 1920 with James Dunlap who was about to earn the award, until the court of honor was delayed to outbreak of the flu among the youth. Dunlap became the first Eagle Scout in Salt Lake City in February of 1920 and newspapers also proclaimed him as the first in Utah.³⁵⁵ Other scouts swiftly became Eagle Scouts in Salt Lake City between March and May of 1920 and this marks the state consistently producing Eagle Scouts from year to year.³⁵⁶ Dunlap is the most likely candidate to be the first Eagle Scout in Utah as the author did not find any prior Eagles in the digital newspapers.

Vermont

Even being adjacent to the state of New York, which had the highest numbers of Eagles in the 1910s, Vermont produced very few Eagle Scouts until late 1917. The earliest Vermont Eagle Scout recorded in *Boys' Life* is Joseph A. Evarts from St. Albans in 1913, but no digital newspapers covered his achievement. Digital newspapers instead extensively cover the achievement and activities of Vermont's second recorded Eagle Scout, Donald Winnifred Smith of Barre. Smith is listed in the August 1915 class in *Boys' Life* and newspapers from that time proclaimed him as the first Eagle Scout in the state.³⁵⁷ More scouts eventually earned the award in September of 1917 and beyond, but they were not recorded in *Boys' Life* due to the magazine discontinuing the name lists around this time. From the author's reading of the digital newspapers, Vermont began consistently producing Eagle Scouts in 1919 and the early 1920s as very few scouts earned the award between 1913 and late 1917.³⁵⁸ While Evarts is the leading

Open Headquarters For Winter," *Deseret Evening News*, August 30, 1919, 29; and "Eagles, Highest Rank, Is Next Step for These Stars of Salt Lake Boydom," *Salt Lake Herald*, August 31, 1919, 22.

³⁵⁵ Utah, Dunlap: "Eagle Scout Badges Award Is Deferred," *Deseret Evening News*, January 30, 1920, 2; "Scouts Postpone Presenting Badges," *Salt Lake Herald*, January 31, 1920, 6; "Knots In Button Holes Remind All To Do Good Turns," *Salt Lake Herald*, February 9, 1920, 10; "Scouts and 'Dads' To Meet Tonight At Annual Banquet," *Deseret Evening News*, February 21, 1920, 11; "Scout Troop Awarded Prize For Efficiency," *Deseret Evening News*, February 23, 1920, 7; and "James Dunlap to be Made Eagle Scout," *Deseret Evening News*, February 27, 1920, 3.

³⁵⁶ Utah, consistency: "Active Summer Is Planned For Boy Scouts," *Deseret Evening News*, March 6, 1920, 2; "Funeral Services," *Deseret Evening News*, March 15, 1920, 2; "Scouts To Hold Old Paper Drive. Troops of Boys Will Scour City to Win Prize and Earn Money," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, March 26, 1920, 7; "Scout Troops Dine Parents. Signal Honors Conferred on Members of Organizations in Emigration Ward," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, April 4, 1920, 42; "Honor Eagle Scouts," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, April 21, 1920, 10; "Good Turn To Mark First Day Of Month," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, April 24, 1920, 13; and "Honor Badges Are Awarded to Scouts," *Deseret Evening News*, May 1, 1920, 2. This next set of primary sources can be found on Chronicling America: "Flag Pole Is Presented To Boy Scouts," *The Logan Republican*, June 16, 1921, 1; "Boy Scout Court Of Honor Ceremonies," *The Logan Republican*, November 19, 1921, 1; "Scout Activity Is Recounted. G. A. Goates, Ogden Executive Reports on Work During Month," *The Ogden Standard-Examiner*, February 5, 1922, 9; "Awards Made To Boy Scouts. Seventy-seven Ogden Boys Given Reward for Their Activities," *The Ogden Standard-Examiner*, April 9, 1922, 10; "Lindon Has County's First Eagle Scout," *American Fork Citizen*, July 8, 1922, 5; "Four Eagle Scouts," *American Fork Citizen*, August 19, 1922, 3; and "Badges Presented To Boy Scouts," *American Fork Citizen*, August 26, 1922, 5.

³⁵⁷ Vermont, Smith: "Talk Of The Town," *The Barre Daily Times*, August 20, 1915, 8; "Camp Abnaki Notes," *The Vermont Advance*, August 28, 1915, 7; "'Camp Abnaki' Closed. Barre Boy First in Vermont to Receive Investiture as Eagle Scout," *St. Albans Messenger*, September 3, 1915, 2; "Older Boys' Conference. Program to Be Given in Burlington Jan. 12, 13 and 14," *The Barre Daily Times*, January 8, 1917, 7; "Older Boys Of Vermont. Hold Their Seventh Annual Conference at Burlington January 12, 13, 14," *Essex County Herald*, January 12, 1917, 4; and "Boy Scouts And What They Do," *Orleans County Monitor*, March 7, 1917, 2.

³⁵⁸ Vermont, consistency: "Camp Abnaki Closed," *The Rutland News*, September 1, 1917, 2; "Closes On Monday. Camp Abnaki Has Successful Season With Attendance of 200," *Rutland Daily Herald*, September 3, 1917, 3; "Clarence Pierce Made An Eagle Scout," *The Swanton Courier*, September 6, 1917, 4; "Camp Abnaki Closed.

candidate to be the first Eagle Scout in Vermont, the available digital newspapers do not mesh well with the information recorded in *Boys' Life*.

Virginia

Virginia has two distinct narratives related to the state's early Eagle Scouts that affect the overall history. First, the migration of Fred E. Woodson to Virginia from Oklahoma and native J. Levering Early who became Eagle Scouts back-to-back in the *Boys' Life* list; positions nineteen and twenty. Second, Virginia only began consistently producing Eagle Scouts in 1914 and local newspapers from this year often claim Terry Mitchell of Richmond as the first Eagle Scout in the state. Chronicling American and Newspapers.com did not provide many relevant primary sources but the author found that the Virginia Chronicle digital resource contains a wealth of newspapers pertaining to Eagle Scouts. Ray Ezell covered the histories of Woodson and Early in an extensive historical post so this account will be a brief retelling. Woodson migrated back and forth between Oklahoma and Virginia and completed scout rank requirements and merit badge work while in both states. He became an Eagle Scout while in Virginia but both states sometimes claim Woodson as the first Eagle Scout in either context. Early appears to be primarily a native of Virginia and completed most of the requirements to be an Eagle Scout while in-state.³⁵⁹ Depending on how something defines "the first Eagle Scout in the state," either Woodson or Early could be leading candidates for the position in Virginia. In contrast to Woodson's and Early's history that deals with migration and the nature of being the first Eagle Scout in a state, Mitchell and other Richmond scouts emphasize when Virginia began consistently producing Eagle Scouts at a high pace for the rest of the 1910s. Richmond undoubtedly had the largest concentration of Eagle Scouts in the state of Virginia, as evidenced from examining the *Boys' Life* list.³⁶⁰ The claims of Mitchell being the first Eagle Scout in the state is not supported by secondary sources or the *Boys' Life* list but he is the best candidate for the first Eagle in Richmond.

Kaiser Burned in Effigy on Community Day," *The Burlington Free Press and Times*, September 6, 1917, 10; "City News," *Burlington Daily News*, November 12, 1919, 12; "Y.M.C.A. News. Items of Interest and Events For Present Week," *The Bennington Evening Banner*, March 8, 1920, 3; "Scouts Elect Delegate. Wiley V. Ross to Represent Burlington Council and State at Springfield," *The Burlington Free Press and Times*, September 9, 1920, 5; "Older Boys To Meet In Barre This Week. Several Hundred from Various Parts of Vermont to Be Entertained," *The Barre Daily Times*, January 9, 1922, 1; "Boy Scouts Formed," *Essex County Herald*, June 1, 1922, 5; and "West Burke," *Vermont Union-Journal*, August 9, 1922, 4.

³⁵⁹ Virginia, Woodson and Early: "About Fred Woodson," *The News Leader*, January 8, 1963, 4; Linda D. Wilson, "Scouting," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, January 15, 2010, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=SC011>; and Ray Ezell, "Who Were Virginia's First Eagle Scouts?" *Central Virginia Boy Scouting Preservation Project*, April 2, 2020, <https://historyofscoutingva.wordpress.com/2020/04/02/who-were-virginias-first-eagle-scouts/>.

³⁶⁰ Virginia, consistency: "Three More Local Boys Are Made Eagle Scouts," *The News Leader*, June 4, 1914, 11; "Richmond Has Fire Eagle Scouts Out of 100 and One Life and Star Scout Out of 50 in U.S.," *The News Leader*, June 23, 1914, 11; "Scout News And Notes," *Richmond Evening Journal*, July 3, 1914, 12; "Scout News And Notes," *Richmond Evening Journal*, July 14, 1914, 10; "Eighth Eagle Scout in City of Richmond," *The News Leader*, July 15, 1914, 1; "Boy Scout News," *The News Leader*, July 22, 1914, 3; "Boy Scout Notes. Newest Eagle Scout," *The News Leader*, July 23, 1914, 10; "Two New Eagle Scouts," *The News Leader*, August 15, 1914, 3; "Scout News And Notes," *Richmond Evening Journal*, September 26, 1914, 10; and "New Eagle Scout," *The News Leader*, October 7, 1914, 9. This is a primary source from South Carolina: "Terry Mitchell Stars As Boy Scout. Former Student at Carolina Wins Prize Trophy," *The Gamecock*, April 18, 1914, 3.

Washington

In comparison to other Western states, Washington started producing Eagle Scouts somewhat early with the first ones appearing in 1918. Kent Addis of Spokane became an Eagle Scout in May of 1918, and this was the earliest Eagle the author found through *Chronicling America* and *Newspapers.com*.³⁶¹ It was not until 1919 that the state started consistently producing Eagle Scouts that would last throughout the 1920s.³⁶² The history of Washington Eagle Scouts in the 1920s is more tragic than other states as the author found three separate instances of local Eagle Scouts dying from various causes throughout the decade. These individuals were the first Eagle Scout from Seattle, Aldus B. Hoopman in February of 1925,³⁶³ Robert Macartney in November of 1924,³⁶⁴ and Gerald Floyd Cox in September of 1929.³⁶⁵ Moving back to the first Eagle Scout in Washington, the best candidate from the author's research is Addis of Spokane in 1918 as the *Boys' Life* list did not have any Eagles from Washington and the newspapers also did not provide any contenders between 1912 and 1917.

West Virginia

Howard K. Hogan is the first recorded West Virginia Eagle Scout in *Boys' Life* in the April 1914 class, but digital newspapers did not cover the event and only provided some cursory evidence for the first Eagle Scout in the state. Digital newspapers did cover the second West

³⁶¹ Washington, Addis: "Boy Scouts Give Varied Program At Installation. Awarded Honors by Mayer Fassett—Parents Attend Meet," *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, May 24, 1918, 19; "Boy Scouts Win Honor Degrees. Installation Last Night Was Best Attended in History of Work in Spokane," *The Spokesman-Review*, May 24, 1918, 6; and "Scout Honored," *The Spokane Press*, May 24, 1918, 3.

³⁶² Washington, consistency: "Wins Eagle Scout Rank. William Keller To Receive Highest Degree," *The Spokesman-Review*, February 8, 1919, 6; "Confer Degrees On Boy Scouts [...] Cheer William Kelly. Attains Coveted Eagle Rank—Eleven Lads Obtain Merit Badges," *The Spokesman-Review*, February 9, 1919, 8; "Local Scouts Meet Field Commissioner," *The Bellingham Herald*, August 26, 1919, 5; "Brief Local News," *The Bellingham Herald*, April 17, 1920, 5; "Hold Boy Scout Court Of Honor. Arthur Moore, Donald Dukelow and Morgan Allen Win Highest Degree," *The Spokesman-Review*, June 13, 1920, 11; "Scout Powwow At Upriver Camp," *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, May 2, 1921, 14; "Scout Fosseen Wins Honors. Believed First in U.S. to Receive Rank of Eagle," *The Spokesman-Review*, October 26, 1921, 7; "Surprise Party For Burton Boy Scouts," *Vashon Island News-Record*, April 7, 1922, 1; "Boy Scouts Have A Banner Year. Number in District Increased From 125 to Over 500 During Past Year—Seven Troop Grow to Thirty," *The Pullman Herald*, November 10, 1922, 1; "Scout Reports Show Achievement. Annual Meeting of Palouse Council Held Here Sunday—Pullman's Quota Reduced by \$300," *The Pullman Herald*, November 24, 1922, 1; "Scout Leaders To Meet In Pullman. Scoutmasters and Assistants of Palouse Council Will Assemble Here During Holiday Week," *The Pullman Herald*, December 15, 1922, 1; "Eagle Scout Will Introduce Harding," *The Seattle Star*, July 18, 1923, 3; "State News Boiled Down For Our Busy Readers," *Vashon Island News-Record*, October 5, 1923, 1; Gordon Moe, "Boy Scout Troop Of Cove Entertains At Banquet," *Vashon Island News-Record*, November 23, 1923, 1; "Scout Performs Daily Good Turn," *The Seattle Star*, February 12, 1925, 3; "[From the Courier-Reporter]," *The Kennewick Courier-Reporter*, August 6, 1925, 1; "Local Boy Scout to Receive Eagle Rank," *The Kennewick Courier-Reporter*, May 6, 1926, 1; and "Mothers And Dads Attend Banquet Here," *The Kennewick Courier-Reporter*, February 14, 1929, 1.

³⁶³ Washington, Hoopman: Rob Ketcherside, "First Eagle Scout in Seattle," *BA-KGROUND: New Seattle history, mostly*, July 15, 2022, <https://ba-kground.com/first-eagle-scout-in-seattle/#:~:text=Aldus%20B.,rank%20was%20created%20in%201911>; and "Vet Scout Dies. A. B. Hoopman, First Eagle Scout, Passes Away," *The Seattle Star*, February 23, 1925, 4.

³⁶⁴ Washington, Macartney: "Washington State Brief News Items," *Vashon Island News-Record*, November 7, 1924, 2.

³⁶⁵ Washington, Cox: "Died Not In Vain," *The Kennewick Courier-Report*, September 5, 1929, 2.

Virginia Eagle Scout, Hobart Turner of Weston, and the articles stated that “a Wheeling boy was the first in the state to be so honored [as an Eagle Scout].”³⁶⁶ The third recorded Eagle Scout in West Virginia, Marion Steele of West, was not covered by the digital newspapers. Hogan was recorded in *Boys’ Life* as having earned the award in Parkersburg and not Wheeling, but there could be several explanations for the discrepancy. The local court of honor covering Wheeling could have been based in Parkersburg and Hogan took his examinations in the larger town and was incorrectly listed in *Boys’ Life*. Hogan could have been living in Parkersburg but was originally from Wheeling and became an Eagle Scout while away from his hometown. In another possibility, a scout from Wheeling could have attended a troop in another state, possibly Ohio or Pennsylvania, and became an Eagle Scout in that state. Whatever the reason, Hogan is the best candidate for the position of the first Eagle Scout in West Virginia in 1914. In a similar narrative to Georgia, the state of West Virginia did not start consistently producing Eagle Scouts until the second half of 1918 and into 1919.³⁶⁷

Wisconsin

The author did not find any mention of George Salak in the *Chronicling America* resource. The earliest mention of an Eagle Scout in Wisconsin, available on Newspapers.com, was George Salak of Racine in May and June of 1915 and he also earned the award in the May 1915 class in *Boys’ Life*.³⁶⁸ For Wisconsin, there does not appear to be substantial conflicts or contradictions in local newspapers and the national *Boys’ Life* list for George Salak being the earliest known Eagle Scout in Wisconsin at the time of this thesis. Of course, not all newspapers have been digitized or made widely available, so other sources could contradict the findings of this thesis.

Wyoming

Wyoming’s first Eagle Scout is not clear as none were listed in the *Boys’ Life* list and the available newspapers feature conflicting claims. One of the first known Eagle Scouts in the state was due to the migration of Staley Archibald to the state. Archibald became an Eagle Scout in Chicago, Illinois, and was listed in the April 1917 class of the *Boys’ Life* list. Archibald moved to Wyoming and eventually became a scoutmaster of a local troop.³⁶⁹ Several individuals in 1920s newspapers claimed to have been the first in Wyoming to earn the Eagle Scout Award. The

³⁶⁶ West Virginia, Turner: “Weston,” *The Clarksburg Daily Telegram*, June 24, 1914, 4.

³⁶⁷ West Virginia, consistency: “News In Brief. Badge for Eagle Scout,” *The Clarksburg Exponent*, October 26, 1818, 5; “Local Boy Scouts Are Given Honor Badges,” *The Clarksburg Exponent*, November 26, 1918, 7; “Good Progress Made In Scout Work Here. Scout Executive Says He Has Obtained More Results Here Than Anywhere Else,” *The Charleston Daily Mail*, July 26, 1919, 5; “Follansbee Briefs,” *The Wheeling Intelligencer*, August 7, 1919, 8; “Highest Award To State Boy Scout,” *Martinsburg Evening Journal*, September 22, 1919, 10; “116 Merit Badges Are Awarded Local Scouts. Dudley Morrison Qualifies For Highest Scout Rank—Eleven in First Class,” *The Charleston Daily Mail*, November 25, 1919, 11; “Local Boy Scouts Given Promotions,” *The Clarksburg Exponent*, December 20, 1919, 13; and “Clarksburg Youth Wins Distinction as Scout,” *The Clarksburg Exponent*, December 21, 1919, 16.

³⁶⁸ Wisconsin, Salak: “Boy Scouts to Meet,” *The Racine Journal-News*, May 22, 1915, 7; and “Boy Scouts Meeting,” *The Racine Journal-News*, June 8, 1915, 5.

³⁶⁹ Wyoming, Archibald: “Good Report is Made on Troop One of Scouts: Inspection by Council Committee Reveals Close Cooperation Between Committee and Boys,” *The Casper Daily Tribune*, Volume 6, Number 39, November 23, 1921, 10.

earliest individuals, found by the author, were Joseph S. Hellewell and Robert P. Zemp as mentioned in a December 10, 1921, newspaper article. The newspaper does not specify when Zemp earned the award, and Hellewell presumably achieved the rank near the date of the article.³⁷⁰ Several years later, in 1923, Roland Nichols and Keith Bahrenburg (also spelled Rowland Nickols and Keith Bhenburg in another article) of Casper became Eagle Scouts and the newspapers claimed them to be the first Eagles in the state.³⁷¹ The first Eagle Scout in Wyoming is unclear due to the conflicting claims and the issues of migration with Archibald.

Washington, D.C.

The District of Columbia features prominently in the history of the BSA and Eagle Scouts and newspapers reflect this relationship through extensive coverage of Boy Scout activities, both in general and in the district. Several contenders emerged in the running to become the first Eagle Scout in the district. These individuals included Norris B. Gaddess, Frank Arnell Carpenter, and Fred Reed. The front runners were Gaddess and Carpenter since they become Life and Star Scouts in the second half of 1913.³⁷² But somewhere between September of 1913 and February of 1914, Carpenter disappeared from the newspaper coverage, and this cleared the way for Gaddess. As a note, the *Boys' Life* list does record an Eagle Scout from the July 1914 class named Frank Carpenter from Richmond, Virginia, but the author does not know if this was the same individual from Washington, D.C. On the fourth anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, February 8, 1914, a newspaper reported that Norris B. Gaddess became an Eagle Scout, the first in the district.³⁷³ Gaddess had been in the organization for just under a year, having joined in February of 1913, and was still only 13-years-old when he became an Eagle Scout. Several newspapers in February of 1914 clearly state Gaddess as the first Eagle Scout in the district, followed closely behind by several others, and this aligns with the list in *Boys' Life*.³⁷⁴ More information on the first set of Washington, D.C., Eagle Scouts can be found in Chapter Two of this thesis and their relationship with the U.S. President. The district consistently produced Eagle Scouts throughout the rest of the 1910s and these individuals became deeply involved in the national history of the BSA and its ties to United States.

³⁷⁰ Wyoming, Hellewell and Zemp: "Mutual Improvement Association Hold Program at Conjoint Meeting Last Sunday," *The Wyoming Press*, Volume 17, Number 2, December 10, 1921.

³⁷¹ Wyoming, Nichols and Bahrenburg: "Boy Scouts To Put On Work In Great Rally To Be Held At High School Next Friday," *The Casper Daily Tribune*, October 17, 1923, 10; and "Boy Scouts Appear In Wonderful Exhibition. Eagle Badges Presented Two Casper Boys. Casper Youth First in State to Receive High Honors; Appreciation of Executive Shown by Gift," *The Casper Sunday Tribune*, October 21, 1923, 2.

³⁷² District of Columbia, progress: "Boy Scouts Ready To Carry Message," *The Evening Star*, June 20, 1913, 2; "What The Boy Scouts Are Doing," *The Sunday Star*, July 20, 1913, 6; "Two Young Scouts Hold Fine Records. Norris B. Gaddess, of Troop 39, and Arnell Carpenter, of Troop 10, Honored," *The Washington Times*, August 10, 1913, 6; and "District Scouts Proud of Two Mates Who Have Won Star Badges," *The Washington Times*, September 21, 1913, 8.

³⁷³ District of Columbia, Gaddess: "What The Boy Scouts Are Doing," *The Sunday Star*, February 8, 1914, 13.

³⁷⁴ District of Columbia, Gaddess and other Eagle Scouts: "More Men Needed To Aid Boy Scouts," *The Evening Star*, February 12, 1914, 2; "Boy Scout Rulers In Annual Session," *The Washington Times*, February 12, 1914, 12; and "First Eagle Scout Is A Little Fellow," *The Washington Times*, February 15, 1914, 5.

A Note on Eagle Scouts in U.S. Territories and Overseas Locations

This appendix strictly looks at Eagle Scouts from states, territories that eventually reached statehood, and the District of Columbia with its very notable lore in the history of the BSA and Eagle Scouts. However, a distinctive element in the history of Eagle Scouts is the international territories of the U.S. and areas with American presences such as military bases, embassies, etc. The narratives in these areas tie into several different historical threads including the LDS Church's presence around the world, efforts by the BSA to provide international coverage for troops, and the changing nature of U.S. presence abroad with long-term facilities and vacated locations. Due to the extensive and complex nature of this appendix, the author did not have the time to fully explore the nuanced nature of individuals that became Eagle Scouts abroad from the U.S. mainland. The historiography for the international aspects of the BSA is also underdeveloped at the time of this thesis, so more research is needed to understand the nature of Eagle Scouts in overseas locations.