

SCOUTS-L

**NATIONAL EAGLE
SCOUT ASSOC.**

Date: Tue, 25 Jun 1996 10:47:31 -0500
From: "Settummanque, the blackeagle (MAJ) Mike L. Walton"
<blkeagle@MIDWEST.NET>
Subject: Re: NESAs
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Kevin Williams asked a pair of really great questions:

- >What is a NESAs organization?
- >What is its purpose?

The National Eagle Scout Association (NESAs) is an outgrowth of the former Knights of Dumanis organization which existed in 400 of the former 639 local Councils in 1972. The NESAs was formed with the dual purposes of retaining and promoting the Eagle Scout rank and maintaining interest in Scouting; and the all-important role of staying in touch with Eagles and reminding them of their obligation to serve others as well as to assist Scouting in any way that they can.

It had a GREAT start: a National Staff Advisor, similar to the Order of the Arrow's national director, was appointed and part of the Eagle Scout Service's offices was converted into a "membership office". Eagles that wanted to reach other Eagles could write to National and be placed in contact with other Eagle Scouts all over the nation, in all walks of life and doing a wide variety of jobs. It was "networking" at its best: the best of the best males in the nation.

To assist new Eagles, the NESAs established a "response and encouragement" plan and asked Eagles from all areas of life to write congratuations letters to new Eagles upon request from Scoutmasters or parents.

A really sharp logo, and patches, insignia and other items were developed to support the new program. I didn't know this, but in an early NESAs publication, we Eagles that have earned palms were supposed to place the palms on the red, white and blue ribbon suspending the NESAs emblem on the pocket (this was when National couldn't make up their minds about Eagle palms on the square knot)!!

The "Eagletter" was established as the "communications

medium" for the new organization. The original intent was to publish the newsletter quarterly, but it quickly became a real fight to get it out even on that schedule. It is now sent out twice a year, and there is some discussion about abandoning it totally in favor of a yearly "Report to Eagle Scouts", which would have the same information as the biyearly editions with additional "filler" taken from other publications to keep Eagles informed with the Scouting program. (I like this idea much better!)

Naturally, National granted local charters to Council NESA chapters, which were chaired by youth Eagle Scouts and advised by a slew of adults, including a professional staff member whom MUST be an Eagle Scout. Some Council NESA programs, for instance, the ones in LA, Chicago, Kansas City, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Seattle, Washington D.C., Baltimore, and Tampa as well as overseas in Europe, the Far East and in Panama, offered a wide variety of programming and support to both new and experienced Scouters aimed at the NESA goals. They were really very popular, and local Councils LOVED them!!

A series of national events for Eagles were produced by the NESA with the National Events and Conferences Service (which is now part of the BSA's Operations Group). These "reunion meetings", held all over the nation, allowed Eagles to once again come together and make plans to strengthen the program even more. It was a good "personal boost", and at the National Conferences, the entire National staff would roll out and present "mini-All Hands" meetings and inform Eagles of significant trends in the Scouting programs.

It was "all good".

However, many Council Scout Executives were concerned about the youth aspect of NESA leadership, just like they were about Exploring youth leadership at the Council and Regional levels. Because the youth "ran the show", it was hard for the professional to "positively influence" the youth leaders many times. In some cases, the Council Scout Executive (or the staff advisor in charge of NESA) was jealous of the youth's ability to lead without a lot of "advisement" by the professional.

Also, some Council NESA chapters became a secondary fundraising funnel for the local Council, and many Eagles expressed that they were being used as "magnets" to get the Council more money (nothing new: this goes on with EVERYTHING else in Scouting; only thing, some of these Eagle Scouts were also very influential people but NOT on the Council's Executive or Advisory Boards (this is the true fault of the local Council for this failure!)) and complained to National about this fact.

Some Councils used the NESA Chapter as their own "private club", complete with hosting dinner parties out at the local Council's camping facilities. While this was questionable at the least, some Councils did this so that Eagles could invite those that would otherwise not come out to the camping facility to see it (and to ask them for financial support to keep it going)!

Finally, the Regions treated the NESA chapters like the Exploring Presidents' Associations: every Council MUST have a chapter, or they are NOT doing "quality Scouting". Councils would hastily put together a NESA Chapter, get it chartered, and for all practical purposes, it was only on paper and the Charter would sit in the Council office lobby for the Area Director to view whenever he made his visit.

In 1986, the National Executive Board realigned the content and structure of the NESA and eliminated the charters to local Councils. Councils could still use the program and it would continue to be supported by the National Office, but the "requirement" to have a chapter in every local Council would be removed and if a Council wanted a NESA Chapter, they would be "on their own" to do it.

The original message sent to Council Scout Executives was that "The local Council portion of the National Eagle Scout Association is hereby suspended. All local Councils will no longer maintain a NESA Chapter and those local Councils with such chapters will disassociate them upon receipt of this memorandum..."

Many Councils quickly disbanded their NESA chapters and told their Eagles that "NESA is going out of business". This was a wrong move, and forced the NESA to reestablish itself during 1987 by a series of Council-initiated, NESA-supported "Eagle Reunion Evenings" all over the nation. The emphasis was to allow Eagles to become NESA members and to let them know

about COUNCIL programs and events. This approach worked and is the current model for NESAs programs and operations in many local Councils.

It is important to add, as I've stated before about many things which are "sent down as policy by National" to the local Council, that SOME Councils completely IGNORED the memo from the National Director of Operations in 1986, and have CONTINUED to and in some cases STRENGTHENED their "NESA Chapter". For instance, several Councils in Ohio and Illinois kept their Eagle Scout associations although not chartered, and have done some spectacular work with keeping Eagles in the program and assisting with Courts of Honor and other special events. The Eagle Scout Associations in both the Transatlantic and Far East Councils are very strong and cuts across military rank and civilian titles and have given lots of money and time to local camping and outdoor program efforts.

In 1994, the National Eagle Scout Association asked the Program and Operations Groups to please clarify the policy of membership in the National Eagle Scout Association, which was clarified and approved by the National Executive Board last year. Membership in the National Eagle Scout Association, unlike Order of the Arrow or Explorer Officers' Association membership, is NOT DEPENDENT UPON REGISTRATION IN THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA. In other words, you do NOT have to be registered as a BSA member or adult in order to become or maintain your membership as a member of the National Eagle Scout Association (though it's not a bad idea!!).

Membership in the NESAs does NOT imply or implicate approval of the person as a registered Scout or Scouter. This is ONLY accomplished by action of the person by registering with a unit or local Council and payment of the appropriate registration fee for such membership.

This was necessary because it was feared that some "undesirables" would use their NESAs membership as basis for registration in units or Councils. I think it's silly to think this, but I can understand also their concern.

The Director of the Eagle Scout Service doubles as the Director of the National Eagle Scout Association.

The National Eagle Scout Association is ALWAYS looking for additional members, and while the "benefits" of belonging is NOT as good as it used to be, it is still a special group of people with a special purpose. And since there is NO provision for "honorary Eagles" or "special Eagles", the ONLY members of this organization are those that have earned the highest male youth honor in the Boy Scouts of America.

Membership information can be obtained from your local Council office or by writing to the National Eagle Scout Association, S220, at the National Office address in Texas.

Thanks for asking the questions!!

Settummanque!

From <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU> Tue Dec 10 01:02:46 1996

Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

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23:54:29 -0600

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Mon, 09 Dec 96 23:54:24 CST

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Mail.IDT.NET (8.7.4/8.7.3) with SMTP id AAA17713; Tue, 10 Dec 1996

00:44:14 -0500 (EST)

X-Mailer: Mozilla 2.01 (Win95; I; 16bit)

MIME-Version: 1.0

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Message-ID: <32ACF65A.407F@mail.idt.net>

Date: Mon, 9 Dec 1996 21:34:18 -0800

Reply-To: Jerry and Joyce Johnson <jjj39@MAIL.IDT.NET>

Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>

From: Jerry and Joyce Johnson <jjj39@MAIL.IDT.NET>

Subject: EAGLE SCOUT/NESA

X-cc: Intrepidck@aol.com

To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Status: RO

X-Status:

The Hendra Family asked that we respond direct to the request but I would like to share it with all of you.

"THERE IS NO END TO THE EAGLE SCOUT TRAIL." Each Eagle Scout receives with his Eagle Certificate and invitation to join the National Eagle Scout Association which have those words. That membership is restricted to those who have been granted the Eagle Scout Award by the Boy Scout of America. It is a fellowship of men who have achieved the Eagle Scout Rank. Applications for NESA memberships are cross-checked against the National Eagle Scout register maintained by the Eagle Scout Service.

There is a Life Membership available for \$180., or a five year membership for \$25. You get certificates, a great membership card, and the Eagletter, (a wonderful publication that shares wonderful information).

Send the dollar amount to:

NESA, S220, Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P. O. Box 152079

Irving, Texas 75015-2079

Include:

**Name
Address
Date of Birth
EAGLE AWARD DATE
Council Number
Region - CE NE SO WE (or old region)
Social Security Number**

National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) accepts VISA and MasterCard.

NESA memberships are wonderful gifts for parents or troops that want to gift that special gift. Also NESA keeps looking for its LOST EAGLES. If any of you know of one that is not really involved or is just beginning to enter Scouting again because he has a Tiger Cub, pass the word.

"There is no end to the Eagle Scout trail." Once an Eagle, always an Eagle.

I had the opportunity to touch and hold old Eagle Records at the National Office this past October. What an Honor for all the Eagle Scouts to know that their name is in a permanent place. Seeing how carefully those many names were hand written in those precious old ledgers gave me goose bumps and inside tears. For 25 years I have worked with many Eagles, and each new Eagle still gives me that same inspiration. What better way can a person spend his/her time than with all of these wonderful youth that are our tomorrow.

**In Scouting,
Joyce Johnson
Bellevue, WA**