

Arron on Scouting. The Official Site of Scouting Magazine
January 27, 2025

**What you need to know about
the latest updates to the
*Guide to Advancement 2025***

Sections 9.0.1.3 and 9.0.1.7 concern references for an Eagle Scout candidate. The updated guide specifies the number of reference letters required (four) and who they should come from.

These may be Scout leaders, teachers, employers, coaches, other Scouts, etc. References do not need to be 21 or older. Parents and other relatives are strongly discouraged from serving as references. The current unit leader and committee chair are not eligible to serve as references.

The updated guide also specifies that the Scout is responsible for requesting references, not the council advancement committee or any other adult. The letters should be returned by whatever method the council specifies. They could be returned directly to the Scout, but only if in a sealed envelope or other method to assure confidentiality, as Scouts must not see the contents. They could also be sent to the Scoutmaster, a district or council volunteer, or via an online form. A reference from the Scout's place of worship is encouraged but not required.

"We want the Scout to ask for the letters," says Lisa Balbes, advancement lead for the Scouts BSA Committee. "This is a valuable life skill that they're going to need."