



ANTHONY WAYNE AREA COUNCIL

EAGLE SCOUT LEADERSHIP PROJECT GUIDELINES



The following guidelines have been prepared to help Scouts, Unit Leaders, and Parents better understand expectations for Eagle Scout Leadership Projects. As always, the aim of the Council and District Advancement Committees is to ensure that each Scout in their Council, and in the Council's Districts, will have a successful project that meets the rigorous standards set forth by the Boy Scouts of America.

1. As you begin to think about your Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, ask yourself if it is truly "Eagle Caliber"? For example: Is it visible and lasting? Is it of sufficient size to involve multiple people performing multiple tasks? Will it provide you with the opportunity to exert and demonstrate leadership?
2. According to the Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures manual, the project must be reviewed and approved by the District or Council Advancement Committee or their designee before the project is started. Some District Advancement Committees delegate this to a Project Review Board or its Chairperson. Your District Executive can tell you how your District does their project review.
3. The Plan is expected to be so complete and thorough that, hypothetically, the write-up could be given to another Scout totally unfamiliar with the project and that Scout could direct and complete the project using your plan.
4. Scouts must use the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. This can be either the workbook provided by the Council or the downloadable version from the National or Council websites; the most current version must be used. These are also available online as a fill-in form at: <http://www.nesa.org/trail/manual.html>
5. Workbook pages dealing with the Project Description and Project Plan must be filled out *thoroughly*. Additional pages will be required to thoroughly answer the "Planning Details" section to the satisfaction of the District Committee.

Project Description: Clear communication of the Projects Plan is essential. Poor communication of the plan will result in your having to rewrite it before it will be approved.

Make this section clear and concise. Make sure the project is Eagle Quality.

State concisely what you are going to do.

The greater amount of detail you include, the easier it will be to clarify your project.

Clarify who your project will benefit, and how they will benefit from it.

Project Details: Explain clearly how you will carry the project to completion. Make sure you include:

A list tools, equipment, and materials needed, their cost, and how the project will be funded.

"Before" photographs are required; include sketches, drawings, landscaping plans, etc., as well. Be sure to capture the scope of your project in these photographs. (Remember to take "after" photos as well to put in the workbook.)

How many people will be needed? What kind of work schedule is desirable? How will you recruit helpers and "advertise" your project?

Safety: Include a paragraph discussing possible hazards and how these hazards will be avoided or minimized. Remember that you need two adults at your project at all times and that you must avoid the use of hazardous power tools by Scouts.

Leadership: Explain, in detail, how you will demonstrate leadership in carrying out your project.

6. For a Scout to appear before the District for approval, his booklet must contain the signatures of his Unit Leader and Unit Committee Member, preferably the Chairperson. The project plan must have already been reviewed and approved by the beneficiary organization, and must contain the signature of its representative. A Scout coming to the project review without these signatures will not be reviewed.

7. The Unit is the first line of project approval. It is the responsibility of the Unit Leader and Unit Committee Chairperson to be familiar with BSA's current requirements. If Unit Leaders do not feel comfortable with this information, we strongly encourage them to attend one of the Life-To-Eagle seminars where these details are thoroughly reviewed. These seminars are scheduled during Boy Scout Resident Camp, normally on Wednesday, immediately after lunch. The Unit Leader can also contact their District's Eagle Project Review Chairperson for guidance.

8. The Eagle candidate must plan, direct and follow through with the project **FUNDAMENTALLY ON HIS OWN**. Significant intervention from adults or others could jeopardize final approval of your Eagle Project at your Eagle Scout Board of Review. Adults and Scouters are familiar with leading, not following, especially when they are taking directions from a Scout. While a Scout may approach an adult for guidance, caution must be taken to ensure the project isn't taken over by the adult. When adults are assisting on an Eagle Project, they **MUST** resist the temptation to give *unsolicited* advice or take initiative. This is the Scout's opportunity to be *completely and thoroughly* in charge of his project. Don't allow adults to "spoil" it; don't jeopardize final approval of your project!
9. "Canned" projects, like Red Cross blood drives (as well as other collection projects) do not provide sufficient opportunity to demonstrate a Scout's planning abilities and will not be approved. Projects of this type are typically planned by the organization they benefit and can be accomplished in a minimal amount of time with virtually no planning required on the part of the Scout.
10. Projects may, at times, model similar projects of other Scouts. A Scout must be able to clearly develop his own plan as to how he will accomplish the goals of the project. A Scout must also show in his plan how his leadership can be carried out without simply replicating a previous plan. A project that is simply an extension of a previous plan is not likely to be approved.
11. Projects done in partnership with another Scout make it difficult for the District to identify an individual Scout's contribution to planning, directing and follow-through. For this reason, similar or simultaneous projects for two or more Scouts are rarely approved. A single project may never be shared between Eagle candidates; multi-phase projects will be examined on an individual basis.
12. Projects that require a large portion of adult labor (like using hazardous power equipment) might not provide opportunity for "real" leadership. Projects that use youth labor are preferred.
13. Routine labor should never be considered. If it is a job or service normally rendered— painting, clean-up, yard work, maintenance, storage space reorganization, office work, etc. — it has potential for a good Unit service project opportunity, but it is not acceptable as an Eagle Project.
14. Work involving Council or Unit property or for the benefit of Scouting is not acceptable. Likewise, no projects may be performed for the benefit of a private or commercial business or be of a commercial nature.
15. Fundraisers are never acceptable as Eagle Projects; raising funds to purchase materials or soliciting donated materials should be a **MINOR** component of the project. This is a test of giving leadership to others, not fundraising.
16. There is no minimum number of hours that must be spent on carrying out the project. The amount of time spent must be sufficient for the Scout to clearly demonstrate leadership skills. While there is no set minimum, most projects, on average, are in the range of 70-100 hours. (100 hours is more than enough to demonstrate a Scout's leadership abilities; projects that are much larger may turn out to be more than a Scout, or his Unit, can handle.)
17. The Districts and Council are looking very carefully at project proposals coming from certain community organizations. We are finding many projects (a) are simple replications of past projects; (b) the plan and means of accomplishing the project are dictated by the benefactor; (c) require substantial funding or soliciting of materials by the Scout; or (d) require too few or too many hours to complete. Many of these project proposals require no planning or leadership on the part of the Scout, and will therefore not be approved.
18. When a District requires a Scout to personally meet with a Project Review Committee prior to project approval, the Scout must bring three complete copies of the Project Plan, plus pencil and paper for taking notes, to the review. Remember, this is the first step in the Eagle Scout Board of Review process. A Scout needs to dress appropriately for the occasion in their full, complete and clean Boy Scout Uniform consisting of Official BSA Class A Shirt with proper, current insignia and Rank; BSA pants or shorts, BSA socks, BSA belt, and Troop neckerchief with slide. The District will take a relaxed, mentoring approach with each Scout. Come to the project review *looking* like an Eagle Scout, with a respectful, positive attitude. This is a serious step toward the Eagle Scout Award and will be treated as such.
19. After project approval, if the Scout is forced (or merely decides) to make any significant change(s) to the approved plan, materials, labor or nature of the project, the project may require re-review. Changes may be discussed with a phone call to the District Eagle Project Approval Chairperson. The District Project Approval Chairperson will determine whether telephone approval can be made or whether a new review must be scheduled. Each Scout will get his District Project Approval Chairperson's phone number at the time of approval, along with a verbal reminder about this procedure.
20. Upon completion, the Scout must write the final report using the Project Workbook as his guide. Once the Scout, his Unit Leader, AND the benefiting organization are satisfied with the project and report, they each must sign the Workbook where indicated. The Project Workbook and final report are submitted to the Council along with the Scout's completed Eagle Scout Application, *making certain that requirement 6 on the Eagle Scout Application is attached as well.*