



Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project

- What an Eagle Scout Candidate can do for your organization.
- What an Eagle Scout Candidate cannot do for a project.
- What you will be expected to do.
- Things you can do to help make the process go smoothly.

Thank You and Congratulations

The purpose of this document is to help organizations that are considering having a Scout do an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project for them. You will need to understand something about what the Scout can and can't do for you, and what they need from you to make the project a success for everyone involved. If you are reading this, you are probably considering working with an Eagle Scout candidate on their Eagle Scout Leadership Service project. So thank you for doing what will be required of you, and congratulations on having the opportunity to benefit from the hard work of the Scout and his helpers.

Requirements

The project is one of the requirements for a Scout to earn the Eagle Scout Rank, Scouting's highest rank. To complete this requirement, "the scout must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to his religious institution, school, or his community." Note that the Scout MUST lead the project. If you are not willing to let the Scout run the project, or the project is such that you believe the scout cannot carry out the project leading a group of youth with a minimum of adult involvement, then the project is not a good candidate for an Eagle project.

Limitations

In order to meet the Boy Scout requirements, there are some types of projects that are not allowed. Projects cannot be routine labor, or a job or service normally rendered. The service project may not be performed for a business or an individual, be of a commercial nature, or be a fund-raiser. Normally this means that the project should be for a government entity, religious organization, or any 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

Size of the Project

There is no fixed definition to how large a project must be. It must be a significant challenge to the Scout, and must make a significant contribution to the community. Projects generally involve 150 to 250 work-hours, but sometimes have exceeded 1000 work-hours. The project can be a combination of several tasks to make a significantly challenging project. It also must be something that is within the capabilities of the Scout to complete.

Schedule

Some projects take only a few months to plan and carry out, while some Scouts take a year or more between the time the project is first discussed and the time it is finished. If you need the project completed by a specific time, be sure the schedule is feasible for the Scout to carry out. Once the scout has planned the project (a process that can often take several months) they then must get several approvals before starting any work. Approvals by Scout Unit Leadership, the Local Scout Council, and by the beneficiary (you). This takes considerable time. If what you want to have done is on a short timeline or has a hard deadline, it may not work for an Eagle project. Be sure you make any scheduling requirements clear to the Scout when you discuss the project with them.

Expectations of You

At the very least, the Scout will be expecting you to let them know what you need to have done, and any limitations you have on how or when it is done. Once the scout has developed a detailed plan, they will ask you to approve that plan. Your approval means the scout is allowed to begin physical work on the project. At the completion of the project, the scout will need to get a signature from you acknowledging that they have completed the project to your satisfaction.

You may be very involved in the planning process and know exactly what you want accomplished. Or, you may have an idea and want the scout to offer some ideas on a theme you can work through to help clarify the project. But the Scout will work out details of how to carry out the project based on your requirements, or the scout may have to seek out other resources to help with the planning. This varies a great deal from project to project. By the time the scout has finished the planning process, the scout will have a thorough understanding of how to carry out the project successfully, including providing the leadership to the group carrying out the project.

If the project will require building permits or approvals from your organization or government entities, you will need to inform the Scout, and will need to handle the legal/approval documents for this as they are minors and the Troop cannot act on your behalf. Scouts can certainly be invited to speak to a board and present their project to aid in the approval process.

Funding

In many cases, the organization that is benefiting from the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project provides any necessary funding, but this is not a requirement. In some cases, the Scout may fund the project themselves, or the scout may include fundraising as part of the project to provide funds for materials. In many cases scouts can get donations or discounts on necessary materials. You should at least provide the scout with your tax-exempt id numbers to save sales tax on purchases for the project.

Planning Approval

Once the Scout has fully developed his detailed plan, the scout will bring it to you for approval. At this time you should be comfortable that they are ready to carry out the project to your satisfaction. Remember that the scout will be leading the project and will probably be using unskilled youth (with adult supervision) to do the work. You should be comfortable that the scout understands what you are expecting and can deliver a project that will be of significant benefit to your organization.

Supervision

You must be willing to let THE SCOUT run the project. Scouts are responsible for recruiting the labor (Scouts or other youth) and for leading them in carrying out the project. While you may need to be present to provide access to your facility while the scout is working, THE SCOUT must be in charge and directing the project. If the nature of the project or your requirements are such, or if you are not willing to have the project work this way, then do not start the Scout on a project that will not qualify for his requirement. Over the years, many Scouts have been very successful in leading projects. Scouts must be allowed to have this leadership experience as part of fulfilling this requirement.

Final Approval

At the completion of the project, the scout will come back to you for your final approval. If you have any questions about what the scout has done, do not hesitate to be fully honest with them. This is not the time to change the scope of what the scout was asked to do, but you should hold the scout to what you both agreed the project was to include and how it was to be done at the time of the proposal. Remember, you approved the plan before the work started. The scout will need to get a letter or final project signature from you acknowledging that they have completed the project to your satisfaction.