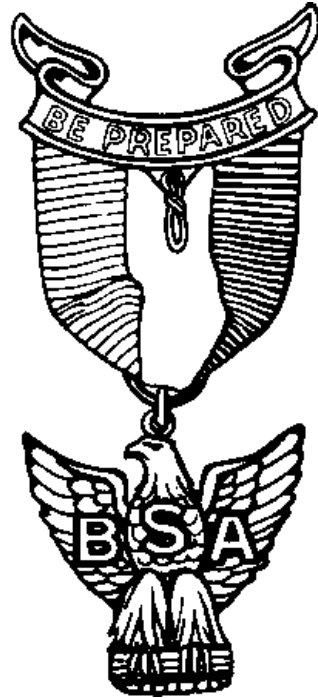


Eagle Service Projects



Gray Owl District



November 11, 2004

CIRCLE TEN COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA GRAY OWL DISTRICT EAGLE SERVICE PROJECT:

Lets look at Page 447 in the Boy Scout Handbook, Eagle Scout rank. It states: "While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community." (The project should benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.) The project idea must be approved by the organization benefiting from your efforts, your Scoutmaster and troop committee, and the council or district before you start. You must use the Life to Eagle Packet, BSA publication No. 18-927A, in meeting this requirement. This is available from your unit leader or at the Scoutfitter.

A project may be better suited for one Scout than another. The project selected should provide the Scout with a challenge to test his leadership ability. The Scoutmaster and members of the troop committee should counsel with the Scout prior to his selecting a project.

First, under this requirement, the Scout must do some thinking on his own. He must plan the project - not just carry out a request that someone has made or that someone else will do if he doesn't. Second, he must develop the plan - this shows his ability to organize. If someone else develops the plan, then he is a follower and not a leader. And last he must recruit the personnel needed and carry out the plan to its completion in order to show he gets results. The project need not be original; but he must plan the details, organize the work, recruit the workforce, and direct the project to its completion.

The key to the Eagle Service Project is Leadership. He has already demonstrated his leadership in Scouting by completing requirement #4 for his Eagle Scout rank. Now he must demonstrate his leadership ability outside of Scouting through a worthwhile project to any religious institution, any school or community. It should be of sufficient magnitude to bear the title "Eagle Service Project". Routine labor, jobs, or services normally rendered (such as volunteer work the Scout may already be doing) is not considered within the intent of an Eagle project.

Total time involved must be considered and should represent the Scout's best possible effort. The number of hours is not stipulated since there are a wide variety of project subjects. The level of service depends on the Scout, the type of project, the amount of planning time, the number of people working on it; and therefore it is hard to establish a set number of hours. To assure the time devoted is worthy of an Eagle Project, that the Scout understand what he is committing too, a goal should be established on the total numbers of hours to complete the project.

Service to others is important. Work involving council property or other BSA activities is not acceptable for an Eagle Scout service project. It may not be performed for a business, or be of a commercial nature, or be a fund-raiser. *Fund-raising is permitted only for securing materials or supplies needed to carry out the project.*

Routine labor, a job or service normally rendered, should not be considered. A project in which the benefiting organization has developed the plan, provided the material, and need the Scouts only to perform the labor is considered routine labor. A project, which the benefiting organization conducts annually, scheduled on the calendar, which would be done even if not an Eagle project would be services normally rendered. The Scout must plan, develop, organize, and provide leadership to others to ensure the project is completed.

All of these steps must be completed after he becomes a Life Scout and prior to his 18th birthday.

- 1.) Obtain an Eagle Scout leadership Service Project Workbook 18-927A from your unit leader, district, or council.
- 2.) Develop a potential project idea and discuss it with your unit leader or Eagle Project Coordinator to see if your idea is within the scope of an Eagle project.
- 3.) Contact the organization for which you wish to do the project and set up a meeting to discuss your idea. Make a rough outline of the project in as much detail as needed to ensure that you and the group benefiting understand what the purpose of the project is. Make sure to get the name of the person with whom the concept was discussed. (Name, Date, & Phone No. Must be placed on page 5 of your packet.
- 4.) Develop a plan in as much detail as necessary to present it and obtain approval from the benefiting organization representative, Scoutmaster/Coach/Advisor, and Unit Committee to start the project. The following questions must be answered.
 - Who will benefit from this project?
 - How will they benefit?
 - What official from the group benefiting from the project will be contacted for guidance in planning?
 - How many people will be recruited and how long do think it will take to complete? Time schedule for carrying out the project and the number of helpers needed.
 - What materials are needed? Describe the present condition, the method and materials needed. If appropriate include photographs before you start.

You must have three approval signatures on page 6 of your packet before meeting with the District Advancement Chairman for final approval.

- 5.) Make an appointment to present your project to the District Advancement Committee Chairman. *(No work is to be started prior to receiving this approval.)* All projects must be submitted in person for approval.
- 6.) Start the project by gathering material and recruiting helpers.
- 7.) Carry out the project. Keep a record of how much time you and your helpers spend, materials used, and any cost. If your original project plan changes at any time, be sure that you document what changes were made and the reason for the change. Photographs of the project progression will be of benefit in the final write up. Photographs of the completed project along with “before” photograph will help present a clear understanding of your efforts.
- 8.) Complete a Project Report. The report should include a complete record of the steps used in planning, organizing and completing the work. It should show you have an understanding of your efforts and the benefit provided. The following questions should be answered.
 - In what ways did you demonstrate leadership of others?
 - Give examples of how you directed the project rather than doing the work yourself?
 - In what way did the religious institution, school, or community group benefit from the project?
 - Did the project follow the plan?
 - If changes to the plan were made, explain why the changes are necessary.
- 9.) Present your completed project report and photographs to the benefiting organization representative for confirmation that the project was completed. Obtain a letter of approval from them.

It is suggested that the Scout review the outcome of the project with the benefiting organizational representative and obtain confirmation that the project was carried out to their satisfaction prior to reviewing the outcome with his unit leader. The unit leader should verify and sign off of the project as being completed. This is the project completion date that appears on the Eagle Application.

The Eagle Scout board of review must approve the manner in which it was carried out. The board will review the answers to the above questions and look at any photos or letters to ensure this was done.

Eagle Project progression for Eagle Candidate

- Step 1. Fill in page 1 of the Eagle Project workbook and read pages 2-4 before you start.
- Step 2. Fill in page 5 by giving a brief description of your project, the group that will benefit and how it will benefit the group. Discuss the basic project idea with your Unit Leader and record the date this was done.
- Step 3. Make an appointment with the representative of the benefiting group to discuss your project. Make sure your project ideas conform to the wishes and regulations of those for whom the project is undertaken. Place the name, title, phone number and date on page 5 of your workbook. (Your Unit Leader or committee may need to contact this person if questions come up during the approval process.)
- Step 4. Develop your "Project Details" with 'before' photographs if necessary to help you present your project. Meet again with your benefiting representative to receive approval to start your project.
- Step 5. Present your project to your Unit Leader and committee to obtain their approval to start.
- Step 6. Once you have the signatures of the benefiting representative, Unit Leader, and committee, contact Dale Powers, District Advancement Chairman, to set up an appointment to obtain district approval. After 6:00 PM 972-475-6118 You (the Scout) will be required to present your project in person. Once you have all of the approval signatures, you may start work on your project.
- Step 7. Carry out your project, keeping records as you progress.
- Step 8. Complete your project to the satisfaction of the Unit Leader and the benefiting representative. Your project workbook needs to be signed by you the applicant, your Unit Leader, and the benefiting representative for which the project was performed.
- Step 9. Prepare your final write up with any 'after' photographs for your Eagle Board of Review. Answer the following questions. In what way did you demonstrate leadership of others? Give examples of how you directed the project, rather than doing the work yourself. The other questions that require answers to determine the manner in which it was carried out should already be in your packet on pages 5 & 8. Final approval of the manner in which your project was carried out rests with your Eagle Board. The more questions you answer, the easier it will be for the Board to reach a favorable conclusion.