

EAGLE SCOUT LEADERSHIP SERVICE PROJECT GUIDELINES ORANGE DISTRICT, OCCONEECHEE COUNCIL, BSA

Introduction

In accordance with BSA advancement policy, a representative of the Eagle candidate's Scouting District must approve the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project (Eagle Project) plan prior to beginning work on the project, and a district representative must be a member of the candidate's Eagle Board of Review. Over the years, members of the Orange District Eagle Committee have helped hundreds of Scouts develop successful Eagle service projects. The collective experience of the committee has identified common aspects of successful projects as well as typical pitfalls. The purpose of this guide is to clarify the expectations of the Orange District Eagle Committee for Eagle service projects and to guide Scouts in developing projects that meet those expectations.

The Eagle Project process can be broken down to three phases: the Project Planning phase, the Project Execution phase and the Project Report phase. This document describes guidelines that apply to each phase. These guidelines can be expected to be the basis for the examination of the Eagle Scout candidate's project.

This document is not intended to be a complete or the sole set of guidelines for the Eagle Project. It supplements and, in a few cases, restates guidelines from other primary documents.

For reference, the specific requirements for the Eagle Project, as stated in the *Eagle Scout Rank Application* are, "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."

Project Planning Phase

This phase includes project selection and project plan preparation. In this phase, the important consideration is for the Scout to demonstrate organizational ability. The key document that outlines the expectations for planning and reporting on the Eagle Project is the *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Planning Guide*, written by Randall Smith of the Longhorn Council (Texas). This document is a detailed guide for the planning, development and reporting of the Eagle Project. Scouts are urged to follow it closely as they plan and document their projects. This planning guide can be found at the Internet site shown below. Some additional supplemental guidelines for the Eagle Project planning process are included below.

Project Selection

1. It is important to note that the planning and development of the project must be primarily the product of the Scout himself. Although the Scout will usually need to get the assistance of others for information and advice, it is expected that that Scout himself will be the key person to develop the concept and pull the plan together. Thus, Eagle projects which may be presented to the Scout that are already developed and documented are not good projects, because they do not allow the Scout to demonstrate his ability to do this work himself.
2. Because the primary focus of the Eagle Project is on leadership, it is important that a project be of sufficient scope and complexity for the Scout to successfully demonstrate his best efforts in showing his leadership skills.
3. There is no minimum time requirement prescribed by BSA for an adequate Eagle Project and the time that a project takes is not the determining factor of the quality of a project.

Project Plan Preparation

1. Although the criteria for the completeness of the project plan is described in the planning guide cited above, it needs to be restated here. "A Scout should prepare his project plan in such detail that, in his absence, another Scout could successfully work the entire project, to everyone's satisfaction, doing so only with what was written in the Project Plan." A good project plan is not just a descriptive summary for adult leader review, but a working plan. If a step or detail is necessary for the success of the project, it must be included in the plan.
2. The Scout should be aware that all the time spent in the project planning and development activities must be recorded as an integral part of the Eagle Project report.

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Project Execution Phase

In this phase the actual work of implementing the Eagle Project is completed. Through his organization of labor and his direction of others in the completion of the project work, it is important for the Scout to demonstrate effective leadership. The bulk of the labor must be that of the work team, not that of the eagle candidate. To the extent that the work to complete the project is performed by the Eagle candidate and not by his work team, what the Scout has shown is industry, not leadership.

As the project progresses, deviations from the project plan may be necessary. Changes are to be expected and are not necessarily an indication of improper planning or a failure of any kind. The changes, however, must not constitute a major revision of the project as outlined in the project plan. If the project must be modified in a major way, the Project Plan must be revised and re-approved. In this case, the Scout should consult with his troop and district leaders for guidance.

Work on the Eagle Project may begin only after the project plan is completed and all approval signatures shown in the *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook* are obtained. Signatures must be obtained in the proper sequence as shown in the *Workbook*. Project execution work completed prior to receiving all of the required approvals will not be considered as being part of the Eagle Project.

Project Report Phase

In the report writing phase, the important consideration if for the Scout is to document to his leaders and to the Eagle Board of Review the execution and completion of his Eagle Project. This must be done in sufficient detail so that a person, otherwise unfamiliar with the Eagle Project can get a very good understanding of how the Scout's project was conducted and the results achieved. To provide a clear understanding of the scope and progress of the project, it is strongly recommended that photographs be taken before starting, during execution and after project completion and be included in the report.

Refer to the *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Planning Guide* for additional guidelines on preparing the Project Report.

Reference Material

2003 Occoneechee Council Adult Scouter's Guide to the Life-to-Eagle Trail provides a detailed summary of the process, procedures and requirements for the activities of the Unit, District and Council for the Life-to-Eagle stage of a Scout's advancement.

Document Sources

The documents cited above can be obtained at the following locations:

1. The *Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Planning Guide* is available at the following website: <http://home.flash.net/~smithrc/eagleprj.htm>
2. *The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook (No. 18-927A)* is available in hard copy form at the Occoneechee Council office. It is also available for download from the BSA website in both PDF and RTF versions which can be used by Scouts in lieu of the printed form. See: <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/eagleproject/dload.html>
3. The *2003 Occoneechee Council Adult Scouter's Guide to the Life-to-Eagle Trail* can be obtained from the Occoneechee Council office. A PDF version is available from the following web address: http://www.occoneechee.org/Forms/life-to-eagle_guide.pdf
4. The *Eagle Scout Rank Application (No 58-728 - 2001 edition)* can be obtained from the Occoneechee Council Office. Also, BSA has a PDF version of this form on their website. It can be used as the form submitted to BSA for an Eagle Scout candidate. See: <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/eagleproject/58-728.pdf>

To view and print PDF files, you will need a program called Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you do not have the free Acrobat Reader, go to: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>