

BSA Eagle Projects in the Northern Star Council's Metro Lakes District



“The Scout, while a Life Scout, must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project benefiting any religious institution, school, or community. The project must conform to the wishes and regulations of those for whom the project is undertaken.”

--BSA Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures, Pub. 33088

Projects must ...

- Be completed while the candidate is a Life Scout and before the candidate's 18th birthday, unless a time extension has been allowed
- Involve enough time for the Scout to clearly demonstrate leadership skills. There is no minimum number of hours..
- Use the most current workbook
- Have the prior approval of the Scout's unit leader, his unit committee, and the benefactor of the project.
- Be reviewed and approved by the district or council advancement committee prior to its start to ensure that it meets the stated standards for Eagle Scout service projects. This preapproval of the project does not mean that the board of review will approve the way the project was carried out.
- Be documented using the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*, properly filled out

Projects may not:

- Involve council property or other BSA activities
- Be performed for a business
- Be of a commercial nature
- Use routine labor, a job, or service normally rendered to the institution
- Be a fund-raiser
- Be led by two Eagle candidates; the project is an individual endeavor

Fund raising for projects...

- Is permitted only for securing materials needed to carry out the project
- Must make donors to projects aware of what entity is benefiting from the project, and that it clearly is not the Boy Scouts of America.
- Any funds raised for an Eagle Scout project that are not used for the purchase of project materials must be returned to the donor.

Questions about Eagle Service Projects for Eagle Boards of Review

The project *idea* must be approved by the Unit Committee, an official of the institution it will benefit, and the District Advancement Committee representative before work can begin. If there are any substantive changes in the project, the Scout should keep the

Unit Committee, the official, and the District Advancement Committee representative informed. After the project is completed, the Eagle Board of Review will determine if it was carried out in such a way that it met all the requirements. Below are questions that the board may use to make that determination:

- What materials were used and how were they acquired?
- Did the candidate demonstrate leadership of others?
- Did he indeed direct the project rather than do all of the work himself?
- Was the project of real value to the religious institution, school, or community group?
- Who from the group benefiting from the project may be contacted to verify the value of the project?
- Did the project follow the approved plan or were modifications needed to bring it to its completion?

Some example of successful service projects in the Metro Lakes District:

- Leading Scouts and Scouters in building bird feeders and installing the bird feeders in hospices
- Leading Scouts in building bat houses and installing them in approved neighborhood places for the neighborhood association
- Leading Scouts and adults in collecting chemistry materials for a Minneapolis high school chemistry department
- Leading Scouts and adults in collecting books for a local church
- Leading Scouts and parishioners in raising funds for, purchasing then planting maple trees along the church property border
- Leading Scouts and working with a state forest service to reroute a hiking trail
- Leading Scouts and adults to landscape part of the grounds for a transportation museum

Some examples of ideas that did not initially pass muster:

- Leading Scouts in painting a backstop at a local middle school
The problem: The time, effort, and project outcome was not a large enough effort for the school, nor did it provide the ability for the Scout to demonstrate sufficient leadership.
- Removing brush from a fence line along a National Wildlife Refuge boundary
The problem: It was a temporary solution to a recurring problem, consequently the project outcome, while it could have provided the ability for the Scout to demonstrate sufficient leadership, did not really serve the institution in any meaningful way. (The Scout eventually chose to work with refuge officials to build and install duck boxes on the refuge.)