

Meeting Eagle Scout Requirement 5

Eagle Scout Requirement 5

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 must benefit an organization other than the Boy Scouts of America) A project proposal must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, your unit leader and unit committee, and the council or district before you start. You must use the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, No. 512-927, in meeting this requirement.

Project Purpose

In addition to providing service and fulfilling the part of the Scout Oath, "To help other people at all times," one of the primary purposes of the Eagle Scout service project is to learn leadership skills, or to improve or demonstrate leadership skills you already have. Related to this are important lessons in project management and taking responsibility for a significant accomplishment.

Choosing a Project

Your project must be for any religious institution, any school, or your community. It is important to note, however, that the BSA has defined "your community" to include the "community of the world." Normally, "your community" would not refer to individuals, although a council or district advancement committee may consider scenarios in which an individual in need can affect a community. It is then a matter of identifying a source representing the "community" who will provide approvals. For more information, see the Guide to Advancement, No. 33088, topic 9.0.2.5.

Your project must present an opportunity for planning, development, and leadership. For example, if a blood drive is chosen and the blood bank provides a set of "canned" instructions to be implemented with no further planning, the planning effort would not meet the test. You may need to meet with blood bank officials and work out an approach that requires planning, development, and leadership. This might involve developing and carrying out a marketing and logistics plan, reaching a challenging collection goal, or coordinating multiple blood collection events.

An Internet search can reveal hundreds of service project ideas. Your project does not have to be original, but it could be. It might be a construction, conservation, or remodeling project, or it could be the presentation of an event with a worthwhile purpose. Conversations with your unit leader, teachers, your religious leader, or the leaders of various community organizations can also uncover ideas. In any case, be sure the project presents a challenge that requires leadership, but also something that you can do with unskilled helpers, and within a reasonable period of time.

Restrictions and Other Considerations

There are **no required minimum hours for a project.** No one may tell you how many hours must be spent on it.

- Routine labor is not normally appropriate for a project. This might be defined as a job or service you may provide as part of your daily life, or a routine maintenance job normally done by the beneficiary (for example, pulling weeds on the football field at your school).
- While projects may not be of a commercial nature or for a business, this is not meant to disallow work for community institutions, such as museums and service agencies (like homes for the elderly, for example), that would otherwise be acceptable. Some aspect of a business operation provided as a community service may also be considered; for example, a park open to the public that happens to be owned by a business, but primarily benefits the community.
- A project may not be a fundraiser. In other words, it may not be an effort that primarily collects money, even for a worthy charity. Fundraising is permitted only for securing materials and facilitating a project, and it may need to be approved by your council. See "Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application" later in this workbook.
- No more than one Eagle Scout candidate may receive credit for working on the same Eagle Scout service project.
- Projects must not be performed for the Boy Scouts of America, or its councils, districts, units, or properties.

Collecting Service Project Data

The BSA collects information on hours worked on Eagle Scout projects because it points to achievement of our citizenship aim. Please assist with data collection by keeping a list of people who help and the number of hours they work. When you prepare your project report you will need to include this data on page B of the report. Providing accurate information will also help your unit leadership enter your project into the BSA's Journey to Excellence tracking system.

Message to Scouts and Parents or Guardians

The Eagle Scout service project requirement has been widely interpreted—both properly and improperly. This message is designed to share with you, the Eagle Scout candidate, and your parents or guardians the same information BSA provides to council and district volunteers responsible for project proposal approvals throughout the Boy Scouts of America.

In addition to reading this entire workbook, you and your parents or guardians should consult the Guide to Advancement, No. 33088, beginning with topic 9.0.2.0, "The Eagle Scout Service Project." The Guide may be accessed at www.scouting.org/advancement.

The current Guide to Advancement, No. 33088, along with the Scouts BSA Requirements book, No. 33216, and this workbook, are the primary official sources on policies and procedures for Eagle Scout service projects. The Guide to Advancement and Scouts BSA Requirements book are available in Scout shops or on www.scoutshop.org. Your local council and district are important resources for information and guidance and can tell you where to submit service project proposals.

The council and district may also establish limited local procedures as necessary. However, all of this must be done in harmony with the official sources mentioned above. **Councils, districts, units, and individuals must not add requirements or ask you to do anything that runs contrary to, or that exceeds, the policies, procedures, or requirements of the Boy Scouts of America.**

Available from your Scout Shop or on www.scoutshop.org is an Eagle Project plaque to place at your project location at the completion of the project (<https://www.scoutshop.org/catalog/product/view/id/6831>).

What an Eagle Scout Candidate Should Expect

The Eagle Scout service project belongs to the Eagle Scout candidate. The candidate's parents and others may help, but the Scout must be the leader. Nonetheless, while working toward completion of the project, especially during the proposal approval process, a candidate has the right to expect the following, as reprinted from the Guide to Advancement, topic 9.0.2.1.

1. Questioning and probing for their understanding of the project, the proposal, and what must be done, shall be conducted in a helpful, friendly, courteous, and kindhearted manner. We will respect the Scout's dignity. Scouts will be allowed, if they choose, to have a parent, unit leader, or other adult present as an observer at any time while they are discussing their proposal or project with someone who is reviewing it.
2. Project expectations will match Eagle Scout requirement 5, and we will not require proposals to include more than described in the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook.
3. If requested by the Scout or the Scout's parent or guardian, an explanation of a proposal rejection will be provided in writing, with a copy sent to the council advancement chair and staff advisor. It will indicate reasons for rejection and suggestions concerning what can be done to achieve approval.
4. Guidance that maximizes the opportunity for completion of a worthwhile project will be readily available and strongly recommended. Ultimately, however, the responsibility for success belongs to the Scout, and final evaluation is left to the board of review.
5. Candidates who believe they have been mistreated or their proposal wrongfully rejected, will be provided a method of redress. This will include the opportunity for a second opinion and approval, either through another volunteer or professional advancement administrator*, or the Scout executive, as determined by the council advancement committee or executive board.

**An "advancement administrator" is a member or chair of a council or district advancement committee, or a volunteer or professional designated according to local practices, to assist in advancement administration.*