

Official Boy Scout Instructions for Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project

How to Start

You have earned the Life Scout rank and are ready to begin your Eagle Scout leadership service project. These instructions and those in the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook will help you plan your project, record your progress and complete the final report.

The Requirement

As stated in the *Boy Scout Handbook*: While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to your religious institution, school, or your community. (The project should benefit an organization other than the BSA.) The project idea must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, your unit leader (Scoutmaster, Varsity Scout Coach, Venturing Crew Advisor), unit committee, and by the council or district advancement committee before you start. You must use the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project in meeting this requirement.



Originality

Does the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project have to be original--perhaps something you dream up that has never been done before? The answer: No, but it certainly could be. You may pick a project that has been done before, but you must accept responsibility for planning, directing, and following through to its successful completion.

Limitations

Routine labor (a job or service normally rendered) should not be considered. Work involving council property or other BSA activity is not permitted. The project also may not be performed for a business or an individual, be of a commercial nature, or be a fund-raiser. (*Fund-raising is permitted only for securing materials or supplies needed to carry out your project.*)

Size

How big a project is required? There are no specific requirements, as long as the project is helpful to a religious institution, school, or community. The amount of time spent by you in planning your project and the actual working time spent in carrying out the project should be as much as is necessary for you to demonstrate your leadership of others. Typically the total hours for Eagle projects in the Chippewa Valley Council runs between 45 and 100.

Examples of Projects

A look at some projects other Scouts have done for their Eagle Scout Award illustrates that your project can be to construct something or can be to render a service.

Scouts have:

- Performed landscaping enhancements at Churches, Schools, City and County Parks.
- Constructed a walking pathway along river. Added benches for people to sit and rest during walks.
- Designed and constructed cages for injured animals to recover in at a Nature Center.
- Constructed a butterfly sanctuary at a Nature Center.
- Installed blue bird houses along a public highway.
- Designed and constructed unique tables/benches for a Girl Scout Camp.
- Collected used books and distributed them to people in the community who wanted and needed, but could not afford, books.
- Built a sturdy footbridge across a brook to make a safe shortcut for children between their homes and school.
- Collected and repaired used toys and gave them to a home for children with disabilities.
- Organized and operated a bicycle safety campaign. This involved a written safety test, equipment safety check, and a skills contest in a bike rodeo.
- Surveyed the remains of an old Spanish mission and prepared an accurate map relating it to the present church.
- Built a playground at a local Church.
- Set up a community study center for children who needed a place to do schoolwork.
- Removed an old fence-line in a Wisconsin DNR restored public wetland and installed wood duck and blue bird houses in the wetland.
- Prepared plans for a footbridge on a trail in a national forest. Worked with rangers to learn the skills necessary to build the structure, gathered materials and tools, and then directed a Scout work group to do the construction.
- Restored an old cemetery.
- Organized and gave presentations to local nonprofit agencies on ways Boy Scouts Troops could help their agencies.
- Organized a survey of local homes to determine the usage of smoke detectors. Developed and distributed an information pamphlet of the importance of smoke detectors.
- Removed graffiti and trash from a local cave site.
- Organized the restoration of a local historical building.
- Removed graffiti and trash from a War Veterans Memorial.
- Designed and constructed playhouses for a Church Day Care Center.
- Constructed shelving and unique food transportation carts for a local Food Bank.
- Worked with Kiwanis club to adopt a poor family at Christmas to provide presents and a Christmas dinner
- Organized a trout stream restoration project.
- Designed and constructed a handicapped access ramp at a local Church.
- A toy cupboard was constructed for a Church nursery and filled with handmade wooden puzzles, toys, and games.
- An Eagle candidate recruited volunteers to be counselors at a summer day camp for handicapped children.

Agencies to contact for possible Eagle Projects:

Your School
Homes for the Aged
Veterans Organizations
Hospitals
Conservation Groups
Police Departments
Welfare Agencies

Your Church or Synagogue
Nursing Homes
Camps for the Handicapped
City Recreation Department
Nature Centers
Mayor & City Government
The United Way

Senior Citizens' Centers
Public Libraries
Schools for the Handicapped
Wisconsin DNR
Fire Departments
Civic Clubs
Youth Agencies

Approvals

Before You Start

Your project plan must be approved by your unit leader, unit committee, and the council or district advancement committee before the project is started. The following questions must be answered before this approval is given:

- What group or organization will benefit from the project?
- How will the group or organization benefit?
- Who is the contact person for the group benefiting from the project?
- How many people will be recruited to help carry out the project?
- Identify any local, state, or other permissions you need.
- Any earth-moving? Digger's Hotline must be called.
- Include construction plans of anything you will build. This includes landscaping maps/plans.
- Identify materials and tools you will need.
- Describe your crew and how you will **lead** them.
- Describe any safety hazards you might face, and explain how you will ensure the safety of those carrying out the project.
- Develop a project schedule or time-line.
- Describe how you will fund your project. Include a sample fund raising flyer (if appropriate).
- Include "before" photos (if appropriate). Insert digital photos or mount photo prints. Add descriptive captions under photos. Providing before, during and after photographs of your project can give a clear example of your effort.

After Completion

Although your project was approved by your unit leader, unit committee, and council or district advancement committee before it was begun, the Eagle Scout Board of Review must approve the manner in which it was carried out. The following must 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 were necessary.

Questions

Your Unit Leader (Scoutmaster) is the first person to contact concerning ideas for your Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. Note, your Troop may have a Life-to-Eagle Advisor or Eagle Scout Project Advisor who is responsible to help Life Scouts with their Eagle Scout Projects. If you can not get your questions answered at the Troop level then contact the Scout Office at 715-832-6711.

Council Website Resources

The local council website resources are at <http://www.bsa-cvc.org/resource.htm>
Find the Life-to-Eagle Trial link.