

Eagle Project Guidelines

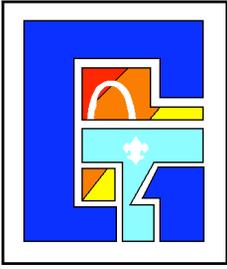
Gravois Trail District, Greater St. Louis Area Council BSA

May 2003

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The following guidelines have been prepared to help Troop Leaders better understand BSA expectations for Eagle Scout Projects. As well, it will identify key procedures within the Gravois Trail District. As always, the aim of the GT Advancement Committee is to ensure that each Scout in the District will have a successful project that meets BSA National standards.

1. Gravois Trail Eagle Project Review Board must review and approve Eagle Project plans before any work by others is begun.
2. Plans are expected to be so complete and thorough that (hypothetically) the write-up could be given to another Scout totally unfamiliar with the project and that Scout could complete the project using that plan.
3. Scouts must use the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook (either a physical booklet provided in the Eagle Packet or the downloadable version from the National or Council websites). The most current version must be used.
4. Pages three and four of the form must be completed. (Usually, additional paper will be required to thoroughly answer the "Planning Details" section to the Review Board's satisfaction.)
5. For a Scout to appear before the Project Review Board, his booklet must contain the signatures of his Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chairman. The project plan must have already been reviewed by the beneficiary organization. A Scout coming to the board without those signatures will not be reviewed.
6. The Troop is the first line of project approval. It is the responsibility of the SM and TCC to be familiar with BSA's current requirements. If a unit leader does not feel comfortable with this information, we strongly encourage him or her to attend one of the District's Life-To-Eagle seminars where these details are thoroughly reviewed.
7. The Eagle candidate must plan, direct and follow-through with the project **FUNDAMENTALLY ON HIS OWN**. Significant intervention from adults or others could jeopardize final approval of an Eagle Project at that Scout's Eagle Board of Review.
8. "Canned" projects, like Red Cross blood drives, do not provide sufficient opportunity to demonstrate a Scout's planning abilities. We will not approve projects where it appears that someone else has largely done the planning.
9. Projects that replicate a similar project done by another Scout at another time also do not provide sufficient opportunity for a Scout to demonstrate his planning abilities.
10. Projects done in partnership with another Scout make it difficult for the Eagle Review Board to identify any individual Scout's contribution to planning, directing and follow-through. Rarely are similar or simultaneous projects approved for two or more Scouts.
11. Projects that require a large portion of adult labor (like using power equipment or driving) might not provide opportunity for "real" leadership. Projects that use youth labor are preferred.
12. On a related topic, Scouters are familiar with leading, not following... especially following a Scout. When an adult is working on an Eagle Project, he or she **MUST** resist the temptation to give unsolicited advice or take initiative. This is the Scout's opportunity to be completely and thoroughly in charge of his project. Don't spoil it for him; don't jeopardize final approval of his project!
13. Routine labor should not be considered. If it is a job or service normally rendered—like painting, clean-up, yard work, maintenance, office work, etc.—it is not acceptable as an Eagle Project.



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14. Work involving council or troop property or for the benefit of Scouting is not acceptable.
15. No projects may be performed for the benefit of a business or be of a commercial nature.
16. Fundraisers are not acceptable Eagle Projects.
17. Raising funds to purchase materials or soliciting donated materials is acceptable, but it should be a MINOR component of the project. This is a test of giving leadership to others, not fundraising.
18. The Project Plan requires that a list of needed materials, their sources and the estimated cost of all materials to be used be provided. (Costs must be included, whether the items are to be purchased or donated.)
19. There is no set minimum number of hours of labor required for an Eagle Project. However, when the Project Review Board looks at a plan, we anticipate seeing a project that would, if done according to the plan, require at least 50 to 100 scout/man-hours of labor. As well, we may reject a plan that looks to require more than 100 hours of labor...100 hours is more than enough to demonstrate a Scout's leadership abilities and may turn out to be more than a Scout (or his Troop) can handle.
20. The Project Review Board and Council are looking very carefully at Project proposals coming from certain community organizations, like the World Bird Sanctuary. We are finding many projects (a) to be replications of past projects, or (b) that the plans and means of accomplishing the project are dictated by the benefactor, or that (c) they require substantial funding or soliciting materials from the Scout, or (d) that the hours required to complete the project are excessive.
21. Scouts should bring three complete copies of his Project Plan plus pencil and paper for taking notes to his review.
22. Remember, this is the first step in the Eagle Board of Review process. Scouts need to dress appropriate to the occasion: in their full and clean Class A uniform, and with a respectful attitude. Our GT Reviewers try to take a relaxed, mentoring approach with these Scouts. But, this is a serious step toward Eagle nonetheless.
23. Project Reviews occur 12 times per year: 11 times coinciding with Roundtable, plus a special Review in July when RT does not meet. (In GT, RT is usually held the 1st Tuesday of the month. Look for details in the Duffle Bag.)
24. If, after Project Review Board approval, the Scout is forced to (or merely decides to) make a significant change to the plan, materials, labor or nature of the project, the project may need to be re-reviewed. Changes can be discussed with a simple phone call to the Project Review Board Chairman. He will determine whether a telephone approval/disapproval can be made or whether a new review must be scheduled. Each Scout will get the Project Review Leader's phone number at the time of project approval along with a reminder about this procedure.
25. Upon completion, the Scout must write a final report. He should continue to use the Project Workbook as his guide. Once the Scout, his SM and the benefiting institution are satisfied with the project and report, they each must sign the Workbook where indicated.
26. The project plan and final report (including Workbook) are submitted to Council with the Scout's completed Eagle Scout Application.

Warren Kincaid, District Eagle Project Review Chairman:
314 843-4611

Greg Mueth, District Advancement Chairman: **314 842-7555**

Helpful website:
www.flash.net/~smithrc/eagleprj.htm