



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT EAGLE SCOUT LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

Where can I get ideas for a project?

Just ask! Your Chartering Organization, your local Parks and Recreation Department, the Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation, your current school, all the past schools you have attended, the Wachusett Greenways, the local library, the local Senior Center, the Midstate Trail - there are dozens of organizations around you that would benefit from your service! You are not limited to these organizations. Your project can serve any church, school, or acceptable community organization. You should be aware that representatives of these organizations are not the authority on the acceptability of a given project for your purposes. You must confirm this with your leaders and Eagle advisors before making a choice.

What if someone suggests a project that I don't like?

Don't do it. You should take on a project that interests you. The more excited you are about your choice, the better you will plan and execute it. This should be a something you enjoy and be happy to share with others.

What kinds of projects CANNOT be done?

Your project cannot raise funds, even for a very worthwhile purpose. Under certain conditions, you may raise the funds necessary to complete your project, but this cannot be the project itself. You also cannot coordinate a blood drive or any other activity where the control is beyond your leadership. Getting people to come to give blood does not meet the substantial requirement. The Project cannot benefit the Boy Scouts of America or your local Council, not even the Camp. If you have any questions regarding your choice of project, you should ask your Scoutmaster, Committee Chair or the District's Advancement Chair.

Can my project be maintenance work?

No. Your project must provide lasting value to the benefiting organization. Gardening, clean-up or other on-going maintenance does not give "lasting value".

Are donations to my project tax deductible?

Probably not. You cannot solicit materials or money in the name of the Council, so you cannot use that number. If your Unit or your sponsoring organization has a non-profit tax ID number and will permit you to use it, that is okay and the donor will need a letter referencing what was donating, the value and the tax id number.

Most companies and small businesses will be happy to donate goods or services without a tax ID – you just need to ask! Never be afraid to ask, you will be surprised at how helpful people and their companies want to be.

Can I combine my project with another project?

No. In order for you to show the required leadership, your project must stand alone in terms of planning, organization, and execution. If it is part of a larger project and these requirements are still met, it may be accepted, but this is not encouraged as there are many factors that would play a part in your project acceptance and approval.

Can I do a project that has been done before?

We frown greatly upon it. Using someone else's project tends to not show leadership. It may be like a previous project, but it must be entirely your own planning and leadership. You may not use any information from a previous project to assist in your project goals. We encourage all our Scouts to find something unique to them

Is there a minimum number of hours I should spend on my project?

No. However, your Unit leaders and District Advancement Committee will look for substantial leadership effort on your part. Depending on the project, that could be extensive. Many projects involve several hundred total hours (including workers).

Is there a limit on what I can spend?

No. The details of the project will determine what materials are required. You will need to provide whatever is necessary to satisfactorily complete the project you have chosen.

When can I begin?

Once you have chosen a project you believe will be acceptable to your Unit Committee, you may begin your Project Proposal paperwork. You need to get the Proposal approved by the Project Beneficiary, your Scoutmaster and your Troop Committee, then the District Advancement Chair. In some cases, the Project Beneficiary is not the Property Owner – in these cases also be sure to have the approval of the Property Owner. ***You may not begin to do any portion of the project until your proposal has been approved and signed by your District Advancement Chair or representative of the Council Advancement Committee.*** If you do, you will be required to select another project and start over.

How detailed must my plan be?

A good rule of thumb is that you provide enough detail that any other Scout or Adult with your ability would be able to successfully complete the project from your plan. You must plan for all of the tools, materials, and labor you will need. You will need to describe where you plan to get each of these and how. You must provide any necessary construction details.

What if I have to raise funds to pay for the project?

You should include any fundraising plans in your project plan to be sure you are covering all of your needs. Once your District Eagle Service Project committee has approved your project you can hold your fundraising event with the confidence that you have planned sufficient money to successfully complete your project. *Do not conduct a fundraiser in advance of obtaining District approval of your Project! Be sure to have your fundraising plan approved.*

Should I record what happens during the project?

Yes. Take pictures before, during and after. Make notes of what went well and what didn't. You will want to include these thoughts in your final report. Keep detailed logs of people you spoke to and e-mailed and how long it took.

When I finish the project, what do I do next?

You should complete your final report as soon as possible after completing the project. Do it while the details are fresh in your mind. Your report will be much better if you do this. As soon as you have completed the report, get it approved by your Unit leader. You may be required to do some revision, but this is normal.