Eagle Project Approval - The Proposal

How to Indicate Sufficient Opportunity to meet 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 Boy Scouting.) 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.”

This document does not imply additional requirements above and beyond what is stated in the workbook, rather it is meant as a coaching tool. If used, it will help you to help the scout to “develop” his project. These recommendations, if incorporated into the workbook proposal, will be very helpful in indicating to the committee that the opportunity is there to meet the requirement and thus facilitate a speedier approval. The Eagle Project Components (main headers) listed below can be referenced in the BSA Guide to Advancement, and/or the Eagle Project Workbook.

Eagle Projects must have Impact for the Beneficiary (also includes scope)

Helpful Indicators to Include in the Proposal:
- Has the Scout met with the beneficiary to understand their needs and are those needs clearly explained in the proposal?
- Is the purpose of the project clear?
- Does the project as outlined, make a significant impact for the beneficiary?
- Is the goal for the project clear and definable, and designed to meet or exceed the maximum need rather than just a small portion? (Sometimes this requires further in-depth questioning of the beneficiary as they are afraid their true needs will be too large and will initially suggest a minimum or tell scouts they are grateful for anything that can be given. A maximum rather than minimum goal will stretch the scout to do more than he thought he was capable of and not limit him in the impact he could make for the beneficiary)
- Has the scout provided education opportunities for his volunteers and/or project participants to learn about and participate as much as possible in learning about the benefiting organization, what its needs are, and why this project will have great impact?

Eagle Projects must contain Opportunities for Planning and Development (includes scope, complexity, and creativity, and also some leadership)

Helpful indicators to Include in the Proposal:
- Answer Questions such as: How many, how much, how big, what size, why is it needed, how will it help, what will be added/changed that was not there before? If you can provide pictures of the proposed project this is very helpful.
- Is the project goal/outreach/scope of the project large enough to provide planning and development opportunities for the scout and on a scale much larger than a “normal service project”? (Indications of a “normal service project” could include: project is completed within 2-4 hours on a Saturday or Scout night without a lot of planning required and not much complexity or scope; leadership opportunities are very simple and often limited mostly to the day of the project; often adults are involved in supervising, leading, and directing others during the project; advertising is limited and mostly consists of...
announcements/signs up in church, the outreach is limited; there’s not a lot of pre or post work involved)

- “If the beneficiary has provided a "canned" set of instructions, to be implemented with no requirement for further planning, the planning effort would not meet the test. An approach might be to work with the beneficiary to develop and carry out a marketing plan, and a logistics plan, or coordinate multiple events. A good test of any project is to evaluate its complexity, it is possible to add elements of complexity to “canned” projects so there is a clear demonstration of planning, development, and leadership.”

- If weak on leadership opportunities, could the project be expanded to more than just his Troop area to add to the scope and leadership of his project?

- Does the project require creativity on the part of the scout?

- Was the project found and/or developed by the scout, or by someone else?

- Does the project include multiple steps and require pre-planning and follow up? A detailed task list in the proposal will be a great indicator of complexity, planning, and development. The more the scout can list of the tasks, subtasks, delegation and assignments the easier it will be for reviewers to see the complexity and leadership in his project.

- Does the project require the scout to plan multiple activities (“activities" could also include training others in their tasks prior to the project) in order to accomplish his goal?

**Eagle Projects must include Opportunities for Leadership (includes scope and complexity)**

We rely on you, the Coach, leader, and committee to act as the gatekeeper to challenge the scout in his leadership and help him to fulfill this requirement. You are aware of his abilities and what will stretch him and allow him to grow.

Helpful Indicators to Include in the Proposal:

- Does the project allow the scout to lead others (two or more people) on more than one occasion? How could the scout indicate in his paperwork task list that he is leading, training, guiding, or directing others during each step of his project?

- If the project includes leading large groups of people with multiple tasks at the same time, is the scout planning to train supervisors ahead of time to allow him to lead on project days (rather than rely on leaders or family to supervise and direct and thus take away from his leadership opportunities)?

- Is the scout planning to recruit and lead volunteers other than family that are trainable? (Adults do not need much training).

- Does the scout have a plan to recruit volunteers above that of having leaders announce it in church? How could he add more leadership to this portion of his project? Describe all advertising methods/steps taken: flyer, phone tree, email, etc.
• Will he be earning the money for or organizing, planning, and directing others in a fundraising effort to earn the money for his project rather than using family donations or asking neighbors for money without providing anything in return?

• Does the project include ample scope and complexity, to provide optimal leadership opportunities?

Safety - every project has safety considerations, this should never be blank!

Helpful Indicators to Include in the Proposal:
• Refer to tool use and age guidelines in the BSA handout*
• Follow BSA sweet 16 Rules of Safety*
• Include a first aid kit appropriate for activity at all Eagle related activities
• Consider clothing and footwear appropriate both for each activity and also for the weather, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, hazardous conditions, etc.
• 2 Deep Leadership must be present at all Eagle Project activities.
• Volunteers should never be sent out alone, always with a buddy.

Project Restrictions

To be aware of before submitting a Proposal:
• Routine Labor (maintenance projects) - these projects include, repainting, cleaning, and could also mean repairing, more must be added to these projects in order to add complexity and also creativity, thereby allowing him to show leadership and also development within his project. Sometimes if the scope is very large, this can help to provide the elements needed.

• Collections Projects - see UNPC Council Guidelines*

• Fundraisers - your project may be funded by a fundraiser but may not BE a fundraiser. Fundraisers must be approved prior by the District and/or Council prior to engagement.

• Eagle Projects must be for non-profit organizations such as government/school/ church rather than for individuals.

• Projects cannot be of a commercial nature or for a business.

Other Crucial Information to be Included in the Proposal

• Life BOR date - scout not eligible to begin project until at Life Rank, project cannot be reviewed without this date included.

• Contact info for Eagle Coach, Scout leaders, Advancement Chair, Beneficiary Information and beneficiary contact details. Is beneficiary eligible? (non-profit rather than individuals, not a business)

• Scout must present project to all 3 people listed in proposal BEFORE submitting to the District. Presentation does not mean just having them sign the paperwork. The scout must present his project and receive counsel, recommendations, and ideas from his leaders on his project prior to submitting it to the district. Signers should review project for missing aspects and make recommendations accordingly. To clarify, this does not mean that the
signature page must be scanned in at the time the proposal is submitted, but it must be completed. This is part of meeting the planning and development portion of the requirement.

*Resources at www.springvillescouts.org, Eagle Coach section*