

There are a number of concerns that have been noted on Eagle application and project documents that have been recently submitted. A summary of them is listed below to assist you with the review and approval prior to submission.

- The project workbook should be submitted in a three-ring binder. Documentation such as sign in sheets and receipts should be included in the pockets of the binder so that cost and project hours data can be reviewed. Also, this document is far too important to be held together by a paper clip when submitted.
- A number of scouts have submitted project proposals without a completed contact list. That makes it difficult to contact the scout to discuss the project or to inform him that it is approved.
- A project proposal was recently submitted without the location of the project mentioned. The proposal was to construct a patio for use at the facility. It did not say what facility or what benefit was to be provided.
- An Eagle application was submitted with Fireman Chit and Totem Chip listed as merit badges. These are not merit badges. A complete list of merit badges is available on the National Council web site.

Please review all documents carefully prior to your signing them. This will assist in ensuring the scout's timely verification of the scout's application.

Eagle Scout Service Project Financing

There have been questions and some confusion regarding the financing of Eagle projects and the need for an Eagle Scout Service Project Fund raising Application. The scout needs to carefully follow the project fundraising requirements. Following are some FAQ's that may help in the future.

Eagle Scout Service Project Financing - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does the scout need to complete and submit for approval an Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application if the project is funded by the family or project beneficiary? **Ans. No**
2. Does the scout need to complete and submit for approval an application to ask for donations from local businesses? **Ans. Yes**
3. Some businesses provide discounts for Eagle projects. Does the scout need to complete and submit for approval an application to ask for discounts from local businesses? **Ans. No**
4. Does the scout need to complete and submit for approval an application to do a fund-raising project such as a car wash or pancake breakfast? **Ans. Yes**
5. Does the scout need to complete and submit for approval an application to accept donations from non-family members such as friends, scout leaders or local citizens? **Ans. Yes**

Eagle Service Project Financing - Frequently Asked Questions – cont'd.

6. If the scout accepts donations from non-family, do they have to specify that the donations go to the beneficiary who is then expected to reimburse the scout or their vendors? Is the project unacceptable if the beneficiary doesn't want to provide someone to manage the funds? **Ans. Yes.** The benefactor is the primary place to make donations. When raising money for the project, the scout needs to make it clear that they are raising money for the benefactor not the BSA.
7. There are a number of sites that are designed for fund raising. Is the scout allowed to use social media to raise funds for the project? **Ans. Yes.** Although this is not the most desirable way to raise funds, it is permissible if the scout makes it clear that the funds are being raised for the beneficiary, not the BSA.

Conducting the Unit Adult Leader Conference with the Eagle Scout Candidate

Once the Eagle Scout candidate has completed Eagle Scout requirements 1 through 5, the unit leader conference can be held. The purpose of the unit leader conference is twofold, 1 to review and approve the candidate's progress to Eagle, 2. To help guide the candidate in preparation of the Eagle Board of Review. As the unit leader, your signature confirms that you believe the candidate is ready to be advanced to Eagle Scout.

Occasionally, there are Scouts who have had difficulty and fall short of living by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. For those Scouts it is especially important that the Unit Leader Conference include a discussion with the Scout about the difficulties the Scout has or is having, how the Scout is learning from those difficulties and how the Scout is or has worked to overcome those difficulties.

Normally, those discussions should be occurring at the same time as the Scout is experiencing those difficulties and most certainly should be part of all Unit Leader Conferences for all ranks.

No Scout is expected to be perfect. But all Scouts are expected to do their best to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law, and an Eagle Scout candidate is held to an even higher standard of having **demonstrated** that the Scout has lived by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Previous difficulties and shortcomings may exist, but the Eagle Scout candidate should be able to show that those difficulties are well in the past and the Scout has learned and developed since then and has a significant time period in which the Scout has demonstrated that living by the Scout Oath and Scout Law has become an integral characteristic in the Scout's daily life.

All Eagle Scout candidates should be prepared to discuss at the Eagle Board of Review any difficulties in Living by the Scout Oath and Scout Law they may have had during their Scouting experience and how the Scout has grown past them and has demonstrated an example to others of what living by the Scout Oath and Law truly means as stated in requirement #2.

The unit leader conference should include, at minimum, the following;

- Review of the Eagle Scout Rank Application for accuracy and completeness,
- Review of the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook for completeness,
- A discussion of how the candidate has demonstrated living by the Scout Oath and Scout Law in the Scout's everyday life as stated in requirement 2 on the Eagle Application,
- Review and discussion of the candidate's Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose,
- Discussion of the candidate's scouting experience thus far as well as how they plan to utilize their advancement to Eagle Scout, if approved, in serving others in the future.

The monthly District Round Tables provide a good opportunity to discuss the Eagle Rank Requirement Guidelines and Eagle Scout Candidate Process with your district advancement chairman.

Naturally, they can also be contacted by phone or email. Please see the contact list below for the appropriate contact for your district.

Again, thank you for the time and effort that you provide to the scouts in your troop.

Yours in Scouting,

Black Swamp Area Council Advancement and Recognitions Committee

Black Swamp Area Council Advancement Contacts

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