

BSA Troop 507

Eagle Project Ideas and Submissions

Our District follows the National rules, as shown in the latest Boy Scout Handbook, in the current Boy Scout Requirements booklet, or at <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/eagleproject/projects>

Eagle projects require a pre-approval, documentation, and submission process that takes about six months and must be completed on or before your 18th birthday. The process typically follows this sequence

- (1) Download a copy of the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook PDF – See <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/eagleproject/packet.pdf> (or download it from the Troop website). Read and/or complete the first 4 pages and the last page in this workbook - *Use the other pages in this workbook only if you must document your work in a handwritten format and are unable to record your data using the computer template described below. If you can use the computer template to record your final write-up you can use the other pages in this workbook for preliminary notes and comments.*
- (2) Organize and input your notes regarding your project on the computer template provided by the BSA at <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/eagleproject/packet.rtf> (or download it from the Troop Website).
- (3) After you have prepared your computer generated initial write-up, schedule a meeting with your Troop's Service Project Coordinator to obtain his/her input and pre-approval (*approves as both a committee member and as Scoutmaster/coach*). Then schedule a meeting to obtain the input and pre-approval of your Sponsor Representative. Finally contact the Three Fires Council Eagle Project Coordinator Mr. John Meyer's at 630-969-1903 to obtain his pre-approval of your project - allow least two weeks lead time. Revise your initial write-up consistent with Mr. Meyer's suggestions.
- (4) Confirm the dates for your project with your sponsor and the troop scoutmaster and our crew advisor.
- (5) Prepare a flyer requesting help from the troop and crew for your project and letting them know the time and place and other pertinent information about your project. Email a copy of this flyer to the scoutmaster so he can arrange to blast email a summary of the information in your flyer to all the members of the troop and have it posted to our website as well.
- (6) Announce and distribute flyers for your project at troop and crew meetings.
- (7) Complete your service project, finalize your project write-up, and obtain all the required completed project signatures. *Note either the troop's Service Project Coordinator or Scoutmaster can sign as the Scoutmaster/coach.*
- (8) Submit your completed Eagle Scout Rank Application along with all its required attachments including your completed project write-up and a copy of your troop master advancement record signed by the troop's committee chair or advancement coordinator to the Troop's Service Project Coordinator who must forward it along with the 5 or 6 recommendation letters he has received to Peggy Baillie at the Three Fires Council Office in St. Charles IL prior to your 18th birthday.
- (9) Attend a Special Board of Review that will be scheduled by Council and the Troop.
- (10) attend a Customary Troop Court of Honor where your Eagle Scout Badge will be awarded, or more preferably, arrange a Special Court of Honor exclusively for the awarding of your Eagle Scout badge.

The following are some general points to keep in mind about selecting projects.

- >The sponsor for your project cannot be a BSA organization or your troop's sponsoring organization.
- >The scout cannot pay for the materials used in his project. His sponsor or someone else must pay for or donated them.
- >Scouts are not allowed to use power tools on Eagle Service Projects but the supervising parents can use them.
- >Projects that involve some construction or assembly and have a more innovative and lasting character are more likely to be approved by council than clearing, landscaping, painting, cleaning, and collection or distribution type projects.
- >Avoid complicated construction projects that require costly supplies and power tools
- >Avoid costly landscape projects unless the organization provides the plants and shrubbery
- >Although there are no specific hour requirements for an eagle project – projects that involve less than 50 or more than 500 hours are rare. Projects that can be structured to use about 200 man hours over the course of one or two weekends are the most common.
- >Consider clearing projects at Morton Arboretum – Contact Ed Hedborn at 630 -719-2434 or 630-968-0074 X 2434 for details.
- >Consider clearing projects or cage building projects for the Dupage Forest Preserve – contact their office on North Naper across from the Danada Forest Preserve in Naperville.
- >Consider painting and construction projects for the Naper Settlement in Naperville. Contact Tom Sirtoff at 630-420-6010 for available projects
- >Consider projects for the Little Friends Organization whose offices are on Chicago Avenue or Contact Cindy Hall (Dan's mom) at 630-416-0043
- >Consider home improvement projects for the Senior Share Housing Program run by DuPage County. It's a program that lets groups of Seniors share and rent a home so they constantly have projects to improve the homes they rent.
- >Consider doing improvement projects on the Illinois Prairie Path that runs through DuPage County from Elmhurst to Aurora.
- >Consider projects at the Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn

Common concerns in the past with Eagle Scout Project Proposal write-ups include:

- Not submitted using the prescribed workbook and computer template.
- Inadequate or missing present condition section – e.g. No diagrams, map of area or before photos.
- Inadequate method section - e.g. diagrams of what will be done, design details of things to be built
- Inadequate materials section - e.g. tools needed, source of tools and supplies, quantities needed.
- Inadequate or missing helpers section – e.g. who are the project helpers, how are they recruited.
- Inadequate or missing schedule section – both day by day and hour by hour.
- Inadequate or missing descriptions of work teams, tasks, and hours.
- Inadequate or missing safety section.
- Project appears to involve less than 100 documented total hours.
- Poor organization of project details.
- Signatures are missing in the Eagle Service Project Write-up.
- Inconsistent project descriptions or inadequate explanation of who is benefited. .
- Violates national rules – e.g. project involves use of power tools by scouts; project involves routine maintenance; project benefits a private business or person; project benefits your troop, the BSA, or your troop sponsor; etc.