

## **Role of the Advancement Committee**

- 1) Respond to questions re. scout advancement
- 2) Monitor advancement progress among district units
- 3) Coordinate advancement activities with other districts and/or the Council
- 4) Ensure merit badge counselors are trained and registered
- 5) Coordinate life to eagle service project approvals
- 6) Coordinate, conduct, and approve Eagle Boards of review

### **Important Web Sites:**

Council Eagle Candidate Info

[http://www.bsacac.org/resources/awards\\_more/eagle\\_scout\\_info](http://www.bsacac.org/resources/awards_more/eagle_scout_info)

2017 BSA Guide to Advancement

<https://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>

BSA Guide to Safe Scouting

<https://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416.pdf>

### **Contact:**

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# **BSA, Council and District Realities**

## **Cannot deviate from BSA advancement guidelines**

- Troop cannot mandate a specific age before a candidate can work on Eagle
- Cannot mandate that merit badges, leadership, etc. be finished before working on Eagle
- Candidate must adhere to two deep leadership when communicating with Advancement Committee. This means that scout needs to include unit leaders on any emails sent to committee.

## **Response times (see timeline)**

- **17 year old scouts with less than a few weeks or days before they turn 18 risk not being able to receive a proposal review. We will do what we can, but make no guarantees. SEE TIMELINE!**
  - It may take between 3 days to a week to get back with the scout when I first receive a proposal.
  - Expect 2 weeks to 1 month to review a proposal
  - Expect 1 to 3 weeks to set up a BOR. The sooner a scout provides the materials I request for his board the sooner he can start...
- Candidates and Units need to understand that there are 'crunch times' when it may take longer to set up a proposal review or an Eagle BOR (spring and just before summer break expect extra time for a proposal review; November and December expect more time to set up a BOR)
- Scouts typically have their proposal reviewed or BOR assigned on a first come/first served basis.
- Scouts who are concerned about having their Eagle Rank on their college application should plan accordingly. In other words, they know when they'll turn 18 and they know that college applications are usually due by 1 December of their senior year. **START WORKING ON EAGLE EARLY!**

## **The Project Workbook**

- **Scout MUST use most current Eagle Service Project Workbook. Completed proposals on earlier versions will be returned.**
- **Proposals MUST have all signatures (except the District's) before they can be reviewed.**
- I prefer final workbooks to be rescanned into a PDF that's no more than 5-7 megs. If the workbook exceeds that size, split it into 2 or 3 files.
- The workbook needs to be legible and complete! Also, check for grammar and/or spelling issues...
- **Although the Workbook Project Plan is considered optional, PLEASE encourage your candidate to complete that section before they commence work on their project!!!**

## **Letters of Recommendation**

- Letters of recommendation can be sent as emails or as email attachments (I prefer that)
- I DO NOT need 10 or 12 letters of recommendation. Please use the references that are listed on the Eagle application.
- **References are CONFIDENTIAL. They cannot be sent or copied to anyone other than the District Advancement Chair!**

# The Eagle Project

## Eagle Scout requirement 5 (from BSA Guide to Advancement)

*Plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community.*

- Planning and development require forethought, effort, and time
- A good test of any project is to evaluate its complexity
- “Give Leadership to Others ...” “Others” means at least two people besides the Scout. Councils, districts, and units shall not establish requirements for the number of people led, or their makeup, or for time worked on a project.

## The Five Tests of an Acceptable Eagle Scout Service Project...

The proposal is an overview, but also the *beginnings* of planning. It shows the unit leader and any representatives of a unit committee, council, or district, that the **following tests can be met**.

- 1. The project provides sufficient opportunity to meet requirement 5 (plan, develop, and give leadership to others).**
- 2. The project appears to be feasible.**
- 3. Safety issues will be addressed.**
- 4. Action steps for further detailed planning are included.**
- 5. The young man is on the right track with a reasonable chance for a positive experience.**

The detail required for a proposal depends on project complexity. It must be enough to provide a level of confidence for a council or district reviewer that the above tests can be met, but not so much that—based on the possibility a proposal can be rejected—it does not respect the time it takes to prepare.

Fundraising for an Eagle Scout service project shall *not be required* of any candidate.

**Routine labor is not normally considered appropriate for a project.** This might be defined as a job or service that a Scout may provide as part of his daily life, or a routine maintenance job normally done by the beneficiary (for example, picking the weeds on the football field at a school). But the real test has to do with scale and impact. If “routine labor” is conducted on so large a scale it requires planning, development, and leadership, it may have sufficient impact.

No unit, district, council, or individual shall place any requirement or other standard on the number of hours spent on a project.

**There is no requirement a project must have lasting value.**

**All Eagle Scout service projects constitute official Scouting activity and thus are subject to Boy Scouts of America policies and procedures.** Projects are considered part of a unit’s program and are treated as such with regard to policies, procedures, and requirements regarding Youth Protection, two-deep leadership, etc. **The health and safety of those working on Eagle projects must be integrated into project execution.**