**Beneficiary Guidelines for Eagle Service Projects**

**Ever since the mid 1960's, many organizations have benefited from EAGLE SCOUT 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."

**Most Beneficiaries, when asked, can tell you what being an Eagle Scout means and what it represents.** They will use some very supportive descriptions and positively flattering words, but they all have, as their core component, the “Eagle Scout is the best Scouting has to offer”. In order for a Scout to demonstrate his best, the Eagle Project he chooses should be a reflection of his best abilities and his best skills. Ideally, the Project should be something he is proud to have accomplished, and not just something to “get it over with”. In addition, the Beneficiary should be proud of it, view it as being useful when completed, and willing to sustain it, upon completion of the Eagle Project.

Here are some Eagle Project rules and guidelines the Beneficiary should be aware of:

**1. Most importantly, the purpose of the Eagle Project is to demonstrate leadership.** A good Eagle Project is any project that gives the Scout an opportunity to demonstrate leadership of other boys or adults, in an organized, planned approach. This is no minimum, or maximum, number of people he is to lead for this requirement....he just needs to be an effective leader.

**2. The Project cannot be routine labor or maintenance**. The beneficiary cannot use this Scout lead team to replace, substitute, or perform regularly scheduled maintenance duties.

**3. The Project cannot be for profit.** The BSA organization cannot benefit from the project. A business cannot profit, and the Project cannot be of any commercial nature. In addition, the Project cannot benefit an individual.

**4. The Project cannot be a fundraiser.** The Scout can, however, have a fundraiser to provide funds for his Project. The fundraising cannot be used to demonstrate leadership as part of the Project.

**5. Ideas for a Project can come from many sources**. Ideally, the best Project is one that solves a problem the Scout has identified for perhaps a public building, or public property, his church, his Troops' sponsoring organization, a local hospital, or local shelters.   
  
**6. There are no minimum number of hours required to complete the Project.** The Scout needs to have a Project that is complicated enough to have showcased his leadership skills upon completion of the Project. Projects must be individual events. Two or more Scouts cannot share leadership credit on the same Project. However, two Projects can be in the same area.

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**7. The approval process of the Project involves three authorities. They are the Scoutmaster, the Boy Scout Council’s Board and the Beneficiary Representative.** This is established to help and ensure any Project the Scout has proposed will allow him to demonstrate leadership to all three approving authorities throughout the Projects life cycle.

**8. The Scout has several process tools made available to him, mostly outlined in the Project Workbook.** All are designed to effectively share Project information with the three authorities mentioned above, the Scouts' labor force of adults or Scouts, and any vendors or donators. Some of these tools are; creating, publishing, distributing and following a work schedule, keeping a work log, creating a budget and then tracking against it, enforcing safety procedures during the project, scheduling and training proper scout labor and adult support for the project, keeping track of changes and the reasons for them, securing proper tools and materials, ensuring any permissions or permits are secured, and finally, sending out appreciation letters to donators.

**9. Some of the funding for a Project may come from the Beneficiary**, but not exclusively. In fact, it is not the responsibility of the Beneficiary to secure funding for the Eagle Project. The rules for funding are outlined in the BSA Project Workbook, mentioned above, which is a standard Boy Scout document, available to all Scouts, and is the responsibility of the Scout to secure.

**10. Some of the Project plan details may come from the Beneficiary**, but just not exclusively. However, to ensure a high quality project, with all expectations met, the Project plan details must be approved by the Beneficiary. The general expectation is the plan details are to come from the Scout, as a result of his independent research, and his mentors’ guidance. All plan details are assembled by the Scout for presentation to the three authorities mentioned above. A signature of Project approval is required by all three before the Project may actually begin. Clearly, the Beneficiary's signature, being one of these three authorities, indicates he/she is fully comfortable and in agreement with the Project plan schedule, Project quality and any funding, or other support, the Beneficiary is providing.

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