

Eagle Project Step Guidelines

Foreword

Introduction.

Since 1998 I have been privileged to be Eagle Advisor to a number of young men who received their Eagle Scout rank. This was very rewarding. Unhappily there were also cases where projects were not successful. This is very frustrating for the Scout and is usually unpleasant for his family, Troop leaders, and the District Eagle Project reviewers as well. By the time a project is rejected or fails, there is usually a considerable investment of work and emotion in it. More should be done in the early stages of project selection and development to ensure this investment occurs only in acceptable projects. This must be done at the Troop level. I have developed these project guidelines to apply more organization and oversight in the early stages of this process.

The guidelines originally were conceived as a set of single-page handouts that would be given to Life Scouts as they complete one step of an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project and are about to start the next. They were intended to address the frequently asked question, “What do I do next?” I had originally thought that I could organize the process into roughly six topics. As I considered in detail the steps that Eagle Candidates must take, I revised and sub-divided until there were twelve steps. I permitted the important step of planning and developing the project proposal to exceed my self-imposed one page format, and included an outline to guide its content. The flow of the process naturally extended to include steps for the Eagle Board of Review and the Court of Honor. The information is intended to provide a ready reference at the Troop level to guide the process step-by-step. However, at more than two dozen pages, it has become abundantly clear that paper is not the preferred medium for distribution. It is naturally suited for distribution via the Troop’s web site at <http://www.troop719.com>.

Suggested Use.

Soon after achieving Life Scout rank, a Scout is strongly encouraged to attend the excellent Life to Eagle Orientation that is offered semiannually by the Carroll District. This is an essential step on your way to Eagle. The Orientation provides a comprehensive explanation of the process, examples of the paperwork, and an opportunity to ask questions of people who are directly involved in the review and approval of your project. It is suggested that you take notes. By attending early, you may avoid schedule conflicts and a several month delay when you decide that you are ready to begin. These guidelines are intended to supplement the Orientation event and to provide a ready reference and refresher on what to do next while you plan and implement your project. You are encouraged to read the guidelines through completely for familiarization, and then to follow each section carefully as you work on that step.

These guidelines are intended as a comprehensive written resource for use at the Troop level. They are by no means intended to modify, add or subtract any requirement for achieving the Eagle Scout rank, nor alter the Eagle Project process as administered by the Carroll District. I have done the best job I can to compile and reflect the existing requirements and procedures. Using these guidelines will not automatically make a Scout’s project be accepted and successful. Following them carefully should increase the probability that it will be. In the end, the Scout is responsible for his project. Good luck!

Wayne Stuckey
Eagle Advisor, Troop 719
January 2004 (November 2009 revision)