

Selecting Your Project

The Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project provides the opportunity to demonstrate the leadership skills you have learned in Scouting. You will select a significant project, develop the plan, organize the necessary resources (materials, tools, and personnel), and direct the project to completion. The Eagle Scout Service Project is formally proposed and approved before being undertaken, and formally reported at its completion. What makes a good Eagle Scout project?

The project must be done for a qualifying organization, such as:

- a religious institution
- a school
- a community organization.

It is done for an organization, never an individual, a business, or a Scouting organization (Council, District, Camp, Troop, or Pack). Indirect benefit may be OK. For example, the project may benefit a church, even if it is the chartered organization that sponsors your Troop.

The project must be significant.

It should be

- challenging, and
- provide an enduring benefit.

The project should be sufficiently challenging to enable you to demonstrate your ability to plan, organize, and provide leadership in a significant capacity. It should leave a legacy that you will point to with pride. The scope of the project should be such that you demonstrate substantial leadership of other youth. It is not something that you do alone or just with the help of your family. At the same time, it needs to be defined realistically so that you have the expectation of being able to accomplish it.

The project must be substantial and have lasting value for the benefiting organization. It cannot be of a routine or continuing nature. For example working in a soup kitchen, organizing a blood drive, or other routine job for the organization, while possibly providing valuable service and being admirable in its motivation, does not qualify as an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. It cannot be of a commercial nature or solely a fundraiser, although you may have to do a fundraiser to pay for your project. It cannot be routine maintenance, such as painting a room or a fence. However, a good project might involve improving a room at the church, such as fixing up the nursery, painting murals on the walls, and installing cabinets. Routine labor, a job or service normally rendered should not be considered.

The project must be well defined.

It should have a definite goal that is clearly stated. You, the reviewers, and the benefiting organization must know clearly what it is you are doing. The project must have a start, a stop, and an objective definition of success, a defined "exit criterion." As with all Eagle Scout rank requirements, the project must be completed and properly reported prior to your 18th birthday.

The project does not have to be unique, but it must be yours.

You can get suggestions and ideas from many sources: reading about Eagle Scout projects in the newspaper, asking older Eagle Scouts and adults in your Troop, asking qualifying organizations, doing a Web search of Scouting sites. While the original idea or suggestion does not have to be yours, you must adapt any design or plan that you may find to the unique requirements of your project. You will develop the plan specifically for your project and become the expert in all things regarding your project. Your project is yours alone; you make it uniquely yours. Scouts may not partner to do an Eagle project.