

Getting the concept approved

Now that you have selected an idea for a project, it is time to “sell” the concept to others. Before you can begin your project, you will need approval from the benefiting organization, your Troop, and the Carroll District Eagle Project Reviewer. The development of your proposal represents a significant investment of time. By the time you complete your proposal, you and your family will be emotionally invested in it as well. If your idea is not an acceptable Eagle Scout project, or if it needs significant changes to become acceptable, now is the time to find out.

Get your concept approved.

- Discuss the concept with your Troop’s Eagle Advisor. If your Troop does not have a designated Eagle Advisor, ask your Scoutmaster to appoint one for you. Your Eagle Advisor should be someone who understands the requirements for the Eagle Scout Rank and the Eagle process as administered by the Carroll District on behalf of the Baltimore Area Council and under guidelines from the national Boy Scout Committee.
- Discuss the concept with a responsible representative of the benefiting organization. Contact the organization to find out who is authorized to make the approval decision and to sign off the completed project. Be sure the benefiting organization wants the project you are proposing; they should not feel that they are doing you a service by letting you do it. Be sure they understand that you have to plan, organize and lead the project. They will get to approve the project before you start, and they can expect you to provide updates of your progress, but they have to be willing to let you plan, develop, and give leadership to it. It is similar to a contracting arrangement. You provide a proposal to perform a service – a design, a plan of how to do it, required materials, estimate of costs, and a schedule. They approve your proposal, and subject to other approvals, you do the project for them. They accept it by signing off the completed project. A major difference between you and a contractor is – you do not submit a bill or receive payment for your services! **Be sure they understand that you cannot make a final commitment nor start the project until all required approval signatures have been obtained.**

Your project must be proposed in the format of the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook. Requests for revision are common. Plan for revisions by using the electronic version of the workbook from the Baltimore Area Council web site <http://www.baltimorebsa.org/> -> Eagle Scouts -> Eagle Scout Forms -> Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook (a .doc word processor version - recommended) or <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-927.pdf> if you cannot use .doc format. Before the concept discussions, you should fill out the ***Project Description*** portion of your workbook. This will clarify the concept when you speak with others.

Project Description:

- Completely describe the project. (Lasting, challenging; not routine service or job, of commercial nature or fundraiser) Be specific about what you are doing. Give quantities for the project’s legacy, e.g., number of benches, number of trees, length of trail. This is not the place for details of how you will build it.
- What group will benefit? Does the benefiting organization qualify? (Must be a school, religious or community organization; not an individual, business/commercial, or a Scouting organization)
- Who will benefit indirectly, if anyone? (Individuals or Scouting organization may be OK.)
- Provide a complete description of the benefit provided to the organization.
- Dates and with whom concept was discussed. (Organization’s representative, title, phone number; dates of discussions with the Troop and organization representatives)