

Life to Eagle Presentation Pathfinder District

*Presented at the
Pathfinder District Roundtable Meeting
November 7th, 2022*

The information in this presentation is valid as of the presentation date. Please be advised that requirements may have changed by the date of your viewing. For any changes and clarifications, check the GSLAC website:

<https://stlbsa.org/advancement-awards/electronic-eagle-scout-application-process/>

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Life to Eagle Presentation Agenda

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- A Summary of the Steps
- The Service Project Introduction
- Choosing a Service Project
- Project Proposal Steps and Workbook
- Fundraising
- Completing the Project Report
- The Eagle Application
- The Roles of the Scout, the Troop, and the Parent
- Checklists





Opening Remarks

Congratulations on becoming a Life Scout! The adult leaders of the Pathfinder District are excited that you want to take on the responsibilities and work necessary to become an Eagle Scout. We encourage you to pay close attention to the guidance that we have provided in this presentation, and we ask that you also seek the advice of your troop leaders and project advisor. You are now a Project Manager and you must demonstrate your leadership and be meticulous in your documentation.

John Parish
District Chair

Khari Floyd
Sr. District Executive

Sandy Balch
Eagle Board of Review Chair

Mark Barnes
Advancement Chair

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Definition of Terms in this Presentation

- **Active Scout.** A scout who is registered in the BSA program. The scout is in good standing with a unit and has not been dismissed for disciplinary reasons. The scout meets the unit's reasonable expectations of activity.
- **Leadership Position** - The position of responsibility requirement shown on the Advancement and Awards web page found at www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/.
- **Eagle Project Workbook** – The official work product and document for the Eagle Scout Service Project
- **Eagle Application** – The official work product and document for requesting approval to obtain the Eagle rank.
- **Two Deep Leadership** – The Scouts BSA policy which states that there shall always be two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or older who are certified in Youth Protection Training whenever non-custodial scouts are present for planning, work days, and meetings. A registered female adult leader must be present for any activity involving female youth.





Steps to Eagle

1. Be a registered, active scout participating in a leadership position
2. Complete all required merit badges
3. Research and choose an Eagle Service Project
4. Download the official workbook and obtain signature approvals from troop and beneficiary
5. Call to request an appearance before the Eagle Board
6. Present the proposal in full uniform (Scout Shirt, Scout Pants and Merit Badge Sash)
7. Complete the project
8. Complete Part 2 and Part 3 of the Project Report Workbook with all signatures
9. Obtain letters of recommendation (LOR)
10. Compose your Statement of Life's Ambitions (SLA)
11. Complete and obtain signatures for the Eagle application
12. Transport your application, LORs, SLA, and project workbook to the GSLAC office to obtain the council's approval signature on the Eagle application
13. Call to request a final Eagle Board appearance
14. Rehearse your presentation before your troop's Board of Review
15. Present your final project report and application before the Eagle Board



The Service Project Introduction

- 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. *
- The Eagle Scout service project uses all that you have learned thus far in Scouting – leadership, responsibility, managing tasks & projects, communication, and is an application of the Scout Oath ("to help other people").

**Eagle Scout requirement #5*

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The Service Project Details

1. May not benefit BSA, even indirectly.
2. May not solely be a fundraiser. In other words, it may not be an effort that primarily collects money, even for a worthy charity. Fundraising is permitted only for securing materials and facilitating a project. Donation drives for goods or services (blood, clothes, food, etc) are allowed.
3. May not be of a commercial nature or a business, this is not meant to disallow work for community institutions such as museums and service agencies (for example, like homes for the elderly). Some aspect of a business operation provided as a community service may also be considered – for example, a park open to the public that is owned by a business. The benefiting organization does not need to be a registered non-profit.
4. Must be approved by Scoutmaster/Crew Advisor, Unit Committee, Benefiting Organization and District Eagle Board of Review, prior to starting your project.
5. May not be routine labor or maintenance. This might be defined as a job or service you may provide as part of your daily life or a routine maintenance job normally done by the beneficiary (for example, pulling weeds or cutting fields on the football, soccer, athletic fields at your school).
6. Must be a Life Scout when you start working on your project proposal.
7. There is no minimum or maximum number of hours for a project. The size & scope of your project are limited only by the requirement that the project affords you the opportunity plan and clearly demonstrate leadership to others and clearly provides a positive impact for the benefiting organization.
8. The project provides sufficient opportunity to meet the requirements, must be feasible and safety issues are considered.

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Project Proposal Steps

1. Download and read the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/eagle-scout-workbook/>
2. Complete the Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal. The contact information is on **Page B**. Complete all the information on **Pages B thru G**.
3. Obtain the Benefiting Organization's signature to show approval, the Scoutmaster's signature and the unit's Committee Chair's signature on **page H**.
4. Call (DO NOT EMAIL) to set up an appointment with the Eagle Board Chair. The Eagle Board meets twice a month. The 2nd Thursday and the 4th Monday. You must call at least 5 days prior to the board meeting.
5. Meet with the Eagle Board. They will evaluate the proposal:
 - a. Does it meet the Eagle Scout requirements?
 - b. Does appear to be feasible?
 - c. Have safety issues been addressed?
 - d. Does it have key action steps for further detailed planning?
 - f. Is the Scout on the right track for a reasonable chance for completion?
6. If the Board Members approve the proposal, they will sign the Proposal and the Scout can begin work on the project.
7. It is recommended that the Scout works with a coach or mentor.
8. Complete the Eagle Scout Service Project Plan, **Pages A thru F**. This is the more detailed plan that will be used to complete the project.
9. Complete the Fundraising Application if you need to raise money to pay for the project. You may obtain donations from family, friends or companies without completing the fundraising application



Choosing a Project

Your project must present an opportunity for planning, development and leadership!

- 1. Choose a project idea which is valuable to the community and a challenge to you. It does not have to be an original idea, but it could be! You must do all the planning for your project.**
- 2. Project ideas can be found in many places – your church, school and community organizations. Be sure to let others know that you are looking for an Eagle Scout project. The ideas are almost limitless!**
- 3. Make a list of possible projects.**
- 4. Select an idea that is interesting to you – one that YOU are passionate about!**
- 5. Looking for ideas? Try these approved links:**
 - <https://nesa.org/resources/trail-to-eagle/project-idea-generator/>
 - <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/01/20/20-ideas-for-unique-eagle-scout-service-project-beneficiaries/>
 - <https://eagleprojects.scoutlife.org/>

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Choosing a Project Is it Acceptable?

Your proposed project must meet the following tests.

1. It provides sufficient opportunity to meet the Eagle Scout service project requirement. You must show that planning, development, and leadership will take place and how the three factors will benefit your chosen organization.
2. It appears to be feasible. You must show the project is realistic for you to carry out.
3. Safety issues will be addresses. You must show you understand what must be done to guard against injury, and what will be done if someone gets hurt.
4. Action steps for further detailed planning are included. You must make a list of the key steps you will take to make sure your plan will have enough details so it can be carried out successfully.
5. You are on the right track with a reasonable chance for a positive experience.

If you submit your proposal too close to your 18th birthday, it may not be approved in time for you to finish planning and executing the project!



Project Workbook – Part 1

The Proposal

- 1. Part 1 is the proposal. It tells the Eagle Board how you plan to complete the project. It is a complete, step-by-step guide. The proposal shows that you have obtain all the necessary approvals and that you have considered all requirements and contingencies.**
- 2. Before you request a meeting with the Eagle Board, you must complete ALL the information on Pages A thru H.**
 - You have obtained your Scoutmaster and Troop Committee Chair approval and signatures on page H.
 - You have obtained the beneficiary’s approval and signature on page H
 - You have obtained an advisor who has agreed to assist you throughout the project
 - You have prepared and practiced a detailed presentation to present to your troop’s Board of Review *Ask to rehearse your presentation to your troop’s Board of Review.*



Project Workbook – Part 2

The Plan

1. After the board approves your proposal, you are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to use Part Two of the workbook (*The Plan*) to document your actions as they happen. This will increase the likelihood your project will be approved at the final Eagle Board of Review. Your advisor will help you to avoid common pitfalls. It is OK and advised to seek guidance from other adults.
2. Use this part to describe all your steps, costs, and observations. This will help you to easily complete Part 3 (The Report).

Documenting will avoid incorrect guessing.



Project Workbook – Part 2

The Plan – Fundraising

- 1. If you plan to raise funds for your project, you must complete the *Fundraising Application Page A*, located in Part 2 of the workbook (*Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application*).**
- 2. *Fundraising Application Page B* describes, in detail, the procedures and limitations on fundraising for Eagle projects.**
- 3. The GSLAC has determined that certain types of fundraisers, such as bake sales and car washes, do not require a fundraising application. Fundraisers must not compete with council-sponsored fundraisers (Friends of Scouting, Popcorn Sales, Camp Card Sales). Any fundraising effort that is expected to raise less than \$500 does not require this application. You are, however, expected to explain all funds raised or donated in Part 3 (*The Report*).**

If in doubt, fill out the application.



Complete the Project

1. Set the date(s) for the project.
2. Recruit your workforce – should include Scouts from your troop, friends, family members.
3. Implement the plan you designed.
4. **Take pictures** throughout the process.
5. You must be the leader of the youth and adults. You should use the *EDGE* technique – Explain, Demonstrate, and Evaluate. Adults can help with tasks using tools that the Scouts cannot handle. You can consider suggestions from the adults, but you make the decisions, and you give the instructions to the youth.

Document your observations.



Project Workbook – Part 3

The Report

- 1. You will use your documentation in Part 1 and Part 2 to complete many of the fields in Part 3.**
- 2. Most Eagle service projects do NOT complete as originally planned. The board wants to know what changed and how you responded to the changes.**
- 3. Prepare your presentation using the fields in Part 3 as your guide.**
- 4. Practice your presentation to your troop's Board of Review to obtain feedback.**
- 5. Make at least three copies of the workbook, presentation and application for the board.**





The Eagle Scout Application

1. Obtain the **CORRECT** version of the application (**JULY 2022**) or use **SCOUTBOOK**
2. Everything is verified by the council. Discrepancies and errors will cause a delay and the application will be returned for corrections.
3. **Red Flags** that cause delays
 - **Dates.** Missing or incorrect dates in any field
 - **Signatures.** Applicant, unit leader, unit committee chair.
 - **References.** Must list all six (five if not employed)
 - **Merit Badges.** Blue cards if a discrepancy
 - **Positions of Responsibility.** Only those listed for Eagle requirements
 - **Attachments.** Letters of reference and statement of ambitions





Processing the Eagle Scout Application

- 1. Fill out the application and obtain all signatures**
- 2. Hand deliver to the GSLAC Office: 1) the application, 2) recommendation letters, 3) completed project workbook (with signatures) and, 4) ambition statement. Wait at the council office for processing.**
- 3. Call Pathfinder District Eagle Board to obtain appointment after council approves application.**
- 4. Miscellany**
 - Eagle Board of Review can be held up to 24 months after 18th birthday if all requirements have been met.
 - COVID-19 modifications were rolled back on March 01, 2022
 - Extensions granted only for circumstances beyond the scout's control

As an alternate to hand delivering the documents, you can scan and submit them via e-mail to: eagle@stlbsa.org. Files must be in .pdf format and cannot exceed 20 MB. Allow at least one business day for processing. See the notes section of this slide for details.



SCOUTBOOK

- 1. Scoutbook makes the application process EASY!**
- 2. Enter the scout's last name and BSA ID number in the REPORTS section of SB to download the latest version of the .pdf fillable Eagle application. Scoutbook pre-populates the application with all awards, ranks, and demographic information.**
- 3. Scoutbook has eliminated the need to hold onto merit badge blue cards!***
- 4. Scoutbook works by synchronizing and swiftly updating the individual scout's advancement records to the National BSA Office. This is why a Scoutbook generated application will significantly reduce the time that the council takes to review an application from hours to minutes!**

* The unit's Scoutbook recorder must ensure that all awards and badges are entered into Scoutbook with the correct dates from the blue cards or award certificates. The blue cards, however, **will** need to be retained if the scout transfers to a different unit as a backup reference.



Responsibilities

- **Scout**
 - Pick a project that you care about
 - Manage your time and resources
 - Document EVERYTHING!
 - Seek guidance
 - Lead with EDGE
- **Troop**
 - Provide guidance
 - Provide a detailed Board of Review
 - Document all awards and badges in SCOUTBOOK
 - Provide a representative to accompany the scout before the Board
- **Parent**
 - Provide encouragement and guidance
 - Let the scout lead
 - Demand the that troop use SCOUTBOOK.

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**Is anyone not ready?
Lead on!**



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Checklist – Before the First Board

Task
Completed Eagle Rank requirements 1-4
Downloaded and read all pages of the Project Workbook
Researched and selected project
Completed Part 1 of Project Workbook
Obtained signatures from beneficiary, scoutmaster and troop committee chair
Performed rehearsal of presentation to troop's Board of Review
Called Eagle Board to obtain appointment
Checked uniform for correctness (Shirt, Pants, and Merit Badge Sash)
Performed a practice presentation to Troop Board of Review
Prepared three copies of presentation and workbook for Eagle Board presentation



Checklist – Complete the Project

	Task
	Recruited workers
	Conducted fundraiser (if necessary)
	Set date(s) for project work day(s)
	Reviewed and coordinated final details with troop and beneficiary
	Took pictures
	Sent thank you notes
	Completed Part 2 of the Workbook
	Obtained the signatures of the beneficiary, scoutmaster, and troop committee chair on Part 3 of the Project Workbook





Checklist – After Project Completed Obtaining Council Approval

Task
Completed Part 3 of the Workbook
Obtained 5 Letters of Recommendation (LOR)– 6 if employed
Composed Statement of Life Ambitions (SLA)
Downloaded Eagle Application from Scoutbook
Completed Application
Obtained signatures on application of self, scoutmaster, and committee chair
Hand delivered LORs, SLA, Eagle Application, and Eagle Workbook to council office (bring original merit badge cards if you did not use Scoutbook)



Checklist – Final Eagle Board

Task
Prepared presentation
Performed presentation to troop's Board of Review
Called Eagle Board Chair to request appearance before the Eagle Board
Prepared final presentation with three copies of: presentation, application and workbook
Checked uniform for correctness (Shirt, Pants, and Merit Badge Sash)
Delivered presentation to the Eagle Board
Celebrated!
Hand delivered board-signed Eagle Application to council office
Picked up Eagle award package from council
Planned and conducted a special Court of Honor