

Tips and Expectations Of The Eagle Scout Leadership Project Review Committee

Part of the work toward becoming an Eagle Scout is meeting the expectation that the Scout is mature enough to follow directions, write his ideas clearly, and present his proposal so that others can understand his plans and could actually complete the project without any further involvement by the Scout.

The Project Review Committee has a requirement that the Mecklenburg County Council checklist be completed and attached to the proposed Eagle project as an aid to both the Eagle candidate and the Committee. Following the checklist will help ensure the proposal is not returned because something was left out or overlooked. The volunteers on the Committee spend numerous hours reviewing the individual proposals and want each proposal to be complete, accurate, and acceptable from the start.

One of the most significant aspects of Eagle Scout projects is the demonstration of leadership knowledge and skills. An important part of the proposal is to explain in writing the leadership aspects of the project. This is NOT a discussion of how the Scout will supervise certain tasks in his project, but rather which skills will be needed and how he expects to use leadership abilities with the people recruited to assist with the project. You have no leadership project without other people. The chosen activity -- whatever it is -- is a secondary objective. The primary objective is to demonstrate leadership.

Project Proposal

1. The proposed project should take a minimum of 100 work-hours **excluding** planning and fundraising hours to complete. The project must take more than one workday to complete. This is to keep projects consistent council-wide.
2. The project proposal write-up must be in black or blue ink or computer generated. Only drawings may be done in pencil.
3. The project proposal must be into the Scout Office by noon of the Council Project Review Committee meeting day to be considered that month. This meeting is always held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.
4. For 17 year-olds, it is strongly recommended that the initial project proposal be turned into the Review Committee at least 6 months prior to the 18th birthday. It is the Scout's responsibility to see that the project proposal is prepared and submitted in a timely manner. The Review Committee is not obligated to accommodate an age-related deadline.
5. The project proposal must provide all the information necessary for someone who is not familiar with it at all, and after reading the write-up, can fully understand what is being proposed and be able to actually accomplish it from the directions therein.
6. Adult troop leaders are expected to provide appropriate and timely guidance to the Scout in reviewing, approving and submitting a project proposal write-up for final approval.

Points Expected To Be Addressed

1. Full explanation of the project scope including what, where, why and need.
2. Pre-planning for safety concerns and accident prevention.
3. Detailed Work Plan to include number of workdays planned, tasks to accomplish each workday, number of volunteers needed for each task, number of work-hours estimated for each task – all rolled up into an overall work-hour estimate for the project.
4. Detailed Materials List depicting quantities of each item and size needed.
5. Detailed Equipment List depicting quantities of each item needed.
6. A discussion of leadership skills that must be understood and demonstrated by the Scout to assure overall success of the project.
7. Detailed construction drawings with complete dimensions.
8. “Before” pictures to depict present conditions and location of the proposed project.
9. Cost estimate of the project and how these expenses will be covered.
10. If a school project, a letter of approval from the principal is required. For other types of projects, an approval letter by the beneficiary is expected.
11. For construction of buildings and structures, applicable building permits, inspections and sign-off of structural integrity by a professional must be determined and addressed in the project proposal.

Upon initial review of the project proposal, there are four responses taken by the Eagle Scout Leadership Project Review Committee. They are:

1. Approved – The Scout can begin work.
2. Approved With Contingency – The Scout can begin work but must address the contingencies and revise the packet accordingly before starting. The revised packet does not need to be returned to the Review Committee but changes must be confirmed at the Eagle Board of Review.
3. Resubmit – The initial project proposal has merit but falls short in being approved by the Review Committee. The items identified in the response letter by the Review Committee must be addressed by the Scout in red ink or as a separate addendum to the original packet and re-submitted for approval. Work on the project cannot start before final approval.
4. Not Approved – The proposal is not an Eagle Scout Leadership Project. Come up with something else.

Proposals that will not qualify as an Eagle Scout Leadership Project:

1. The project is providing only labor in support of what the benefiting organization needs. This type of project is usually called a “good-turn”, not an Eagle Scout Leadership Project.
2. The project lacks sufficient scope and does not measure up as an Eagle Scout Leadership Project.
3. Any project proposed for Habitat For Humanity. The organization requires that its volunteers be at least 15 years old. This requirement eliminates many Scout-age boys from participating.
4. Any project proposed as a blood drive. The Scout has no control over the activities and policies of blood collecting organizations such as the Red Cross.
5. Any project proposed for the City-County Storm Water Drain Identification Program. Cub Scouts do this project as a community good-turn.
6. The benefiting organization is for-profit and not tax exempt according to IRS guidelines. Status of nursing homes and elderly-care facilities usually are questionable in this category and must be confirmed.
7. Any project proposed for the Boy Scout organization.
8. Most projects that propose collection points that are not staffed. Examples are unmanned food collection barrels in front of grocery stores or clothing drop-off points at the church. The Scout has no control over these types of donations.
9. Any project or projects where two Eagle Scout candidates are piggy-backing their endeavor and using the same volunteer workforce and/or resources.
10. Any project which proposes raising funds for the beneficiary.
11. Any project where experienced or professional personnel are compensated for their services within the scope of the project. (Under certain circumstances, compensated professional help may be necessary. This need, however, can not be counted as part of the project, and the Scout cannot receive credit for it.)

Project proposals will be returned to the Scout not reviewed by the committee for the following reasons:

1. Required review/approval signatures are missing on the appropriate sign-off lines in the proposal.
2. The Mecklenburg County Council “Required Checklist For Project Proposal” form is either missing from the front of the packet or is incomplete.
3. The initial letter by the Review Committee is missing from the project proposal packet when being resubmitted.
4. Additions and changes to resubmitted projects are not done in red or as a separate addendum to the original as directed by the Review Committee re-submittal letter.