

Presenter's Notes

The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach



The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach

Expiration Date

This presentation is not to be used after Dec. 31, 2015.

Obtain an updated version at www.scouting.org/advancement



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Slide 1



For the Presenter:

This Eagle Scout Service Project Coach educational presentation takes approximately 60 minutes to deliver and provides coaches with the basic knowledge and skills needed to get started. It can also serve as a refresher for veterans.

Like all the educational presentations produced by the National Advancement Committee and its Webinars and Education Task Force, this version has an expiration date; after which it is not to be used. Upon that date a replacement session should be available at the URL shown on the first slide.

We encourage presenters to have at least one current edition of each of the following publications for use during the presentation:

Guide to Advancement, No. 33088

Boy Scout Requirements, No. 33216

Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, No. 512-927 (one copy for each participant)

Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project, No. 510-025 (one copy for each participant)

Guide to Safe Scouting, No. 34416

Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations, No. 680-028

Service Project Planning Guidelines, No 680-027

The Sweet 16 of Safety, No. 512-025

Any helpful materials provided by your council or district


A flip chart or white board with pens may come in handy.

Begin with a welcome and thank everyone for attending. Let them know you realize they could be doing something else with their time, but that they chose to be at this presentation is significant. Eagle Scout service project coaches provide invaluable help to our Scouts. Close your introductory remarks with a challenge that participants should ask questions and join in the discussions.

Slide 2

**The Mission and Aims of
the Boy Scouts of America**

<p>Mission of the BSA</p> <p><i>“...prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.”</i></p>	<p>Aims of Scouting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✦ <i>Character Development</i>✦ <i>Citizenship Training</i>✦ <i>Mental and Physical Fitness</i>
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Many of you are familiar with the mission and aims of the Boy Scouts of America. You’ve read them in our literature and you may have heard about them at training sessions. The importance of the mission has not only to do with making ethical and moral choices, but that this should be done over one’s *lifetime*. We’re looking for long-term improvement here: *life* lessons. The Eagle Scout service project experience is one of these. What the Scout gets out of the project and takes with him through his life, is a great deal more important than the project itself.

You’ve probably heard about the aims of Scouting, too. If not, jot them down. And as we go through this presentation, think about how the various parts of the service project apply to the aims. At the end we’ll close the loop on that, and see how you did.

Slide 3

The Scout Oath and Law

<p>The Scout Oath</p> <p>On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;</p> <p>To help other people at all times;</p> <p>To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.</p>	<p>The Scout Law</p> <p>A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>
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The concept of service to others is embedded in both the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The helpfulness we pledge is important in the Eagle Scout service project, but these values we express—especially those found in the Scout Law—can also provide some guidelines on how Scouts and Scout leaders, and Eagle Scout service project coaches, should approach the project process.

Ask: Which Scout laws are the most important in the process, and to whom are they important?

Discuss the answers until it's clear everyone understands that coaches should *live* the law as they work with Scouts. For example, “courteous,” “kind,” and “friendly,” mean that coaches are not overbearing, and that they try to keep their egos out of the way. It means they treat Scouts and parents with dignified respect. “Obedient” means that coaches work within the policies and procedures as set forth in the *Guide to Advancement*, and do not make up their own requirements or reinforce those inappropriately set forth by others.

Slide 4

The Methods of Boy Scouting

- ✦ Ideals
- ✦ Patrol method
- ✦ **Advancement**
- ✦ Association with adults
- ✦ Outdoors
- ✦ Leadership development
- ✦ Uniform
- ✦ Personal growth



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These are the Scouting methods we use to accomplish our aims and mission.

The Eagle Scout service project is a required activity found under the advancement method, but it also involves other methods.


Ask: What other methods come into play during the planning and conducting of an Eagle Scout project? (Look for: Ideals (e.g., helpfulness), Association with Adults, Leadership Development, and Personal Growth. These four should apply to all Eagle projects. Others may apply to certain projects conducted under certain circumstances. Discuss any that are brought up.)

Slide 5

Official Sources for Guidance

Current editions of:

- ♣ *Guide to Advancement*
- ♣ *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*
- ♣ *Boy Scout Requirements*
- ♣ *Guide to Safe Scouting*
- ♣ *Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations*



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An Eagle Scout service project coach must, above all, abide by the policies and procedures outlined in these official resources. There are, of course, quite a few helpful *guidelines* as well. Before you work with your first Scout—or with your next Scout if you’ve been coaching for a while—be sure you’re familiar with the contents. An improperly administered Eagle Scout service project can lead to boards of review under disputed circumstances, and to unnecessary appeals that can shatter dreams.

Slide 6

Qualifications of Eagle Coaches

- ♣ A coach must be a registered member of the BSA
 - In any adult Scouting position
 - Current in Youth Protection training
 - Approved and designated by the council
- ♣ A coach must also have a thorough understanding of the official resources previously mentioned, and especially sections 2, 8, and 9 in the *Guide to Advancement*.

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If you’re not registered with the BSA, or if your Youth Protection training is not up to date, then you need to take care of that. It doesn’t matter what your position is. To be a *designated* Eagle Scout service project coach—as described in the *Guide to Advancement*—you must be approved by your council or district advancement committee—which ever committee has the authority to do that in your council.

Note there are a few sections in the *Guide* that called out here. These are critical. It is important to study them; not just to read them.

Slide 7

**Eagle Scout Service Project Coach
Term of Service and Association**

- ♣ Term of Service: From service project proposal approval to completion of the project report.
- ♣ The role of the designated project coach is not intended to require a close, frequent association.

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Since the Eagle Scout service project coach is designated at the council or district level he does not begin work with a Scout until the project proposal is approved. Service should then continue through completion of the project report.

The Eagle Scout service project coach provides guidance, coaching, and consulting to the Scout on how to successfully plan and execute a project that will fulfill requirement 5. The coach should not become a day to day mentor. This limitation allows designated coaches to work with several Eagle candidates simultaneously.

Just as units work on a day to day basis in the rest of the advancement program, so should units provide the day to day mentoring to help Scouts through the service project process. Designated coaches, with their expertise and objective perspective, should *supplement* assistance from the unit. They should not *supplant* unit efforts.

Slide 8


**Appointing Coaches:
Where Do They Come From?**

It is up to the council to determine:

- ♣ Who may serve as designated project coaches
- ♣ How to organize a pool of willing volunteers
- ♣ How to assign designated coaches to candidates

Unit "mentors" or "advisors":

- ♣ Are not the same as designated coaches
- ♣ Often provide positive contributions
- ♣ Provide support with project planning and execution
- ♣ Prepare Scouts to work with designated coaches

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The council determines who may serve as designated project coaches. The ability to work well with Scouts, knowledge of applicable policies and procedures, and an understanding of how the project contributes to the aims of Scouting are a few parameters to consider in selecting them. If designated coaches do not take on the day to day mentoring, then each of them should be able to work with a number of Scouts at the same time. Still, depending on the size of the council or the district quite a few coaches may be needed. Organizing a pool of willing and qualified volunteers is the best approach.

Ask: How would a council or district go about doing this?

Discuss. (Look for: Finding people, who have approved project plans in the past, advised Scouts in their unit, served as unit advancement coordinators, or have been members of the council or district advancement committee.)

If there are just not enough people available to form a district or council pool, councils may decide to designate coaches from within a Scout's unit. But regardless the source, or a coach's Scouting position, the designated project coach represents the council or district's perspective. As a Scout plans and executes his Eagle Scout service project, his coach must be able to provide the level of guidance that will help the candidate pass his board of review.

As proposals are approved, coaches should be designated routinely, and Scouts advised that a coach will be calling soon to set up a first meeting. If a young man suggests he doesn't need a coach, he should be counseled on the benefits a coach can provide and encouraged to at least have that first meeting.

Units have often used "mentors" or "advisors" to guide Scouts through the Life to Eagle process, providing that day to day support we've discussed. However, it must be understood that "mentors" and "advisors" are not the same as designated coaches. These helpful unit-level volunteers provide a positive contribution, but they have a different perspective. Their efforts should have a focus toward on-going support and encouragement in an effort to prepare a Scout to work with his designated coach. It may also be useful for the "mentor" or "advisor" to touch base now and then with the designated coach to ensure advice given is consistent with council expectations.

Slide 9

	Life to Eagle "Mentor"	Eagle Scout Service Project Coach
Term:	Entire Life to Eagle process	From proposal approval through project report
Focus:	Successful achievement of the Eagle Scout rank.	Successful fulfillment of requirement 5
Appointment:	Usually by the unit	By the council or district
Relationship:	Longer-term	Shorter-term
Approach:	Coaching and mentoring in general	Coaching and consulting on the project

The position of Life to Eagle "mentor" or "advisor" is not actually an official BSA position, but as we've discussed, they can provide a valuable service. In many cases, however, they are confused with the designated Eagle Scout service project coach.

We've listed a few differences on this slide. Are there other differences?

Discuss.

(If it doesn't come out in the discussion, explain that these individuals working together can help candidates improve their chances for successfully meeting requirement 5.)

Slide 10

The Role of the Coach

A coach's advice is a key to success.

- ♣ Serves as an advisor, consultant, coach.
- ♣ Is a resource, encouraging the candidate to fully plan his project, secure resources, and to make wise decisions.
- ♣ Uses positive adult association, logic, and common sense to help the candidate to reach a successful outcome.

It cannot be said too often. A project coach is the key to success in council or district efforts to guide Scouts through the service project process.

And, yes, a coach serves as an advisor and consultant, and helps in other ways, but he does so without *directing* the Scout. Instead, he must use the BSA method of positive adult association, and also logic and common sense to help the candidate achieve success. (Ask for discussion on how a coach might do this.)

Guidelines for Coaches

- ♣ Adheres to the Eagle Scout service project process as described in *Guide to Advancement*, topic 9.0.2.9.
- ♣ Has no authority to dictate changes, or withdraw approval that was previously granted.
- ♣ Strives to make his or her involvement a positive experience.
- ♣ Encourages a Scout to make the kinds of decisions that will lead to successful outcomes.

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Topic 9.0.2.9 of the *Guide to Advancement* provides information and guidance on the intended duties and responsibilities of an Eagle Scout service project coach.


A coach's role is to support the Scout and to guide him toward making the kinds of decisions that will help him meet requirement 5. Coaches do not have the authority to dictate changes, withdraw approval previously granted by the district or council, or to take any other directive action.

Instead, Eagle Scout service project coaches strive for a positive experience by encouraging Scouts to make wise decisions and follow logical processes as they work through the requirement. In this way we assist the Scout to become successful not just with his project, but we provide an experience that will help him throughout his life.

Slide 12

Bringing Scouts and Coaches Together

- ✦ A coach should be designated for *every* Scout whose proposal is approved.
- ✦ The assigned coach contacts the Scout, suggests a first meeting, telephone call, e-mail discussion, or video conference.
- ✦ The Scout may choose not to accept the assistance of the coach, but should be counseled on the value a coach can add.

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Once a Scout's project proposal is approved, a coach should be designated immediately. Don't ask the Scout if he wants the help of a coach. He has signed that he's read the workbook so we may assume he knows coaches are not required. If he doesn't want one, he will tell us. The best practice is to provide the coach's name and tell the Scout to expect a call.

The designated coach should make contact as soon as practical after the proposal is approved. Time constraints often create challenges for Scouts to complete their projects by the time they turn 18. The sooner a coach makes contact, the better.

A coach's work with a Scout can be through face-to-face meetings, telephone calls, e-mail, or by video conferencing, but face-to-face is preferred. Regardless the method of contact, discussions with the Scout should be relaxed, respectful, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind... Well you get the picture.

Slide 13

The Service Project Process

- ♣ Proposal and Approval
- ♣ Fundraising Application
- ♣ Project Plan
- ♣ Execution
- ♣ Report
- ♣ Board of Review



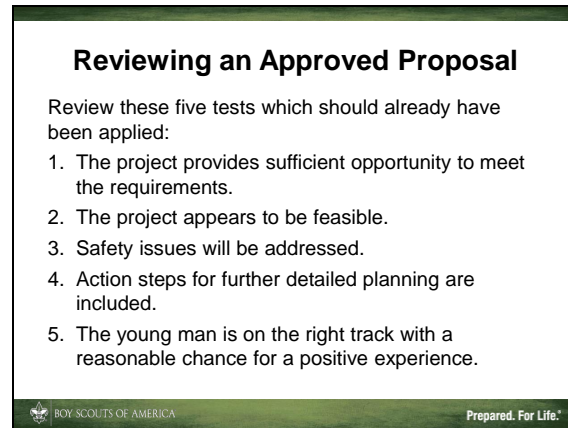
The image shows the cover of the 'Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook'. It features the Boy Scouts of America logo at the top, a stylized green path leading upwards, and the text 'Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook' and 'BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA'.

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Hand out copies of the current *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*. Briefly discuss its various parts.

The road to meeting Eagle Scout rank requirement 5 begins with the preparation and approval of the proposal and culminates in the board of review. Along the way there are many important steps.

Each section of the workbook plays an important role; especially the first, which lays the groundwork and begins—*just begins*—the planning process. It is critical that the Scout, his parent or guardian, his unit leaders, and the project coach study this material.



Reviewing an Approved Proposal

Review these five tests which should already have been applied:

1. The project provides sufficient opportunity to meet the requirements.
2. The project appears to be feasible.
3. Safety issues will be addressed.
4. Action steps for further detailed planning are included.
5. The young man is on the right track with a reasonable chance for a positive experience.

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For the next several slides we're going to cover the typical subjects a coach will discuss with a Scout concerning the service project process. But first, to give you some perspective, let's discuss what happens during the review and approval of the Scout's proposal before the coach comes on board. Keep in mind that the proposal is an overview, and again, just the *beginnings* of planning.

The five tests shown here should have been applied in approving the proposal.

Ask: What is number 1 really saying? (Then cover each of the five tests with a similar question)

Listen for some of the following during the discussion:

Test 1: "... to meet the requirement." There is opportunity for planning and developing the project, for giving leadership to others, and the project will be "helpful."

Test 2: "...project appears feasible." It is a project the Scout is capable of managing, and it can be accomplished with resources that are available, or that can be obtained with a reasonable effort. Note that it says "appears to be feasible."

Test 3: "Safety issues..." The Scout is aware of potential safety issues and hazards, and will address them in his project plan. Note that it says "aware of." The safety issues do not need to be addressed or solved yet. We just need to be comfortable he is aware of the issues, and comfortable that he will address them in his final plan.

Test 4: "Action steps..." Key action steps have been identified that the Scout will use for developing his plans. This means just what it says. He has made short list of some of his next steps, so we can see that he's on the right track.

Test 5: "...positive experience." The Scout has demonstrated he has a good understanding of what he is proposing to accomplish and has a good chance of a successful outcome that will contribute to his growth and development. This is where your "gut feel" comes to play.

Note that it's not the role of the coach to question the adequacy of an approved proposal. It's the coach's role to advise the Scout in developing his plan, but the five tests serve as a great starting point for the discussions.

Initial Discussions Project Orientation

Before work begins on the project plan, discuss with the Scout:

- ♣ How the project proposal approval process went
- ♣ The information requested in the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook* project plan section
- ♣ How the Scout intends to plan the project, and then offer him advice accordingly
- ♣ Any planning issues, that if ignored, could stop work or create health, safety, or environmental issues

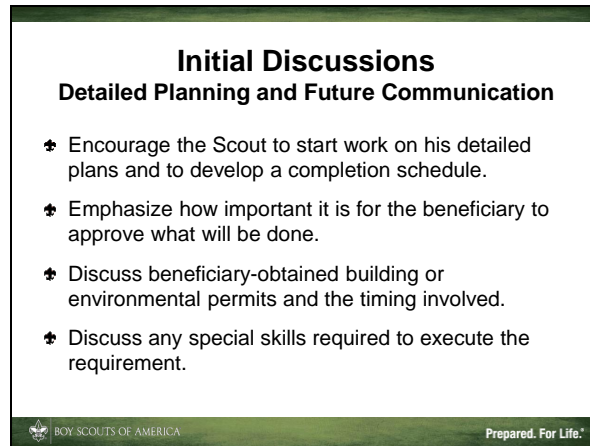
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The first meeting between the coach and the Scout is critical in developing a positive working relationship. Strive for a relaxed atmosphere and spend a little time getting to know each other. Ask him questions about his Scouting background and other interests, and ask him how his proposal approval went. The young man may be somewhat nervous, especially if he has never tackled something as involved as an Eagle Scout service project. Remind him that each year thousands of young men like himself successfully complete a project and earn the Eagle Scout rank.

During your discussion, take a look at the Project Plan form. Assume your Scout will be using it. There will be some who may not want to complete the form, but let them know they still have to have a plan. The board of review will want to have some evidence that the required planning and development actually took place. Scouts who come up with some other way of showing this, may run the risk that it will fall short of board of review member expectations.

The final plan is an important tool that is organized to stimulate the Scout's planning efforts and to lead him to a successful project conclusion.

Discuss the specifics of the Scout's project, ask questions, and offer advice accordingly. Listen, too, for any issues that could become problems later; for example, the weather, building permits, the environment, safety, and other elements he may not have considered. Listen for his thoughts on how he will develop a plan appropriate to the project. Help him understand the importance of a logical step by step planning process.



Initial Discussions
Detailed Planning and Future Communication

- ♣ Encourage the Scout to start work on his detailed plans and to develop a completion schedule.
- ♣ Emphasize how important it is for the beneficiary to approve what will be done.
- ♣ Discuss beneficiary-obtained building or environmental permits and the timing involved.
- ♣ Discuss any special skills required to execute the requirement.

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Remind the Scout that a well-developed plan is the key to his success. Encourage him to put together a schedule and to set a goal for completing the plan. Encourage him to contact or meet with you from time to time as his plan progresses, and as soon as possible after he has completed it. Stress that your intention is not to be critical, but to help him toward a successful experience.

Be sure the Scout understands that before work begins, the project beneficiary should be fully aware of his project plans. Encourage the Scout to meet as often as necessary with the beneficiary to achieve full understanding and acceptance. Not doing so could mean the difference between project failure and success.

If building or other permits will be needed, help the Scout understand these may take 45 to 90 days or even longer to obtain. Point out that the project beneficiary is responsible for obtaining any permits.

Discuss any special skills or expertise that will be needed; for example, will power tools or specialized equipment be used? Will plumbing, wiring, or other work be done that would call for special training or certification? Ask the Scout to comment on how he might go about recruiting individuals with specialized skills. Ask him to describe what challenges he may face giving leadership to those individuals.

Slide 17

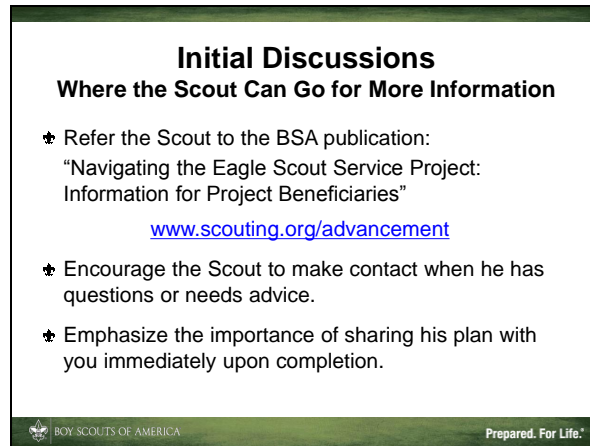
Initial Discussions	
Final Plan Elements	
♣ Proposal review comments	♣ Permits & permissions
♣ Project description & changes	♣ Materials, supplies, tools, & other needs
♣ Present conditions	♣ Expenses & revenue
♣ Project phases	♣ Giving leadership
♣ Work processes	♣ Logistics
♣ Attachments	♣ Safety
	♣ Contingency plans

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Here are the sections of the project plan that the Scout may need to address. Depending on the project, not all of the sections will be applicable. For example there may not be any tools needed for certain projects. In those cases simply tell the Scout to mark those sections, “N/A”.

Review each section with him, and recommend he take notes. Point out the sections that are most important for project success. You may want to have a spare blank copy of the Project Plan form for him to mark up.

Point out that “Be Prepared” is a major concept in completing any plan.



Initial Discussions
Where the Scout Can Go for More Information

- ♣ Refer the Scout to the BSA publication:
"Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project:
Information for Project Beneficiaries"
www.scouting.org/advancement
- ♣ Encourage the Scout to make contact when he has questions or needs advice.
- ♣ Emphasize the importance of sharing his plan with you immediately upon completion.

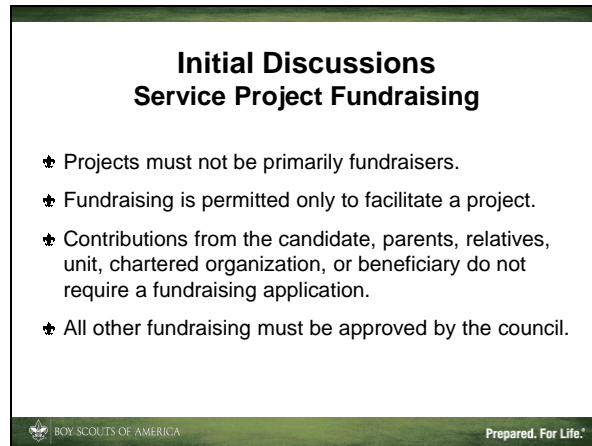
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Distribute "Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project" information sheet to the participants.

Be sure each Scout you coach is aware of the "Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project" information sheet, share a copy with him, and encourage him to give a copy to his project beneficiary—if he has not already done so. The sheet contains important information, and makes it clear that the beneficiary has the authority to approve a Scout's project plan. In addition to the link shown on the slide, the sheet will be found on the last two pages of the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*.

Emphasize that you're available to help the Scout as needed. However, don't be afraid to occasionally contact him to offer encouragement.

Reiterate your readiness to review his final plan with him, one last time before he executes his project.



Initial Discussions
Service Project Fundraising

- ♣ Projects must not be primarily fundraisers.
- ♣ Fundraising is permitted only to facilitate a project.
- ♣ Contributions from the candidate, parents, relatives, unit, chartered organization, or beneficiary do not require a fundraising application.
- ♣ All other fundraising must be approved by the council.

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Fundraising is permitted only for securing materials and otherwise facilitating a project. This includes things such as food and water for the workers, equipment rental, safety supplies, printing or copying services, or anything else necessary for facilitating a project. If you're concerned a project is primarily a fundraiser, then help your Scout transform or expand it into something that will more closely fit the requirement.

Fundraising may require council approval if it goes beyond the family, the unit, or the beneficiary.

Essentially, all other fundraising must be approved by the local council using the Eagle Scout Project Fundraising Application found in the project workbook.

Explain to the Scout that he must make it clear to all donors or event participants that the money is being raised on behalf of the project beneficiary, who will retain leftover funds. Should any donors want documentation of a gift, this must be provided through the beneficiary, not the Boy Scouts of America.

Once collected, money raised must be turned over to the beneficiary or to the candidate's unit until needed for the project. If the unit receives the funds, then once expenses have been paid, any excess goes to the beneficiary.

Initial Discussions
Service Project Fundraising

- ♣ Fundraising applications should be submitted as part of the final planning process, and two weeks in advance of fundraising efforts.
- ♣ The Scout will be contacted if the application cannot be approved.
- ♣ The Scout should check to see if the council has set additional parameters on fundraising efforts.
- ♣ Note that no Scout leader at any level has the authority to *require* fundraising for an Eagle project.

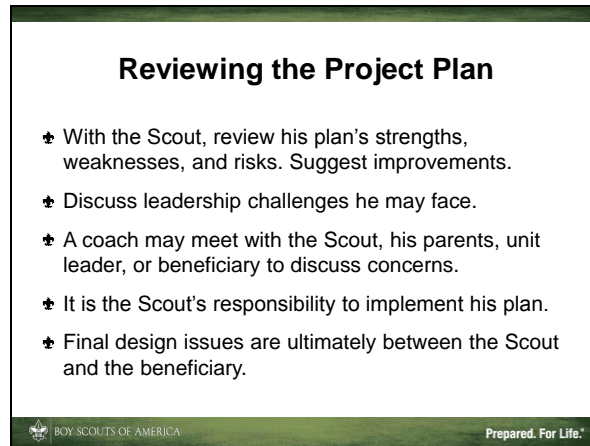
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Fundraising applications should be submitted as soon as it is clear during the final planning process approximately how much money will be needed or what material donations will be requested. There are several sections of the project plan that do not impact fundraising, so it is unnecessary to wait until the final plan is completed. To provide sufficient time for review, all fundraising applications should be submitted to the council at least two weeks in advance of the proposed efforts.

In addition to the exceptions previously mentioned, councils may establish their own additional parameters in order to reduce the number of fundraising applications submitted. For example, a council may determine that bake sales, car washes, efforts under a certain dollar threshold, and so forth, do not need an application.

Ask: Why must the local council approve most fundraising activities? (Look for: To avoid conflicts with council or district efforts; to assure that activities fit within BSA policies, procedures, and values; and to control the scope and methods of fundraising so that the Scout—a minor—is not placed in a difficult situation from an accounting or legal perspective.)

Occasionally it is discovered that some councils, districts, or units are requiring that a fundraising effort accompany every project. This is not permitted. Fundraising has the potential to create a number of problems that minors should not have to deal with. A reasonable level of fundraising is allowed, but it is not, and must not, be required.



Reviewing the Project Plan

- ♣ With the Scout, review his plan's strengths, weaknesses, and risks. Suggest improvements.
- ♣ Discuss leadership challenges he may face.
- ♣ A coach may meet with the Scout, his parents, unit leader, or beneficiary to discuss concerns.
- ♣ It is the Scout's responsibility to implement his plan.
- ♣ Final design issues are ultimately between the Scout and the beneficiary.

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When the Scout believes his final plan is complete, try to get with him as soon as possible so you can review it together. It is important this meeting be held in a timely manner. Help keep up his momentum by not delaying the process.

As you and the Scout review the plan, point out any strengths, weaknesses, omissions, time risks, or potential safety issues. Ask the Scout what actions he might take to address these issues. If appropriate, review applicable portions of the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

Ask the Scout what leadership challenges he might face and how he would respond to them. Discuss with him the different kinds of leadership he will need to give to youth who are older or younger than he is, to family members, and to adults—especially those with special skills who will accomplish things that he cannot.

It's also a good idea to discuss any information or activities that should be "tracked" to help the Scout prepare his project report.


In the rare instance you are concerned that the planned project will not meet the requirement or will not satisfy the beneficiary, you may want to contact or meet with the Scout and his parent or guardian, the unit leader, or a representative of the beneficiary. While you may provide guidance that is critical to success, unless there is something illegal or unsafe going on, it is the Scout's prerogative whether or not to proceed. Final design issues are between the Scout and the project beneficiary. The board of review will decide whether planning was sufficient to meet the requirement.

Wish the Scout well on his service project adventure and let him know you will be available to offer guidance and advice throughout execution of his project.

Slide 22

The Project Report

- ✦ Emphasize completion of the project report because of its importance in board of review approval.
- ✦ Review what is requested in the report to ensure it is fully understood.
- ✦ Suggest the Scout submit his draft report to you for further review and guidance.



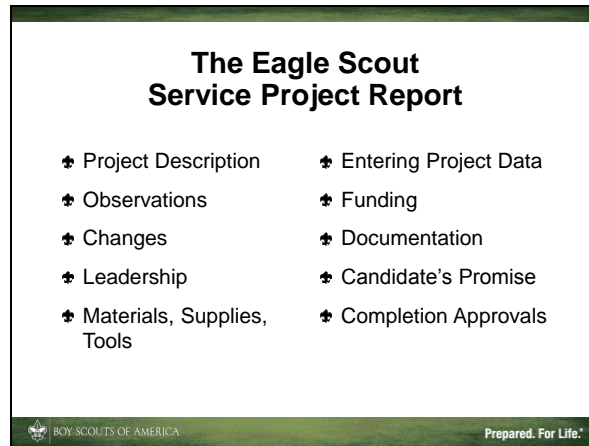
The image shows a form titled "Eagle Scout Service Project Report" with the Boy Scouts of America logo at the top. The form includes fields for "Eagle Scout candidate's name", "Project start date", and "Project completion date". At the bottom, there is a small disclaimer: "This report is not required until the service project has been completed. It is intended to provide feedback. Please do not submit this report until you are ready to do so."

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The project report is to be completed after the service project has been concluded. Note that it is acceptable for the report to be completed and approved after the candidate's 18th birthday. The project, itself, must be completed before then; the report merely supports what has already been done.

With the Scout, thoroughly review the report form. It is not necessary for him to provide lengthy answers, but it should give him the basis to discuss his project in detail with his board of review. Along with the Scout's project plan, the completed report can be very useful in demonstrating to the board that his efforts have met requirement 5.

Offer the Scout the opportunity to meet with you once his project report is prepared. That will give both of you one last opportunity for discussion before the board of review.



Here are the different parts of the project report. Each asks a few questions about key aspects of the Scout's experiences. The report is designed to cause reflection on these experiences as well as to provide a basis for discussion at the board of review. Simple, concise answers are all that is needed.

Achieving Success

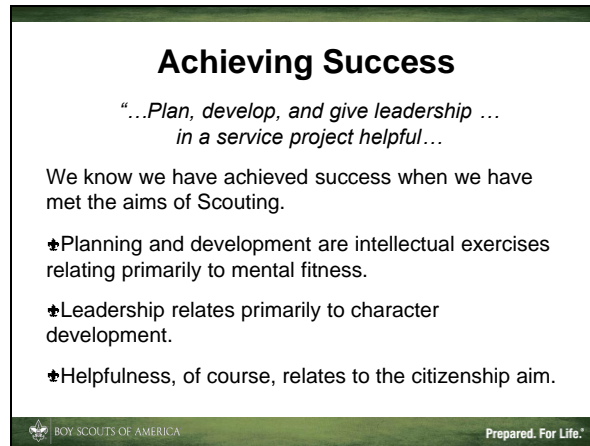
It is a helpful project that the BSA requires.

- ♣ The quality of the write-ups and that everything is signed, are important, but they are simply supportive to the effort.
- ♣ Did the project meet requirement 5?
 - Was there planning and development?
 - Was there leadership of others?
 - Was the project helpful?

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Keep in mind that write ups and signatures, though important, are simply supportive. Requirement 5 doesn't have a grammar or spelling component, either, and there is no mention of "hours worked." The National Council asks for the number of hours involved in a project only because the statistic points to accomplishment—from an overall "macro" standpoint—of our citizenship aim. Requirement 5 calls only for planning and development, leadership, and helpfulness. Well, we want *impact* too, of course; and the key to deciding what that means is to look at the word, "impact," from the perspective of a young person.

Rather than focusing on "technicalities," such as grammar and spelling, as you review a Scout's report, focus on the intent of requirement 5. Use common sense to consider if there was planning and development, leadership of others, and a result that was "helpful." If there were, then the quality of the various supporting documents should not be an impediment to advancing a Scout. But that said, encourage your Scout to put forth his best effort in preparing his workbook for submission. Challenge him to meet his full potential, and to *impress* the members of his board of review.



Achieving Success

*"...Plan, develop, and give leadership ...
in a service project helpful..."*

We know we have achieved success when we have met the aims of Scouting.

- ♣ Planning and development are intellectual exercises relating primarily to mental fitness.
- ♣ Leadership relates primarily to character development.
- ♣ Helpfulness, of course, relates to the citizenship aim.

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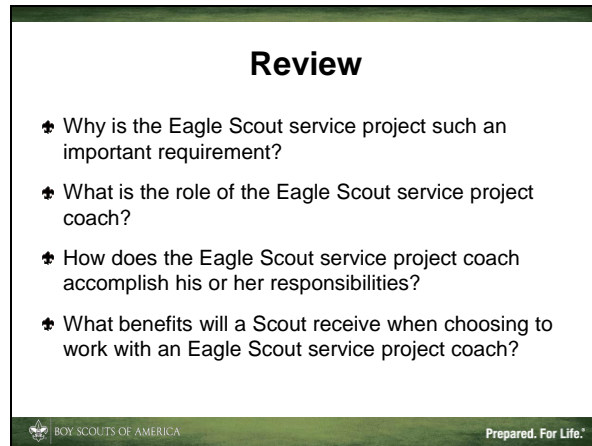
Earlier I suggested you think about how the parts of the Eagle Scout service project requirement apply to the aims of Scouting. We'll cover that now.

The critical elements of the requirement are all found in its first sentence. The three sentences that follow simply set forth some limitations and the approval process, right? So we'll just concentrate on that first sentence. There are three important parts in that sentence and each relates primarily to one of the aims.

The first part—planning and development—represents a mental exercise related to personal fitness. This part of the requirements is mostly about thinking.

We say that leading others relates *primarily* to character development. We're hopeful the Scout will learn to vary his leadership style as he works with different kinds of people: those younger than he is, youth who are older, adults in and out of Scouting, and family members. This is one of the reasons we allow parents and siblings to participate. The degree of difficulty in giving leadership to a parent or to a brother or sister has the potential to provide some very interesting challenges.

The third part of the requirement relates to citizenship and those lessons we all learn when we give of ourselves to benefit others.



The slide is titled "Review" and contains four bullet points, each preceded by a fleur-de-lis symbol. The text is as follows:

- ♣ Why is the Eagle Scout service project such an important requirement?
- ♣ What is the role of the Eagle Scout service project coach?
- ♣ How does the Eagle Scout service project coach accomplish his or her responsibilities?
- ♣ What benefits will a Scout receive when choosing to work with an Eagle Scout service project coach?

At the bottom of the slide, there is a green bar with the Boy Scouts of America logo on the left and the slogan "Prepared. For Life." on the right.

(Call for discussion on each of the topics listed on the slide.)

If not brought out in the discussion, note that the Eagle Scout service project provides a wonderful opportunity for a Scout to serve others while gaining valuable experience that will benefit him throughout his life. The feeling of accomplishment should motivate him to *continually* "help other people at all times." The project also provides the Scout with an opportunity to learn the basics of project management: how to independently and methodically plan and execute a project. These are skills that could lead to a career, but we must be aware that it is simply the mental exercises involved in planning and development that provide the reasons for requiring it. We are in business to develop good citizens who are fit and of good character. It is not our purpose to develop great project managers. While the project itself has intrinsic value, what the Scout gets out of it and takes with him through his lifetime, is a great deal more important than the project itself.


The role of the Eagle Scout service project coach is to provide advice and encouragement, consulting, and to guide the Scout through the process of fulfilling requirement 5. This may include working with the Scout to prepare his plans, and coaching him through execution of the project and developing his report. Just remember, though; it's his project. Not yours.

The coach accomplishes his or her responsibilities by being a consultant, coach, counselor, and resource. Positive interaction with the Scout is a critical contribution to personal growth. The coach's active term of service begins after the project proposal has been approved. It concludes when the report is completed. Remember, however, that service as a designated coach is not a "constant contact" position. It works from a council or district perspective, and does not have the kind of everyday relationship that should be experienced at the unit level.

The Scout will benefit from a project coach's background and experience relating to different kinds of projects and an understanding of council and district expectations for Eagle Scout service projects. A coach's advice will assist the Scout in thinking through all of the details necessary to successfully plan, develop and give leadership to his project. Advice on potential pitfalls and risks will also be very useful in ensuring the Scout has a positive experience.

Summary

- ♣ Advancement is based on experiential learning: to educate or to otherwise expand horizons.
- ♣ Personal growth is the primary goal: learning to apply new skills and gaining confidence to do so.



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In summary, we'd like to draw attention to these two points that are often overlooked.

Yes; overlooked. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in the specifics of the project, and maintaining some mythical set of standards, that we forget the real Scouting connections.

The importance of the Eagle Scout service project does not lie in the end product. It's not so much about what got built, for example. It's about the journey—the experience. Eventually a bench or a table will rot and crumble. Eventually a bookcase will be replaced. Soon, a bicycle safety rodeo will be forgotten. But that's ok. It's in the experiences—everything that happens—every discussion, every “aha” moment, every night spent at the drawing boards, every hour of work at the site giving leadership, and more, that teaches the lessons we want. It's about sticking with something and seeing it through, it's about personal growth. It's about learning a skill and applying it to something else that's important in life. It's about learning *another* skill, that though it could be forgotten, served to provide the experience—and the confidence—to do something else entirely different, that perhaps the Scout never thought he could do.

And now, a final important point: From time, perhaps more often than we like, you may encounter dedicated Scouters who are unfamiliar with the *Guide to Advancement*, and who continue to operate with outdated national policies and procedures. You may also find volunteers who *are* familiar with the GTA, but who choose to ignore it. Then, there are those who over the years, who have come up with their own versions of the Scouting program. Please understand that this presentation you've just been through, has been created and approved through the National Advancement Committee. It is “official.” When you encounter people who question what you've learned today, help them find the correct and current practices in the *Guide to Advancement*. If they continue to question the national procedures we've been discussing, then you should take this up with your council advancement committee, and if necessary, with your Scout executive. After this has been done, if the issues persist, please let us know at advancement.team@scouting.org.

Slide 28

Additional Educational Presentations

www.scouting.org/advancement

- ♣ Introduction to *Guide to Advancement*
- ♣ Eagle Scout Service Project
- ♣ Eagle Scout Application Process
- ♣ Eagle Scout Boards of Review


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The National Advancement Committee has produced a number of educational presentations and other materials that are available at www.scouting.org/advancement. The presentations listed on this slide should be of interest to project coaches. They will help you better understand your role, and we highly recommend them.

Slide 29

“The Eagle Scout service project coach is the subject matter expert on the processes and standards of the service project , and the key to success in council and district efforts to provide guidance as Scouts work to fulfill requirement 5.”

- *Guide to Advancement*, topic 9.0.2.9


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Read the statement on the slide.

Thank everyone for their attendance and offer to answer questions.