**LIFE TO EAGLE GUIDE BOOK**

PAGE 7

**What makes a Good Service Project**

* Service projects must be meaningful service not normally expected of you as a part of your school, religious or community activities.
* You may not consider routine labor such as a job or good turn you normally do as a Scout.
* The project must be for a religious institution, any school or your community.
* The project may not be for a for-profit business or of a commercial nature.
* The project may not be a fundraiser. Fund-raising is limited for the cost of supplies, materials and so forth.
* You must show leadership to at least two people, in addition to yourself.
* The project must have a specific goal(s).
* You must plan, develop and lead the entire project.
* You may not share the responsibilities of the same Eagle Scout Service Project with another Scout.
* It is not the size, scope or dollar value that determines if a project is suitable. The project must be of significant magnitude to be special and should represent your best possible effort.

The district Advancement Committee is the sole judge of the suitability of your project. They are looking for a project that best allows you to show the leadership skills you have learned. You may not appeal a decision regarding the suitability of a project. . Your project must be approved by your district Advancement Committee before you begin any work. However, if you believe that your project proposal was wrongfully rejected by the district Advancement Committee, you may seek a second opinion and approval from the Gulf Stream Council Advancement Committee or the Council Executive Board.

DEFINITION:

SIGNIFICANT

sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; noteworthy.

"a significant increase in sales"

having a particular meaning; indicative of something.

"in times of stress her dreams seemed to her especially significant"

*MAGNITUDE*

great size or extent of something.

"they may feel discouraged at the magnitude of the task before them"

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *synonyms:* | | immensity, vastness, hugeness, enormity; More |
|  | |  |
|  |  |

**GUIDE TO ADVANCEMENT 2017**

**9.0.2.3 “Plan, Develop …”**

Planning and development require forethought, effort, and time—sometimes more than for execution. Thus, for the most part, they are considered part of the project and are detailed further once a proposal is approved. It is inappropriate to expect a Scout to invest the time required for detailed planning, only to face the prospect of rejection. See [***“Proposal Must Be Approved … Before You Start,” 9.0.2.7***](https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/eagle-scout-rank#9027)*.*

It is important not to categorically reject projects that, on the surface, may not seem to require enough planning and development. Consider, for example, a blood drive. Often rejected out of hand, this project, if done properly, could be acceptable. Few would question the beneficiary. Blood banks save lives—thousands of them: maybe yours, maybe that of a loved one. If the candidate proposes to use a set of “canned” instructions from the bank, implemented with no further planning, the planning effort would not meet the test.

On the other hand, there are councils in which Scouts and advancement committees have met with blood bank officials and worked out approaches that can comply. Typically these involve developing marketing plans and considering logistics. People successful in business know how important these skills are. Some blood banks will also set a minimum for blood collected as a measure of a successful plan. To provide another valuable lesson, they may require the candidate to keep at it until he’s met this goal.

A good test of any project is to evaluate its complexity. In the case of a blood drive, for example, elements of challenge and complexity can be added so there is a clear demonstration of planning, development, and leadership.

**9.0.2.5 “Helpful to Any Religious Institution, Any School, or Your Community”**

“Any religious institution” and “any school” are self explanatory. But what does “your community” mean? In today’s world of instant communications and speedy travel, we are affected more and more by what goes on all over the world. Prices for goods and services, investment values, our very safety, and how we feel about those less fortunate in other countries, all are involved. Thus, if a Scout wants to take his oath “to help other people” more expansively and put his project to work for the “community of the world,” he is allowed to do so. A council may emphasize more local efforts but should not deny worthy projects of a wider scope.

**If a Scout wants to take his oath “to help other people” more expansively and put his project to work for the “community of the world,” he is allowed to do so.**

Normally “your community” would not refer to individuals, although a council or district advancement committee may consider scenarios where an individual in need can affect a community. An example might involve elderly persons able to live at home but unable to maintain their property, with the result being an “attractive nuisance” or related dangerous situations, or even an eyesore— something that raises concern to more than that of just an individual. If it can be determined the community benefits, then it is a matter of identifying who will provide approvals. They must come from a source representing the “community,” such as a neighborhood association, watch group, homeowners association, or perhaps a division of a town or county.

The project beneficiary need not be a registered nonprofit. Projects may not be of a commercial nature or for a business, but this is not meant to disallow community institutions that would otherwise be acceptable to the council or district advancement committee. These might include museums and various service agencies, or some homes for the elderly, for example. Some aspect of a business’s operation provided as a community service may also be considered; for example, a park open to the public that happens to be owned by a business. In cases such as these, the test is whether the project primarily benefits the community, as opposed to the profits of the business.

**9.0.2.8 “Use the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*“**

Using the workbook, No. 512-927, helps candidates avoid pitfalls. If properly used, it very nearly assures success. It shows approvals have been secured, lists important limitations, suggests questions for those approving the project, and includes outlines for the proposal and the more detailed project plan that should come next.

The workbook should not, however, become a basis for rejecting candidates based on “technicalities” that have nothing to do with requirement intent. While the use of the workbook is required, this does not mean that every line or even every form must be completed. In most cases Scouts should fully complete the proposal and project report, and be strongly encouraged to complete the project plan. However, at times it may not be feasible or just not necessary for establishing that the requirement was met.

If it is clear the project was completed and approved of, and meets Eagle Scout requirement 5 as it is written, then the project should be considered. If it will be a hardship, or a poor use of time to fill in missing information or obtain a signature of a party who is unavailable or by some other means known to have approved it, then it is appropriate to accept it. There is something to be said for “object lessons,” but keep in mind that write-ups and signatures, though important, are simply supportive. Note that project report signatures need not be dated before the Scout’s 18th birthday. It is a project that we require. Boards of review should use common sense: Did the project meet the requirements or not? Was there planning and development? Was there leadership of others?

**The workbook should not become a basis for rejecting candidates based on “technicalities” that have nothing to do with the intent of the requirement.**