



Project Selection

It is imperative that you check with your local leadership, at the unit and district level, to ensure you have selected an approvable project.

There are three important things to note in selecting a project.

- First, the project is to be done while you are a Life Scout. This means that if you are still a Star Scout, you should focus on your merit badges and other Troop activities. Never begin planning or executing your project prior to achieving Life rank.
- Second, note that the service project is to be "...helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community..." which means you need to be discerning while selecting a project. No project should be selected that benefits only an individual.
- Third, this is a "leadership service" project. It must include service and it must demonstrate that the Scout has shown leadership.

What **to** do:

- Consult with local Scouting leadership, starting with your unit, while selecting a project
- Choose a project you will be proud of for the rest of your life
- Do a project that really stretches you
- Start documenting from day one (you will use this info for your final report)
- Keep a log of the hours you put into your search for a project
- Keep a log of notes regarding your search, including names of people you work with
- Complete all work on Eagle activities before the scout's 18th birthday, unless given an extension by National.

What **not** to do:

- Do not begin projects prior to achieving Life Rank.
- Do not work on your project (other than the Proposal) prior to getting ALL approvals.
- Do not attempt projects for the Boy Scouts of America, including troop or council property.
- Do not share a project with another Eagle candidate (only one scout gets credit)
- Do not select a project involving only routine labor. (Your project must allow you to demonstrate creativity, planning, and leadership of others).
- Do not select a project that just provides service without the ability to show leadership and planning. Generally blood collection drives are worthy service projects, but not acceptable for an Eagle Scout Leadership Service project, as these drives are going to occur whether or not the scout organizes them. Remember, your goal is to lead others as well as provide service to the community.
- Do not do a project for a profit-making organization that does not benefit the community, such as; installing curb reflectors in a store's parking lot or doing landscaping for a local business.
- Do not select a fundraiser as a project, but you may raise funds to help pay for materials used in your project.



Below are some ideas for projects *(Please review with your Scoutmaster or Eagle Coordinator before selecting any project):*

Voting Booths: I made three voting booths for our town hall in Topsham, Vermont. One of them was a booth for handicapped voters.

Community Bicycle Registration: The number of bicycle thefts in our area was rising, so I worked with the Police to develop a card file where people could register their bikes. For three Saturdays we put on a bike safety and registration fair.

Playground: There is a home for orphans in our neighborhood and I organized a construction project to build a playground in their backyard for the kids.

Picnic Tables for Park: We built new picnic tables for the park's pavilions.

Bicycle Racks for Baseball Complex: The grass was torn up at our baseball diamond because kids kept dumping their bikes on the ground. I got a construction company to donate the materials, and built a cement bike rack on the edge of the field.

Cemetery Directory: I catalogued all of the grave stones in our city cemetery. Then I worked with the troop to put together a cemetery kiosk where visitors could look at a large map and find the graves they wanted to visit.

I built several bat boxes for a National Forest. I coordinated the building of the bat boxes over several weekends; then on the next campout to the national forest, we installed the boxes.

Supervised the building of trash receptacles for the local nature center and installed them.

Building benches located in the rest areas along a nature trail.

Construct and install a Guide rope and Braille signs for a boardwalk at a local nature center.

Designed, planned and organized the construction of a mobile literature storage box/podium for his church. The project was about 6 feet high, 6 feet wide and 2 feet deep, on wheels. The project was painted, made lockable and rather nicely finished (painted, stained) in coordination with the church's general decor.

Planned and executed the installation of a large concrete sidewalk at a church in the area. Digging, leveling and forming up for the concrete required quite a bit of planning and proved to be quite an educational experience for the several scouts that had been recruited to work on the project. It took several days.

Building cages for the Humane Society as my Eagle Project.