

Troop 28 Tips – Journey from Life to Eagle Scout & Eagle Service Project

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There are substantial resources that can help Scouts make the large step from a Life Scout to an Eagle Scout. This document attempts to point Scouts from Troop 28, as well as Scout Parents and Eagle Advisors to some of the key documents as a 'guide' through the process.

Overall Tips for making the journey from Life Scout to Eagle Rank

- The process is documented on the 'Path to Eagle' section of the Troop 28 website: <https://www.glencoescouting.org/advancement/path-to-eagle/> that has extracted key files and documents from the NEIC website section for Eagle Scout Advancement (<https://neic.org/advancement/eagle-scouts/>)
- The Troop recommends that you review this document as well as the other documents on the Troop website in the order they are listed – to understand the process overall – and then the details behind the major steps in the process.
- The Eagle Service Project is one of the longest parts of the journey, and you should start by reviewing the 'fillable' PDF form online for the Eagle Project to get a sense of expectations and what is involved
- It is important to choose a project that is relatively convenient / local, and for which you can find a good advisor/coach.
- For both the Project Proposal and Project Report, the Troop strongly suggests using sketches and 'before' & 'after' pictures to help describe the Project and activities.
- The Scout needs sign off from an NEIC advisor on the Project Proposal in order to commence the project, and that step can take a month or two, depending on the schedule of the NEIC advisor (the names of NEIC / Potawatomi district Eagle Advisors are on the NEIC forms)
- It is very important to track the volunteer hours for the project -- Scouting puts a significant value on tracking aggregate hours
- It is also very important that the Scout fundraises the money for the project -- so tracking fundraising dollars and the use of the dollars is important. In the troop's experience, bake sales work very well for fundraising, as do general solicitations at church/synagogue or other supporting organization.
- It is also helpful to send the requests for letters of recommendation early in the process, given that it takes time for people to write and submit their letters

Troop 28 Tips specific to the Eagle Service Project

1. Scout should review the Eagle Project Workbook (available on the Glencoe Troop 28 website or on the NEIC website (there is a different 'fillable' version to use for PC vs. Macintosh)
<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/eagle-workbook-procedures/>
2. Start the creation of an Eagle Project Proposal, with the following:
 - a. "Project Proposal" section (pages 7-12)
 - b. Fundraising Application (pages 19-20)
3. Get 3 local signatures for pages 12 and 19:
 - a. Troop Scoutmaster
 - b. Troop Committee Chair
 - c. Beneficiary Organization (the organization that the Eagle project is helping)
 - i. Make sure to share the 'Information for Project Beneficiaries' (pages 25&26) with the beneficiary organization.
4. Scout schedules and meets with one of the NEIC representatives for their sign-off on pages 12 and 19 of the proposal.
 - a. If the project proposal needs revision, then there will be a loop back to Step 2 (above)
5. The Scout should also ask the NEIC rep for addressed envelopes for the reference letters for the Eagle application at the Project Approval meeting.
6. Scout then finalizes the project plan (ensuring it incorporates any input from the meeting with the NEIC rep) on pages 13-18.
7. Scout completes the project – ensuring tracking all expenses and hours by themselves and other volunteers.
8. Scout complete the project report on pages 21-24, and get sign off from the Troop Scoutmaster and the beneficiary organization.
9. Scout works through rest of Eagle Application.

Scout typically only meets once with the NEIC rep, during the Project Approval step (#4 above). The next NEIC meeting would be the board of review, once all requirements are met, project is complete, and letters of recommendation are in.

Council Link to resources:

<https://neic.org/advancement/eagle-scouts/>