

There is an old saying which states “If you change nothing, nothing will change”. So with that is the announcement from the National BSA regarding the new Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. I know from some of you I have spoken with who are already working on or getting your project approved have asked “how will this impact me”? Before I answer that, let me first provide a brief summary of the new workbook.

The new workbook has been created by National for you to use in four different categories. First is the Project Proposal, second is the Project Plan, third is a Fundraising application (new to the overall process) and finally the overall Project report.

The Project Proposal is the first and foremost key to the start of the project and will be part of the overall approval process to begin your project. Under the old format, a Scout had to develop and create the entire project from beginning to end with all related detail such as material, supplies, cost, etc. The Proposal is just that, a series of questions proposing a project without all of the detail. Yes, you will have to answer and provide information relating to how you propose to develop your project as well as understand the overall purpose in the development. But the Plan itself and its development will come after the Proposal has been approved.

Instead of attempting to explain all of the changes and related requirements here, I just wanted to provide a glimpse of the process. Life Scouts on the Trail to Eagle, as well as adult leaders should attend upcoming Life to Eagle Seminars to obtain all of the new information coming out of National and how this process will change. I will make every attempt to contact all of the current Life Scouts and meet with each at the upcoming Troop meetings to make sure they are aware of and understand this new workbook. I will also explain how the process will work within the unit and the district Eagle board meetings.

Now, how will this impact you if you already have your project written and approved? It won't. After January 1, 2012, if you continue to use the old written format, that is fine, you will just be reviewed by the District using the new Proposal approval process. The new workbook will officially take effect for all Scouts to use on June 1, 2012. Until that time, the old pdf format can be used but for Scouts just developing an idea, they should be encouraged to use the new workbook format.

Changes also are noted in the overall Advancement requirements under what constitutes “Active” within a Troop. Scoutmaster Kelly Miller, Troop Committee Chair Denise Marshall and Troop Advancement Chair Gary Kulik will be the key individuals working with Scouts on their active status within the Troop.

I will have more in upcoming Troop Newsletters as this new process continues to unfold. In the meantime, I will have the new workbook added to our Troop Website for ease of access for our Scouts and encourage both Life Scouts and adult leaders to attend the Life to Eagle seminars held quarterly. Please find me at any of the upcoming Troop meetings to ask questions and obtain more information. The more we can get the word out, the more we can help our Scouts succeed.

Yours in Scouting,  
Tim Welsh, ASM Life to Eagle Week One Coordinator-New Horizons District  
Eagle Board