This is a special version of the Trail to Eagle Presentation. The full presentation for your scouts contains about 80 slides. This contains key points about which you need to educate your scouts.
These are the Objectives of the full presentation. All of these points are discussed with your scouts and parents.

The presentation is done every other month at the Ronald Reagan District Roundtable. All of your Scouts should come and attend this presentation along with their parents.
This is a reminder that the Leave No Trace Trainer position changed to **Outdoor Ethics Guide** on January 1, 2016.

Scouts may still list Leave No Trace Trainer as a leadership position for time periods between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2015.
Scout Spirit Requirement

• **Requirement in 2015**
  • As a Life Scout, demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life.

• **New Requirement – As of January 1, 2016**
  • As a Life Scout, demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God, how you have lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life, and how your understanding of the Scout Oath and Scout Law will guide your life in the future.

This applies to everyone after January 1, 2017

• 2016 was a transition year.

• Boys who were Life Scouts on January 1, 2016 will not be affected by this requirement change only if they complete their Eagle requirements before Dec 31, 2016.

• All Scouts will need to comply with the new requirement after January 1, 2017

As a Scoutmaster you need to have a discussion with your scout
about he/she does his duty to God. This can be done at any time after he/she earns his Life rank or at his Scoutmaster Conference for Eagle. As of January 1, 2016, requirement is part of every rank beginning with the Tenderfoot rank.
Earlier editions of the Project Book prior to 2014 **should not be used** and can be identified by the fact that there will not be a place for the Scout’s name or project title on the front. Earlier editions will also have a different cover date. Significant changes were made to the project book starting in April 2014 and again in October 2015.

Editions between April 2014 and October 2015 are not substantially different, but the Oct 2015 version has additional notes and comments that will be helpful to the scout in completing his project.
This is a quote from the Guide to Advancement.

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What is the Proposal?

- The proposal is an overview
- It is the beginnings of planning.
- It shows the unit leader and any representatives of a unit committee, that the following tests can be met:
  1. The project provides sufficient opportunity to meet the requirement.
  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.

Guide to Advancement Section 9.0.2.7
This concept that the scout IS NOT authorized to proceed just because he has verbal approval is very important and is repeated later in this presentation.

The verbal approval just indicates that the concept is worthy of an Eagle Project and that the scout should proceed with developing his proposal.
The Project Proposal should be presented to the Unit Committee for Approval. It can be signed by anyone in the committee.

Preparing a fancy PowerPoint presentation is not a requirement for presenting a proposal to the Unit Committee. However, the scout needs to provide enough information to the committee to convince them that he has a worthwhile project and that he has sufficiently prepared this proposal to be able to go ahead with the final plans for his project.

The committee should provide feedback on his proposal which should include additional items that will need more detailed planning.

The signature blocks are at the bottom of Proposal Page E (page 12)
• According to the Project Book the four signatures can be obtained in any order, however is really makes sense to do them in this order

• There is no requirement that the scout should get verbal approval of a project concept before a beneficiary signs it, however...
  • It will help prevent doing a lot of work on a proposal that doesn’t get approved by the district.
  • This is also a logical and reasonable sequence to obtain the signatures
### Trail to Eagle

**Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook**

- **Contact Information (continued)**

  **Your Council Service Center**
  - Council name: Ventura County Council
  - Address: 509 East Daily Drive
  - City: Camarillo
  - State: CA
  - Phone No.: (805) 482-8038
  - Zip: 93010

### District Project Approval Representative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Project Approver</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Channel Islands</td>
<td>Bill Boetticher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:piperbill@gmail.com">piperbill@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>(805) 484-7570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Steve Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:troop260@pomexpess.net">troop260@pomexpess.net</a></td>
<td>(805) 218-6272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conejo</td>
<td>Dennis Anderson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dennisleeanderson@earthlink.net">dennisleeanderson@earthlink.net</a></td>
<td>(805) 338-4761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bob Beaudine</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bob.beaudine46@gmail.com">bob.beaudine46@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>(818) 889-7518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grant Wilkins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:grantlw@msn.com">grantlw@msn.com</a></td>
<td>(805) 379-2830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Reagan</td>
<td>Thelma Reeves</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thelmareevs48@gmail.com">thelmareevs48@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>(805) 527-8356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sespe</td>
<td>Brendan Hendrick</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kiwindsa2000@sol.com">kiwindsa2000@sol.com</a></td>
<td>(805) 794-7687</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are the current District Eagle Project Approvers.
These are the 5 signatures necessary to start work on a project. *(See the next page for some helpful hints)*

This is an admonition that is in the October 2015 version of the project book

“Do not begin any work on your project, or raise any money, or obtain any materials, until your project proposal has been approved.

The Project Book proposal and final plans are really a contract between the scout and his beneficiary. It is important that the scout and his parents understand this.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The District Project Approver can disallow a project (i.e. not sign it) if a scout has started any work on the project without district approval.
This is a recap of the project phases to get the understand the steps involved. The earlier flowchart was just the signature process.

It is IMPORTANT that the scouts **DO NOT** do any work, make any final plans, or raise any funds before they get District Approval. Doing any of these things can **DISQUALIFY** the project if a scout does any of these.
Review Project Phases

- Read the Project Book
- Choose a Project
- Prepare a Project Proposal *
- Prepare and submit Fundraising Application *
- Project Approval
  - Beneficiary, Unit Leader, Committee, District

Steps after District Approval

- Develop a Final Plan *
- Obtain or raise any required funds
- Review project plan with the Beneficiary
- Execute the Project Plan
- Prepare a Final Report *

* Information to be included in Project Book

There is more planning work to be done after the project is approved. The scout should NOT expect to start working on the project the day after he gets approval. There is no fast-track for getting a project done.

REALLY IMPORTANT NOTE: The Ronald Reagan District Approver, Mrs. Reeves, will no longer approve projects if a scouts expects to start work the next day.

The Project Proposal is NOT their plan.

After the scout gets District Approval, he needs to make a Final Detail Plan. The steps to create this plan are in the Project Book.

Then he must then meet and discuss the final plan with the Beneficiary. This is discussed on slide # 45
(As the presenter is important that you get this concept across to the scouts & their parents. The Proposal contains the initial concepts about leadership, materials, supplies, safety, etc. that the scout needs to develop to “sell” his project to the beneficiary, the Scoutmaster, the Unit Committee and the District Approver.)
Fund Raising Application

- Most Districts allow scouts to prepare their Fund Raising Application prior to getting District approval.
- New Council Policy for 2017
  - Complete Fund Raising Application for all funds & material regardless of the dollar amount expected.
- New Council Policy for 2018
  - Crowd funding via the internet will be disallowed where the website has an administrative fee.
  - REDBASKET.ORG is being recommended by the National Eagle Scout Association as they are offering a NO FEE platform for Eagle Scout projects.

(Most districts allow scouts to prepare the forms prior to getting District approval of the project. The District Approvers signature is required on Proposal page B and on the Fund Raising Application)

The Ventura County Council no longer has a minimum dollar amount below which a Fund Raising Application is not necessary.

This means that your scouts need to submit a fund raising application for any money that they plan to raise. See exceptions on slide #16).

A Unit fund raising application is not necessary for an Eagle Project since the money is not for the unit.

Some districts still allow using various crowd funding sites, however, this will change when the new policy is adopted by the Council Advancement Committee and the Council Executive.
Committee next yesr
Fund Raising Application

- **Read the** "Procedures and Limitations on Service Project Fundraising"
  - See Fundraising Application Page B (page 20) of the Project Workbook
- **Complete the Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application**
  - Fundraising Application Page A (page 19)
These are things that may be excluded. Essentially every other expected source of funds should be on the Fund Raising Application. These are just some examples and should not be considered an exclusive list.

What is important is that in the planning process for this project, the Scout has included provisions for all of the necessary funding.

The list on this page is not exclusive. If the scout plans to solicit funds or discounts from any source other than those listed above, he needs to submit a Fund Raising Application.
(This is similar to slide 18 except that most of the text is gray. The October 2015 version of the project book says to the Scout:

“You should also show your project plan to your beneficiary prior to carrying out your project. This will help ensure your plans agree with the beneficiary's expectations. Remember, the project beneficiary has the authority to require and approve a project plan. Be sure to read “Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project” at the end of this workbook”

This is on page 14 of the project book. This should be done after completing the final plan and before any work gets done on the plan.

**IMPORTANT:** Scouts **MUST** not expect to start their project the day after it is approved. Doing the final planning is part of working on the Project which means that a scout could get his project disapproved, since he started working on it before the proposal was approved.
It is important that the scout and the beneficiary agree to all the details of the project.

Remember that this is contract between the scout and the beneficiary.

It is assumed that the scout will perform this step before beginning any work as there is no signature required for this step.
It takes time to get reference letters so it is best to start this process early. This is especially applies to 17 year old scouts.

The application form was updated in January 2019. Make sure that your scouts use the latest one.
(It should be recommended to Scouts that they should fill out this form on their computer rather than try to do it by hand. It is much more legible and corrections can be made easily.)

The YELLOW box is another change to the Eagle Rank Requirements that became effective on January 1, 2016. Parents of scouts whose families do not belong to or attend an organized church will write TWO Letters of Reference.

If a scout earned both Emergency Preparedness and Lifesaving, he should CROSS OUT one of them and list the other as an elective badge.

Do the same for the Environmental Science or Sustainability option and Swimming, Cycling, or Hiking.
Slide #20 will have more on the Letters of Reference
The Project name is from the front of the Project Book and the total hours is from Project Report page B (page 23) of the Project Book

Unit Leader Conference date MUST be before 18th birthday

Note to the Presenter:

You should emphasize that having the Application in by the Scout’s 18th birthday is highly desirable. Telling them that it’s OK to turn it in late promotes procrastination and may give the impression that some work may have been done after the scout’s 18th birthday.

Technically, the following must have been completed by the Scout’s 18th birthday:

- All Merit Badges
- All Leadership positions
- Scoutmaster Conference
- The Eagle Project

It is also acceptable that the signature dates on the application are after the 18th birthday (Guide to Advancement, page 67, section 9.0.1.3, bullet #2).

There are more about serious considerations if the date that the application is turned in approaches 3 months after the Scout’s 18th birthday. These are explained in the notes of slide #22.
The Life goals essay is a very important part of the application.
Letters of Recommendation

• The Scout can start contacting his references BEFORE he finishes his project

• Religious Reference
  • Parents or guardians provide this for scouts who are not affiliated with an organized religion

• New Council Policy for 2017
  • Letters of Reference are to be mailed into the Council Office
    ➢ Letters from parents may be submitted with Eagle Scout Application is a SEALED envelope

  • Reference letters MUST NOT be given to the Scout for delivery to the Council Office or Board of Review

It is OK if they are at the Office before the Eagle Application

G. Karata - January 22, 2019 Trail to Eagle

If a scout is not affiliated with an organized religion, his parents should provide two letters

• First reference is about his general character
• Second letter is how he does his duty to God

Reference letters are confidential (Guide to Advancement (Page 67, Section 9.0.1.7)):

“... those providing references do not have the option of giving the reference directly to the Scout and shall not be given the option of waiving confidentiality.”
The scout’s responsibility for the letters of recommendation ends when he requests a letter of reference from those persons listed on his application. He may do this by providing each his references with a reference form letter and a pre-addressed envelope.

The form letters are a guide for references. They are not required to use them. There is also no requirement that the references be over 21.

When the Eagle Scout Application is turned in to the Council Office:

1. The application form should be first,
2. Followed by the life goals essay and
3. Finally by the project book and any information accompanying it.
The earlier slide on the Eagle Scout application said that you should emphasize that having the Application in by the Scout’s 18th birthday is highly desirable. Although there is no specified cutoff date for submitting an application, if it approaches 3 months after the 18th birthday, a letter must be attached explaining the delay. It must also be submitted in sufficient time to allow the District Advancement to approve the delay for Board of Review to occur more than 3 months after the 18th birthday.

Here is some additional quotes from the current Guide to Advancement:

**Confirm that the following requirements have been completed before the 18th birthday:** merit badges, service project, active participation, Scout spirit, position of responsibility, and unit leader conference. Note that the unit leader (Scoutmaster) conference need not be the last item accomplished. The board of review may be conducted after the 18th birthday.

**Scouts must be registered through the time they are working on advancement requirements, but need not be registered thereafter or when their board of review is conducted.**

**An Eagle Scout board of review may occur, without special approval, within three months after a Scout’s 18th birthday. If a board of review is to be held three to six months afterward, the local council must preapprove it. To initiate approval, the candidate, his parent or guardian, the unit leader, or a unit committee member attaches to the application a statement explaining the delay.**

Eagle Boards of Review held more than 6 months after a Scout 18th birthday require National Council approval, see the Guide to Advancement Section 8.0.3.1
Ronald Reagan District Eagle Board Chair changed to Jamie Gerritsen as of June 1, 2016.

Starting in January 2017, the District Eagle board will contact the references and remind them to mail the reference letters into the Council Office. This may delay the Board of Review for a month. Acomaditions
Eagle Board of Review

- Wear FULL uniform
  - Shirt, Neckerchief, Pants or Shorts, Belt, Socks
  - Merit Badge Sash or OA Sash are optional

- Letters of Recommendation should have been mailed to the Council Office well before the Board of Review

- The Scoutmaster will normally introduce the Scout as the Eagle Candidate

- Let the "Friendly Adult" know the date and time of the Eagle Board

- Invite parents & family

- What if I have out-grown my uniform?
  - It would be acceptable to appear neatly dressed in a manner appropriate for a job interview

The full Class A uniform is the recommended way for a scout should appear for his Board of Review, but it is NOT required.
(Note: I can send you the complete table for up to 136 merit badges. It is sent to all who attend the regular presentation)
After the Board of Review

• Bring a camera for photos at conclusion of Board of Review
• A scout is an Eagle Scout as of the conclusion of the Board of Review
• Board of Review Chairperson signs the Eagle Scout Application Form
• Application is forwarded to National Office
  • Application Form
  • Life Goals Essay
• Project Book will be returned to the Scout after the Board of Review
• Council Office will usually call the parents about 4-6 weeks after the Board of Review that the Eagle Scout documents are ready to be picked up
• Start planning an Eagle Court of Honor
Email Attachments

- For scouts who attend the Trail to Eagle presentation at RoundTable
  - Copy of all of the slides
  - Instructions & Link to Download Project Book
  - Updated Eagle Scout Rank Application
    - Fillable PDF fields corrected
  - Sample Reference Letter
  - Sample Reference Envelope
  - Eagle Palms Table for up to to 136 Merit Badges
  - Adams Eagle Project of the Year Application
  - Tool use Guidelines
    - from The Guide to Safe Scouting

All of these documents are emailed to every scout & parent who attends the Trail to Eagle Presentation at the Roundtable meetings
Trail to Eagle

The End