

Eagle Service Project Fundraising Guidelines Greater Los Angeles Area Council

“Fundraising for an Eagle Scout service project shall *not be required* of any candidate. Whether or not fundraising takes place is the Scout’s decision based on project needs. The BSA prefers, in fact, that Scouts choose projects that can be done at little or no cost. Fundraising—especially on a larger scale—has tax, accounting, and other legal implications, in which minors should not be involved. Thus, if fundraising is to take place, it is best that it be kept simple.” (From the Guide to Advancement, 9.0.2.10)

The Greater Los Angeles Area Council has adopted the following guidelines for specific types of fundraising for Eagle Service Projects.

Low-value Fundraising

Under the Fundraising Application Guidelines, collection of donations towards the expenses of an Eagle Service Project provided by the scout, the scout’s family, the scout’s troop and the members, the troop’s chartered organization, or the benefiting organization do not require the Fundraising Application under National policy.

The Greater Los Angeles Area Council does not require a Fundraising Application for fundraising efforts intended to raise \$500 or less that do not involve commercial involvement and where no individual outside the groups mentioned in the first paragraph of this section is expected to contribute more than \$100. [The values listed are initial targets and as fundraising proceeds, there is the chance one or both may be exceeded. Small exceedances are acceptable but they should not be more than 1.5 times these targets without submitting a Fundraising Application.]

This exemption from the Fundraising Application includes, but is not limited to

- Ticketed or low-cost fundraising sale events like spaghetti dinners, car washes, or bake sales
- Friends of the family, scout troop, chartered organization, or benefiting organization who wish to contribute small amounts towards the project

This does not include projects funded through crowdfunding sites.

“Commercial involvement” is not included in this exemption and includes any fundraising that involves a business and includes, but is not limited to:

- Cash or in-kind donations from a business even if owned by a member of one of the groups in the first paragraph, if the donation is made in the name of the business
- Restaurant fundraising nights where the restaurant returns a portion of the sponsored proceeds to the scout for the project.

Crowdfunding for Eagle Scout Service Projects

1. The Guide to advancement allows for the use of “crowdfunding” via the internet for Eagle Scout Service Projects but not for general troop fundraising. The Greater Los Angeles Area Council neither recommends nor prohibits the use of crowdfunding or any specific crowdfunding source. Wikipedia provides a comparison of crowdfunding services. If this route is taken, the website’s fine print should be carefully reviewed by someone in a position of responsibility. The unit leaders and parents will need to consider these questions:

- Are the website’s terms of service in conflict with any BSA policies?
- What kind of financial cost will the provider charge for this service?
- Will you be able to keep donations even if you don’t reach your stated monetary goal (required)?
- Does the site have an auto-shutoff upon reaching the funding goal?
- How long does it take to get your funds after the donating window closes?
- Are you required to offer some sort of reward to backers? If so, what will the rewards be?
- What are the site’s requirements if you raise more than you need? For example, certain providers require excess funds to be used solely for the project, not just turned over to the project beneficiary.
- When using a Crowdfunding site to fund an Eagle Project, the project **MUST** be set up under the Tax ID# of the beneficiary with all funds going to the beneficiary. The beneficiary of the service project is responsible to ensure all IRS guidelines related to contributions/donations are being met such as refunding donor money and contribution statements if applicable. The Eagle candidate may register and promote the site, but it must be set up under the beneficiary’s Tax ID#.

2. If using a crowdfunding website, be sure that the details pertaining to the project are clearly presented. In addition, the project beneficiary must be clearly identified and it should not appear or represent that the BSA or any of its scout units are beneficiaries of the funds.

3. It is worth repeating that any funds raised via crowdfunding belong to the beneficiary organization, not the Eagle candidate or the troop.

4. For more information, see 9.0.2.10 Fundraising Issues at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/GuideToAdvancement/EagleScoutRank.aspx>

[Adapted from Seneca Waterways Council]

*Low-value fundraising policy and Crowdfunding guidelines adopted September 28, 2019
Council Advancement Committee*