

Fundraising for Eagle Projects

Crossroads of America Council

BSA Guide to Advancement Instructions:

- Fundraising may not be the primary focus of an Eagle Scout Service project. Fundraising is permitted only for securing materials and otherwise facilitating the project execution.
- All donations are for the benefit of the named school, religious organization, or community – not the Scout, the Scout’s unit, nor BSA.
- Fundraising is done only with the prior understanding and consent of the beneficiary representative.
- No contracts may be entered on behalf of BSA or its affiliates.
- If donations are made only by the beneficiary, the Scout, the Scout’s family, or the Scout’s unit, unit members, or chartered organization, then a fundraising application is not required.
- Any products sold, or fundraising activities conducted, must be in keeping with the ideals and principles of the BSA. They must not include raffles or other games of chance.
- The fundraising application, if required, does not need to be submitted prior to obtaining approval for the project proposal. However, it does need to be submitted and approved by the beneficiary, unit leader, and council prior to commencing fundraising activities.
- The fundraising application, if required, must be submitted as part of the Scout’s Eagle completed project workbook when applying for the Eagle Scout rank.
- Cash or checks collected are turned over to the unit treasurer or other designated individual in the Scout’s unit and earmarked for the project. Receipts for purchase of materials are submitted to this person for reimbursement.
- All proceeds left over from fundraising or donations, whether money, materials, supplies, etc., regardless of the source, go to the beneficiary. If the beneficiary is not allowed, for whatever reason, to retain any excess funds or materials, etc., the beneficiary should designate a suitable charity to receive them, or allow the unit to retain them. The unit must not influence this decision.

Crossroads of America Council Additional Instructions:

- If funds in excess of \$500 are solicited from individuals, merchants, businesses, or other sources outside of the Scout’s family, unit, or chartered organization – or to be generated from the sale of goods/services – a fundraising application must be completed and approved prior to the start of fundraising.
- If *any* gifts in kind are solicited, a fundraising application must be completed beforehand. A “gift in kind” is a donation of items or services rather than cash. These must also be documented in the Scout’s Eagle project plan and report.
- When a fundraising application is called for by the above criteria, it is first signed by the beneficiary and unit leader, and then submitted to the District Executive or District Director of the Scout’s district at least two weeks in advance of the planned fundraising efforts. The purpose of this approval step is to (1) make the council aware of the Scout’s fundraising plans, (2) ensure that individual fundraising efforts are not in conflict with Scouting values, nor with existing council relationships, partners, or fundraising events, and (3) to help the Scout understand his/her fiduciary responsibility to document and account for all donations.
- The council cannot provide a receipt or acknowledgement of donations. Note the statement signed by the beneficiary when approving the project proposal: “We understand that any fund raising the Scout conducts will be in our name and that funds left over will come to us if we are allowed to accept them. We will provide receipts to donors as required.”
- If a GoFundMe account or other online fundraising platform is used, it must clearly explain the project location, purpose, and scope, and must make it clear that the money being raised is on behalf of the project beneficiary, not to benefit the Boy Scouts of America. The beneficiary must be provided a link to the webpage for review, and must approve of the Scout doing fundraising in this way on their behalf. The amount raised may not exceed the expected cost of the project. As with all cash donations, once the money is received, it must be turned over to either the beneficiary or the Scout's unit, to hold and release funds as expenses are incurred and receipts are submitted. When the Scout prepares the project report and summarizes costs, he/she should understand and include the GoFundMe or other platform fees as one of the project expenses.

Reference: Eagle Scout Project Fundraising Application
(A fillable version of the form may be found as part of the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook.)