



Cardinal District

Heart of Virginia Council, BSA

Advancement Committee

Parents of the Eagle Scout Candidate,

In becoming a Life Scout and now reaching out for the Eagle Scout rank, your son has done very well. You certainly have been helpful in this process, but for his advancement to Eagle and work on his Eagle Scout Service Project, your involvement **should be minimal**. He must do all of the planning and leadership himself. Following are a few **Do** and **Don't** tips for you. Please help him by not being involved any more than permissible. Don't jeopardize his success with misplaced good intentions.

- Do:** Review with your son the Life-to-Eagle information before doing anything else. He should note everything he doesn't understand and get advice. You can help here, but be careful of offering advice better given by his unit leaders or District Advancement Committee. The materials are listed in the "Letter to the Eagle Candidate" and are located at www.cardinaldistrict.net (click "Advancement", then click "Life to Eagle").
- Do:** Encourage your son to pick an Eagle Scout Service Project that meets both his abilities and interests. **His Unit and District must approve the project proposal and SIGN the appropriate space in the workbook before he can begin.** If he's not sure of approval, he should ask before beginning to plan.
- Do:** Provide encouragement and timely reminders. You would be surprised at how many scouts don't know when they will reach age 18. Requirements that take six months can't be done in three weeks.
- Do:** Discuss problems and suggest solutions. Only suggest. **Don't dictate!**
- Don't:** Push him into a service project he doesn't have a good feeling about. This usually doesn't work to the boy's advantage. It isn't whether **you** like it or not. It's whether **he** does. Remember, he still has to gain the approval of his advisors.
- Don't:** Do any of the project planning or the writing. It doesn't matter that his work is not as good as you would do. It matters that it's **his** best work.
- Don't:** Take over **his** project. You can drive, handle power tools (if part of the approved plan), and work under his leadership, but **don't take over any part of it.**

Your son is about to embark on an adventure he will remember all his life. It should be a positive, uplifting experience within his capabilities. With your support and his planning and leadership, it will be just that.

If you have any questions regarding your son's advancement on the Eagle Trail, please contact your son's Unit Leaders or the Cardinal District Advancement Committee. The Cardinal District Advancement Committee can be contacted at advancement@cardinaldistrict.net