

Tips for Schools on Sponsoring Eagle Scout Leadership Service Projects to Build Outdoor Classrooms

1. Save routine maintenance activities for school volunteer days or Scout troop service projects.

The ideal Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project

- meets an important need;
 - has a clear beginning, middle and end;
 - produces a tangible result;
 - is feasible to be accomplished; and
 - has lasting value.
2. Know what you want. Have a wish list ready, with projects listed in priority order before meeting with an Eagle Scout candidate. Base your priority list on a survey of teachers.
 3. As a project sponsor, be clear about your needs and design constraints (e.g. we need to spend no more than \$500 for a learning station that can accommodate 30 students and provide surfaces for conducting experiments) without taking away the Scout's opportunity to design his own solution for your problem. Meet with the Scout to refine the design. Think of the Scout as architect and builder, with sponsor as the client.
 4. Scouts are expected to raise some funds and solicit some in-kind contributions of project materials. Don't be afraid to contribute the lion's share – but not 100% - of the resources.
 5. Identify a liaison who can meet with the Scout on a regular basis throughout the planning and implementation process.
 6. Agree on a project timetable and ask to be notified if there are any changes.
 7. If you are funding the materials, ask the Scout to prepare a take-off list and to have a vendor prepare a detailed, binding cost estimate for your approval, before paying. If there is not a secure storage location for materials, ask for them to be held as Will Call items at the store, so the Scout can pick them up for work days, as needed.
 8. Offer to provide refreshments and water on work days. It is money well spent!!
 9. Ask your Eagle Scouts to write thank-you letters and send work photos to all the project contributors~ you may need to call on those generous folks again!
 10. Arrange a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate project completion. Send the Eagle Scout's photo to the local newspaper, and include your contact information in the article for prospective Eagle Scouts who may be looking for a project.