



# Path from Life to Eagle

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## Get Fundraising Approval (if required)

Scouting America and our council have established rules for Eagle project fundraising: 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 for the Scout, the Scout's unit, nor Scouting America.

Fundraising is only done with the prior understanding and consent of the beneficiary representative.

No contracts may be entered into on behalf of Scouting America or its affiliates.

Any products sold, or fundraising activities conducted, must be in keeping with the ideals and principles of Scouting. They must not include raffles or other games of chance.

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 form is not required.

If funds in excess of \$500 total are solicited from individuals, merchants, businesses, or other sources outside of the beneficiary, or the Scout's family, unit, unit members, or chartered organization, or will be generated from the sale of goods or services, then a fundraising application must be completed and approved prior to the start of fundraising. The fundraising application is found in the Eagle project workbook.

If any gifts in-kind (that is, materials instead of money) are solicited, regardless of their value, a fundraising application is needed.

When a fundraising application is called for, it is first approved by the beneficiary and the Scoutmaster, and then submitted for approval by the district executive. Expect that it may take up to two weeks to receive an approval, which is required before fundraising starts.

Cash or checks collected are turned over to the unit treasurer to be placed in a designated account from which reimbursements will be made as materials are purchased and receipts are submitted.

Discounts routinely offered by merchants for Eagle project materials (for instance, Lowe's typically offers a 10% discount) do not require a fundraising application before accepting them.

Any money left over when the project is complete must go to the beneficiary or, if the beneficiary is not allowed to retain excess funds or materials, to a suitable charitable organization agreed on by the beneficiary.

The approved fundraising application, if one was required, must be included as part of the Scout's completed project workbook in his Eagle binder.

If a GoFundMe account or other online fundraising platform is used:

- It must clearly explain the project location, purpose, and scope, and it must make clear that the money is being raised on behalf of the project beneficiary, not to benefit Scouting America.
- The beneficiary must be given a link to the page 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 the beneficiary or the Scout's unit treasurer to hold and release funds as expenses are incurred and receipts are submitted.
- When the Scout prepares the project report and summarizes costs, he should understand and include the GoFundMe or other platform fees as one of the project expenses.