

# Connecticut Yankee Council

## Health and Safety Guidelines for Eagle Scout Projects

### COVID-19

The Council has developed the following guidance to support the conduct of Eagle Scout projects considering the health and safety concerns related to the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. To be clear, these guidelines do not intend to place additional requirements on a Scout for development and completion of a project. Rather, these guidelines are intended help the Scout demonstrate proper planning and development of a project consistent with the Scout motto, Be Prepared.

The Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook (page 6) addresses this topic:

Risk Management and Eagle Scout Service Projects (See the Guide to Advancement, topic 9.0.2.14)

All Eagle Scout service projects constitute official Scouting activity and thus are subject to Boy Scouts of America policies and procedures. Projects are considered part of a unit's program and are treated as such with regard to policies, procedures, and requirements regarding Youth Protection, two-deep leadership, etc. The health and safety of those working on Eagle projects must be integrated into project execution. Since an Eagle Scout service project is a unit activity, unit leadership has the same responsibility to assure safety in conducting a project as with any other unit activity. The unit leader or unit committee should reject proposals for inherently unsafe projects. The candidate should plan for safe execution, but it must be understood that minors cannot and must not be held responsible for safety concerns. As with any Scouting activity, the Guide to Safe Scouting applies.

The "Sweet 16 of BSA Safety" may be accessed at: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/sweet16/>

The "Guide to Safe Scouting" may be accessed at: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>

Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal Page A identifies "Five Tests of an Acceptable Eagle Scout Service Project" including number 3: "**Safety issues will be addressed.** You must show you have an understanding of what must be done to guard against injury, and what will be done if someone gets hurt."

The spread of COVID-19 in our communities is a significant concern. To help protect our members, the Council Enterprise Risk Management Committee has developed a series of Best Practices, the most recent of which is "Guidelines of Unit Outdoor Programs, as of June 19, 2020". These guidelines also apply to indoor and outdoor Eagle Scout Projects.

The Eagle Scout candidate must address safety issues related to COVID-19 as part of the project. While the unit leadership is ultimately responsible to assure safety in conducting the project, the Eagle Scout candidate has a shared responsibility. Therefore, wherever the Guidelines refer to responsibilities of a unit leader, the Eagle Scout candidate will share those same responsibilities. Some of the key guidelines are:

- All State guidance on group sizes and social distancing must be followed, including the use of face coverings. Each member should have a clean and dry face covering available to wear. Face coverings should be worn when social distancing is not possible.
  - The current guidance from the State of Connecticut related to Face Coverings is: when in public and a six-foot distance is unavoidable, face coverings are required to be worn.
  - The current guidance from the State of Connecticut related to group sizes is for indoor private gatherings, a maximum of 25 people; for outdoor private gatherings, a maximum of 100 people.
- Eagle Scout Candidates should maintain an accurate roster of participants attending Unit activities, to facilitate contact tracing by the State or local health departments in the event a member becomes ill with COVID-19.
- BSA has developed a "Model Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist" (attached) which has been adapted by our Council. It is recommended that this checklist be used when preparing for each activity. It is recommended that temperatures of each member be taken before leaving home.
- Youth members should be transported to and from an activity only by their own parent or guardian.
- Should any adult or youth become ill during an activity, they should be isolated from other members and be sent home as soon as possible.
- Each member should bring their own food and drink to an activity. Food or drink should not be shared (except among family members). Consistent with State and CDC guidelines, buffet style feeding or pot luck meals are strongly discouraged.
- Candidates should check with facility owners regarding restrictions, and cleaning and disinfecting practices for bathrooms and latrines, and should be prepared to disinfect bathrooms or latrines at the activity location, as appropriate.