

Guide to Life Projects

Troop 114 scouts typically lead two “life projects” on their road to Life. This is called a “Life Project” because it is meeting the requirements for service hours for the rank of Life Scout.

Why Two Life Projects?

Troop 114 scouts traditionally do two life projects, one to benefit the community, one that is conservation related.

The requirements for life scout require 6 hours of service approved by the Scoutmaster, so the Scoutmaster could choose to approve projects that they do not lead, or a single large project. So long as the scout has at least 3 hours of service that is conservation related “while a Star Scout”.

Life Requirement 4: While a Star Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more [service projects](#) **approved by your Scoutmaster**. At least 3 hours of this service must be conservation related.

While this project hopefully provides a useful service to the community, the main reason we have star scouts lead two "Life Projects" is to provide the scout with experience planning and leading a project. Life Projects should be a smaller project than an Eagle Project, typically a couple hours to at most a day long project. This gives them a safe place to learn from mistakes and successes while leading a project/team works on a smaller project where the stakes are smaller. Expect for things to go wrong, take note of what could have been done differently, and use this experience during their Eagle Project.

The experience from the Life Projects will hopefully result in a more positive experience when they embark on planning, organizing and leading a successful Eagle Project.

Two projects are a guideline, larger/longer projects, or projects with recruiting/planning over days or weeks would give the desired experience. Ultimately the six hours of service must be done through service projects approved by the Scoutmaster (Mr. Morgan) to count for life rank.

Safety and Youth Protection (YPT)

Scouts BSA requires two adults registered with Troop 114 with current YPT to be present at all scout activities. This includes all aspects of Life Projects (and Eagle Projects). If the scout has a parent trained in YPT registered with the troop, this can make many aspects of a Life and Eagle project easier. Note that a main reason two adults are required to be there is to help **ensure that scouts are safe**, which means being familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting, and any rules that seem pertinent to the activity.

The Guide to Safe Scouting

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416.pdf>

Safe Project Tool Usage

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-028.pdf>

Before sending out signup genius links, and definitely before the day of your project, the Guide to Safe Scouting and Safe Project Tool Usage should be reviewed to ensure the planned activities are safe and scout appropriate. For example, the scout in charge of the Life Project (and the two adults) should know relevant sections of the safety guides such as who is allowed to use sanders, saws, etc. How high can you climb on that ladder? Do you need a mask while painting/sanding?

Planning with the Project Sponsor

One of the very first thing each scout should do for the project they are leading is get in touch with the sponsor of the project. Be sure to CC/copy/include a parent or other adult in all correspondence with the sponsor for YPT. Find out from the sponsor what they need, and let them know what you think you are doing to make sure you are on the same page. Get concrete information on the **number of scouts/adults** needed, the **date and time**, and **location** where they need to be.

Planning the Project

The Eagle Scout Workbook must be used when completing an Eagle Project. It is not required for a Life Project; however, the section on “Project Plan”, page “Project Plan” through “Project Plan Page F” are a great guide to planning all stages of a life project. To find the handbook google “Eagle Scout Handbook” and look for the official guide on scouting.org. Currently the workbook is here:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/eagle-scout-workbook/>

Recruitment

For every project it is a great idea to recruit via a variety of methods:

- Flyer: Hand out fliers with concrete details (who, what, when, where, why and how).
- Signup Genius: To get a feeling if you need to recruit from other groups and to see how many donuts you need, a signup genius and/or signup at the meeting is very helpful. Especially if there are multiple shifts it will help adults and leaders help achieve adequate YPT coverage.
- Email: There is typically a weekly email sent out to the troop, if you provide the webmaster or webmaster mentor a note you would like emailed and/or included in the weekly email, that message can go out to everyone on the troop email list.

- Family and Friends: Don't be afraid to invite non-scouts to your project. Service projects can be a great recruiting tool.

Parent Information

The life project is intended to provide leadership experience for your scout. Please allow your scout to lead; however, don't feel that you can not help them and need to be completely out of site and make them do everything on their own. There are things that your scout can NOT do, such as pick up supplies or scouts in a vehicle, or operate a Circular Saw.

Traditional Project Information

Spring Cleanup

Fall Cleanup: like the spring cleanup. Typically LUMC rakes the leaves and Troop 114 cleans up weeds/trash/trims/etc to get ready for winter.

Memorial Day Flowers:

Western Welcome Week - Every August. Needs high turn out to carry some 30 banners for the Littleton parade.

Wreaths Across America (Actual event in December, Wreath Cleanup in January)

Rocky Mountain Feline Rescue

Trash Cleanup

Assisting local Churches with various projects.

Assisting local schools with various projects.

Assisting park rangers with needed work on campouts or at nearby parks and trails. (examples of past projects: Beaver Dam remediation, weeding along trails, putting up mile markers, building benches along trails.)