**EAGLE SCOUT AND SUMMIT AWARD
SERVICE PROJECT FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES
W. D. BOYCE COUNCIL, BSA**

There are many worthy Scouts BSA Eagle Scout and Venturing Summit Award service projects that can be carried out at minimal cost, if any. Fundraising is allowed to the extent required to cover the expected expense but projects whose sole purpose is to raise funds do not qualify as Eagle or Summit Award service projects. All fundraising or requests for material donations should be done in a restrained manner, similar to simple unit fundraising efforts. The expense of the project is not considered in the determination of the appropriateness of projects.

While youth members are normally not permitted to solicit funds on behalf of other organizations while representing the BSA, the W. D. Boyce Council grants an exception for youth members raising funds for an Eagle Scout or Summit Award service project, with another organization being the project beneficiary. With that in mind:

All funds raised above the amount needed for the project must be given to the beneficiary or returned to donors, not kept by the candidate or their unit.

Getting Started
Before soliciting donations of materials and monetary funds or conducting any fundraising efforts aimed at raising a combined value of over $1,000, the Scout or Venturer (hereafter referred to as "candidate") must complete and submit the official fundraising application, which is located in their respective Service Project Workbooks, to the District Eagle Coordinator (or District Advancement Chair) no less than two weeks in advance of their fundraising efforts.

The requirements for planning, developing, and giving leadership must be met through the project itself, not through the fundraising effort. For this reason, methods such as online fundraising are acceptable and may be handled by a parent or unit leader on behalf of the candidate. (Most crowdfunding services have age restrictions in place.)

Questions regarding specific fundraising methods should be directed to the District Advancement Chair, however it remains the responsibility of the candidate and their beneficiary to ensure that any fundraising efforts comply with applicable policies and local regulations.

Crowdfunding for Eagle Scout and Summit Award Service Projects

1. The Guide to Advancement* allows for the use of "crowdfunding" via the Internet for Eagle Scout and Summit Award service projects but not for general troop or crew fundraising.
2. The W. D. Boyce Council neither recommends nor prohibits the use of crowdfunding or any specific crowdfunding service, other than to urge proper investigation and understanding of the crowdfunding service chosen. Wikipedia provides a comparison of crowdfunding services.
3. Consider your actual needs. How much do you need to raise, and who do you expect to donate to your project? If your goal is simply to enable electronic contributions, using a service such as PayPal or Venmo and communicating that to your prospective donors may be the simplest route.
4. If this route is taken, the crowdfunding service's terms of service should be carefully reviewed by someone in a position of responsibility, such as the unit leader, project coach, beneficiary and/or parents. These questions should be considered:
    - Are the service's terms of service in conflict with any BSA policies or those of the beneficiary?
    - Is the service reputable? Will donors recognize and trust the legitimacy of the service? (There are many crowdfunding services available – most of which your donors may never have heard of.)
    - What kind of service fee will the provider charge for this service? Will this be deducted from the funds raised, or charged up-front to the donors?
    - Will you be able to keep donations even if you don't reach your stated monetary goal?
    - Does the site have an auto-shut off upon reaching the funding goal?

- How long does it take to get your funds after the donating window closes?
- Are you required to offer a reward or perk to donors? If so, what will this be and what financial impact will this have on the project? (While common for backing of creative projects such as films and books, this is not recommended nor should it be expected for Scout service projects.)
- What are the service's requirements if you raise more than you need? For example, certain providers require excess funds be used solely for the project, not just turned over to the project beneficiary.
- When using a crowdfunding site to fund a Scout service project, the project MUST be set up under the Tax ID# of the beneficiary, with all funds going to the beneficiary.
- The beneficiary of the service project is responsible to ensure all IRS guidelines related to contributions/donations are being met such as refunding donor money and contribution statements if applicable.

5. If using a crowdfunding website, be sure that the details pertaining to the project are clearly presented. In addition, the project beneficiary must be clearly identified and it should not appear or represent that the BSA, the W. D. Boyce Council or any of its units are beneficiaries of the funds.

6. It is worth repeating that *any funds raised via crowdfunding belong to the beneficiary organization, not the candidate or the unit.*

7. For more information, see Section 9.0.2.10 "Fundraising Issues" in the Guide to Advancement* which applies to both the Eagle Scout and the Venturing Summit Award service projects.

8. For specific information regarding the Venturing Summit Award, see Section 4.3.0.0 "Mechanics of Advancement in Venturing" in the Guide to Advancement*.

* **Guide to Advancement**
   https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/