

**Boy Scouts of America  
Middle Tennessee Council  
Eagle Project Fundraising Guidelines  
Addendum to Guide to Advancement 9.0.2.10**

Fundraising efforts should reflect the ideals of Scouting, including leadership and productive citizenship. It should be understood that an Eagle project's value is not measured by its economic impact. Efforts to raise funds should fall within the guidelines outlined in the BSA's "Fund Development Committee Guidebook." Moreover, as the BSA's May 2012 Advancement Newsletter says:

*There are many worthy service projects that can be carried out at minimal, if any, expense. These are preferred to those with high price tags. To be clear, the BSA prefers there not be any fundraising at all; however, it is understood that this is not realistic. In those cases, all fundraising or requests for material donations should be done in a restrained manner similar to simple unit fundraising efforts. The BSA prefers little or no fundraising primarily because of legal issues relating to accounting and receipting for funds, custodial responsibilities, potential tax deduction issues, and so forth. When fundraising is kept to a minimum, similar to typical unit money-earning projects, there is less chance for problems to develop.*

*Large-scale fundraising efforts can add complexities in which minors should not be involved. This can be further complicated because funds are raised in the name of the beneficiary and not the BSA.*

Regarding these aforementioned complexities, the Advancement Committee acknowledges that

**A.** a commission of each donation is deducted by "crowdfunding" platforms like Go Fund Me, meaning that a third party is profiting from an Eagle project.

**B.** relying on grassroots support creates awareness about the project's beneficiary within its own community, and therefore, goodwill is induced among those citizens that can enjoy the fruits of the project.

**C.** when fundraising for Eagle projects, the image and integrity of Scouting is at stake as youth are taught the principles of self-reliance and creative initiative in preparation for adulthood.

**D.** Some Scouters may prefer this option because it is an extension of readily available technology and is utilized in multiple BSA councils.

Therefore, in amendment to the current policies described by the National Council and until the National Council creates a policy addressing these concerns, the Middle Tennessee Council Advancement Committee adopts the following policies:

**I.** Fund development through crowdfunding websites must be submitted to and approved by the district representatives of the Council Advancement Committee. The justification must explain why crowdfunding specifically is the most appropriate option for the project. The following criteria should be used in evaluating such requests: i) lack of any other reasonably available

options; ii) demonstrated failure of other fundraising options; or iii) other demonstrated hardship of the Eagle Candidate.

**II.** The threshold for Eagle project fundraising applications shall be \$1,000 in value, and these applications will be received and reviewed by the district representatives of the Council Advancement Committee. It is recommended that a ledger be kept of revenue and expenses for funds generated to support a service project and presented to the Eagle Board of Review along with the Eagle Scout Service Project Report.