

Three Fires Council - Eagle Project Fundraising

When is the fundraising application required?

A *Fundraising Application* is **required** if any *funds, materials or supplies* (including food) are obtained from sources other than:

1. the scout and his relatives
2. the troop and troop members/parents
3. the beneficiary

For beneficiaries that are organizations such as churches, the candidate soliciting funds directly from organization members is considered fundraising.

Who approves the fundraising application?

The fundraising application must be signed by the unit leader, beneficiary representative, and a council representative. District advancement committee members may approve a fundraising application for amounts less than \$750; amounts of \$750 or more must be approved by the Three Fires Council advancement committee liaison. The Fundraising Application may be filled out for the amount not from the above listed sources to help stay under the \$750 limit. The fundraising application and how to fill it out may be found in the Eagle Service Project Workbook at the end of the project planning section.

What other fundraisers are acceptable?

Besides direct solicitation of funds and materials, fundraising can be activities such as car washes, garage sales or vendor (e.g. restaurant) sharing nights. Games of chance such as bingo are not permitted by the BSA. Activities like car washes should be donation based and not set a fixed price.

Should fundraising service hours be included in the eagle project report?

If the scout gives leadership to others in the fundraising activity (e.g. a car wash), the service time (his and others) should be included in his Project Report.

Do discounts from vendors require a fundraising application?

Discounts and donations from other than the above listed sources are fundraising. The council recommends that candidates do a fundraising application if there is any chance he might be offered a discount (and it never hurts to ask, as long as he has completed the fundraising application.)

Must the fundraising application be signed at the eagle project proposal review?

The fundraising application does not need to be signed at the same time as the project proposal, however it can be signed at that time to save multiple trips to get signatures. The fundraising application must be signed before any funds/materials/supplies are obtained from sources other than those listed above. Fundraising is allowed to continue after the project itself is completed (but before the *Project Report* is submitted.)

May I use an internet fundraising method such as a gofundme account?

Any internet fundraising account must be *set up* and *owned* by the beneficiary – this is a council guideline (and is not in the eagle workbook).

May I use the BSA Illinois tax exempt form for an eagle project?

Since an eagle project must not be for the BSA, if an Illinois tax exemption form is used, it should be the form for the beneficiary, not the BSA form. In any fundraising, it must be clear that the funds/materials/supplies are for the beneficiary, not the BSA.

May donations for an eagle project be deducted for income tax purposes?

If the beneficiary is a qualified charitable organization under IRS guidelines, donations to an eagle project may be considered tax deductible. While it is recommended that all donors be thanked by the eagle candidate, the beneficiary is responsible for providing any necessary documentation for tax purposes.

Can financial donations be given directly to the eagle candidate?

Funds donated by non-family members for an eagle project should be managed by the unit or the beneficiary and the eagle candidate reimbursed upon providing proper documentation of expenses.