Eagle Scout Service Project Report

Eagle Scout candidate's full legal name   Alexander Paul Gestwicki

Eagle Scout Service Project Name   Altar Server Coordination Project

Project start date   3/21/24   **Project completion date**   1/15/25

This report is to be prepared after your service project has been concluded. It is not necessary to provide lengthy answers. Be prepared to discuss your project and this report at your board of review.

Project Execution:

Once planning was completed, when did the work begin? 5/31/24   When was it finished? 1/15/25

Project Description

Please provide a brief description of your project and the impact it will have.

My project beneficiary is Muncie Catholic Pastorate. The pastorate encompasses three parishes and one school. Across these institutions, there are almost 75 altar servers, who work in teams of three at Mass. The pastor is Fr. Underwood.

My project has provided up-to-date training manuals for altar servers at the three parishes in Muncie and hands-on training for the altar servers of the pastorate, something that had been lacking recently. I believe that this project has laid the foundations for a well-supported server ministry.

Describe what you did after your proposal was approved to complete the planning of your project.

I met with Fr. Underwood throughout the summer to get feedback on my training manuals and narrow down exactly what I would do for my project. I also talked with a fellow server to get a better idea of what the general practices were at the churches I didn't regularly attend.

We determined that I would write the server manuals in Canva because I could easily share them with the pastorate.

Observations

What went well?

I am pleased with the quality of the server manuals, and that I was able to turn them over to the parish administration so that they can be modified and used in the future.

What was challenging?

Scheduling the server training sessions turned out to be much more work than I had anticipated.
Only a few servers actually changed their behavior to match my instructions. This is what the adult mentors were supposed to help with, but without them, I feel like my project is only of limited use.
There was also difficulty in communication, as there were times when I would wait for weeks without getting a reply to my e-mails.
Working across multiple locations proved challenging, as I was only involved in one of the four communities I had to coordinate with.

Changes

Many successful projects require changes from the original proposal. What significant changes did you make and why did you make them (be brief)?

The biggest change was removing the part about the adult mentors. Fr. Underwood recognized that he should be the one to ask people to make a long-term commitment to the church, and so he took charge of finding volunteers. I recommended a handful of people I thought would be good for the job, but I never heard that anyone volunteered. Ultimately, Fr. Underwood set a deadline for the end of December, and if he hadn't found anybody by then, he would still sign off on the project.

Snacks were not provided, which may not be a bad thing. I think it would have been more trouble than it was worth.

I worked with an aquaintance at the Catholic school to record a training video for one of the churches. It was an experiment, not an essential part of the project, but I and several others spent many hours working on it and I decided it was worth a mention here.

Alexander Paul Gestwicki

Leadership

In what ways did you demonstrate leadership?

I led the server training sessions, using the EDGE method to instruct peers in proper serving procedures.
I also worked with a friend to create floor plans of the three churches, which were used as the foundation for the diagrams used throughout the training manuals.

What was most difficult about being the leader?

Some of the people I was teaching knew more about the subject matter than I did.
The most challenging example was the training session for the Spanish-speaking community. There were three servers at the training session, and they were all far more experienced than I was. I felt like they already knew almost everything I had to tell them, and I didn't have the courage to give a full explanation. Instead, I gave a sort of "highlights reel" of the changes that were being made. It turned out that many of these changes were not applicable to the Spanish Mass, which didn't help. I'm still not sure that giving a full explanation would have been much better, but I wish I had been brave enough to try.

What was most rewarding about being the leader?

There were a couple servers who were very excited about being able to serve at Mass. They wanted to practice until they were confident that they had everything right, and were grateful for the help I could provide. Their enthusiasm made me feel like what I was doing was really worthwhile.

What did you learn about leadership, or how were your leadership skills further developed?

For this project, I had to give an altar server training presentation eight times across several weeks, three locations, and four populations. Before now, I had only rarely presented the same material multiple times. It was a good experience for me to be able to reflect on my previous presentations in order to refine my future ones.
I also had to stand up in front of a bunch of kids my age or younger, most of whom I didn't know, and teach them important skills. Most of my prior educational presentations have been about unimportant topics and to an audience I knew pretty well.
I also learned early on that I should keep my notes on hand, so I don't skip over any crucial instructions.

Materials, Supplies, Tools, Other

Were there significant shortages or overages of materials, supplies, tools, and other? If so, what effect did this have?

There were no significant material shortages. The pastorate printed a total of 50 copies of my manuals, and that turned out to be just about right.

Entering Service Project Data

The BSA collects information on the hours worked on Eagle Scout service projects* because it points to achievement of our citizenship aim. To assist with the data collection, please refer to your list of people who helped and the number of hours they worked. Then please provide the information requested below. Include hours spent doing planning under Total Hours Worked.

Be sure to include yourself, and the time spent on planning.

	Number of Workers	Total Hours Worked
The Eagle Scout Candidate - Planning Hours	1	21 h 47 m
The Eagle Scout Candidate - Execution Hours	1	25 h 46 m
Registered BSA youth members	6	8 h 50 m
Other youth (brothers, sisters, friends, etc., who are not BSA members)	73	71 h 40 m
Registered BSA adult Scouting volunteers and leaders	1	45 m
Other adults (parents, grandparents, etc., who are not BSA members)	11	37 h 33 m
Grand Total of Hours (enter here and on your Eagle Scout Rank Application)	92	166 h 21 m

*There is no requirement for a minimum number of hours that must be worked on an Eagle Scout service project.
If you have been told you must meet a minimum number of hours then you may lodge a complaint with your district or council. If you have given leadership to an otherwise worthy project and are turned down by your board of review solely because of a lack of hours, you should appeal the decision.

Funding Summary

Describe how you obtained money, materials, supplies, and other needs (including donations) for your project.

The cost of printing the training manuals was covered by the pastorate's operating budget.

How much was collected? `0`   How much was spent? `0`

If your expenses exceeded funds available, explain why this happened, and how excess expenses were paid.

If you had money left over at the end of your project, did you turn it over to the project beneficiary? If "No," when will that be done, or if your beneficiary is not allowed to accept the left over funds, which charity will receive them?

How were the donors thanked?

Photos and Other Documentation

If you have them, submit photographs taken before, during and after project completion on a separate document. You may physically attach letters, maps, handouts, printed materials, or similar items that might be helpful to your board of review.

Caution: Using an Adobe or other PDF reader to insert a "signature" can cause this entire document's contents to be locked preventing future edits; make sure you save a copy if any signatures will be inserted digitally.

Candidate's Promise *Sign below before you seek the other approvals.*

On my honor, I was the leader of my Eagle Scout service project and executed it as reported here

Signature	Date

Approvals

In my opinion, this Eagle Scout service project meets Eagle Scout requirement 5, as stated on page 3 of this workbook.

Beneficiary name: Muncie Catholic Pastorate	Unit leader name: Joshua Sprague
Signature Date	Signature Date