# TROOP 82
# EAGLE COACH TRAINING

**See Webinar at:** https://youtu.be/EcTl8azGp5k

**Tips and Pointers**

1. **Are you a coach or a mentor?** You are the Eagle <u>project</u> coach; the Company Scoutmaster (CSM) is the Eagle mentor.
2. **How does this coaching thing work?**
   a. You are assigned a scout and you agree to coach the scout
      i. Your scout should already have an approved project when he is assigned you as a coach.
   b. Review all of the Eagle project materials in Dropbox.
      i. **Key Point**: <u>Everything</u> you need to know is contained somewhere in the Dropbox file. A link to the Dropbox file is on the Eagle section of Troop 82's website.
   c. Set up first meeting with scout – the scout will (should) call you.
   d. Work with the scout until his project is complete and his final report is finished.
3. **What is my job?**
   a. Your job is to provide guidance to the scout on how to successfully present their project, complete their project, and report on their project.
   b. Your job IS NOT to do the project (scout's job) or walk the scout through the Eagle process, follow up on merit badges, scout participation, etc. (that's the CSM's job).
4. **Checklist, which checklist?**
   a. Life to Eagle Process Checklist on website (this is NOT you)
   b. Eagle Scout Project Checklist in Dropbox folder (THIS IS YOU).
      i. Use it and refer to it. <u>It works</u>.
5. **BSA Eagle Workbook**
   a. <u>Project Proposal</u> – do the heavy lifting here
      i. Have them think through their project

ii. Have them prepare detailed step-by-step directions on how to execute the project

b. <u>Project Plan</u>
   i. Copy and paste most of proposal into this.
   ii. Add comments from the people who reviewed and signed off on report

c. <u>Project Report</u>
   i. Final report once the scout has finished the project.

d. **<u>YOU ARE FINISHED WHEN THE PROJECT REPORT IS FINISHED, AND YOU APPROVE IT</u>**

e. There are two sample Projects/completed workbooks in the Dropbox folder.  They are invaluable in understanding what a finished Project Proposal, Project Plan, and Project Report should look like.

6. **Parent Involvement**
   a. You need them and WANT them – just in the background though
      i. Invite them to the meetings – just don't let them participate
      ii. They are the primary motivators

7. **Where do I sign???**
   a. There is always a lot of confusion as to who signs where and there shouldn't be!  The signature requirements are all clearly spelled out in the <u>Information on Signatures Needed in Workbook</u> file in the Dropbox folder.

8. **Communication**
   a. Two-deep in all communications.  ALWAYS!  The scouts are bad about this so remind them.
   b. Tell the scout how you prefer to communicate – phone, in person, text, or email.

9. **Setting Expectations for the Scout**
   a. The scout should demand quality work of himself.  Something of which he can be proud.
   b. Here's the standard: "If you (scout) are not there the day of your project, someone must be able to read your project and complete it step-by-step".
   c. This takes a lot longer than one semester!  Most coaches meet with the scout at least 5-7 times.

d. The scout is doing this for the recipient of his service project, not himself.

e. The Eagle project is about demonstrating <u>leadership</u>, not building something.

**10. Expectations for the Coach**

    a. <u>**REVIEW THE DROPBOX INFORMATION AND FOLLOW THE CHECKLIST STEP-BY-STEP**</u>

    b. Notebook turnaround: 24-hour philosophy; the sooner you can get your comments back to the scout, the better—keep the momentum going and don't sit on it! Ask the scout to bring back marked-up pages to make your next review easier.

    c. Treat the scout as you would want your son to be treated

    d. Recommend the scout avoid writing in the first person

**11. Frequently Asked Questions**

    a. Who can I contact for advice or to resolve issues?

- First try the scout's CSM. If he is not able to provide assistance, please contact Tyler Burke at tb3704@gmail.com or 214-514-6934.

    b. What do I do if my scout goes AWOL? – your call on this one. Probably best inform the CSM and let him handle it.

    c. What if his approved project is too much? Not enough?

- If you have concerns in this regard, share them with Robert Turner and the CSM and work together on resolving it.

    d. Why does the Project Proposal have to be so detailed when BSA doesn't require any real detail until the Project Plan?

- We believe a detailed Project Proposal is a best practice for several reasons:
  1. Having the project detail upfront forces the scout to think through the entire project and identify potential issues early on.
  2. Only the Project Proposal is reviewed by the District Representative and the CSM. You, the coach, are the only one who reviews the Project Plan (and signs off on it!). The more input, the better for everyone, especially the scout (and you)!

3. Everyone has more energy at the front of the project. Better to do all the work on the front end when people are energized!
4. We aren't asking the scout to do extra work.  They have to do this work for the Project Plan anyway.  We're just asking them to front load the work and do it in the Project Proposal stage.
5. The overall project will go faster if the Project Proposal contains details as finalizing the Project Plan is largely a function of cutting and pasting.