

Eagle Scout and Gold Award Project Approval and Completion Policy

Thurston Nature Center (TNC) has a long-standing tradition of working with Boy and Girl Scout programs from around Ann Arbor. The following describes the TNC policy for approval and completion of these projects:

Planning and Approvals:

- The Nature Center will maintain a list of potential project ideas for consideration. The Scout may select from that list or may propose their own.
- Prior to TNC approval of a project proposal, discussions with the Scout should include the TNC Chair and at least one other Committee member. A TNC project Advisor should be designated to assist the Scout in their planning.
- The TNC Chair (or Advisor) will give approval for continued planning when the proposed project's goals and scope meet the considerations and policies of the TNC. Consultations with the TNC Advisor are encouraged as project details are being developed, prior to submission to the Scout Council for their approval.
- In addition, projects along the eastern portion of the Nature Center which is owned by OHAC must be reviewed and approved by its leadership.
- The final project plan must be reviewed by the TNC Chair or Advisor before commencement of the work, to ensure any changes to the plan are acceptable.
- The Scout is responsible for all project paperwork (including project planning, approvals, and final documentation) in accordance with the requirements of their Scout organization. A copy of all official documentation must be provided to the TNC Chair.
- The Nature Center cannot financially support every project and so each scout or troop must raise funds and secure items necessary for completion of their project. The scout may request financial help from the TNC for particularly expensive projects which will be considered by the Treasurer and Chair.

Project Considerations:

- The project must address a need of the Nature Center and further its mission, vision and/or goals. Results of the project should have lasting benefit.
- Eagle Scout and Gold Award projects should be larger group projects that help to develop and demonstrate planning and leadership. The project requires research, planning and execution led by the scout; it is not just assisting others to do work.
- Any introduction or removal of plants must be in accordance with the TNC Planting Policy. For example, only native plants may be introduced, and must be approved in advance by one of the TNC Stewards.
- The location of added structures must not be in conflict with any protected native species (for example, trillium).
- Added structures should be designed with materials that will provide a reasonably long life as well as safety for those who use the space.
- Added structures should be designed to fit in with the environment of the Nature Center.