

## **Troop 541/542 Service Requirement Guidelines – 8/26/2021**

Each of the ranks in Scouting, from Scout to Eagle, has a requirement for community service as do some of the merit badges. Below are the Troop 541/542 guidelines to be applied for service toward the ranks of Scout through Life. What counts for a MB would be up to the counselor. Scouts planning Eagle Scout projects must follow the guidelines in the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook* which are even stricter since Eagle service projects must also demonstrate planning and leadership.

- Projects must be approved by the Scoutmaster before the service takes place.
- The project must be something the Scout has undertaken with the intention of fulfilling the requirement and that is not part of their regular routine. For example, someone who regularly operates the sound board at their church cannot count doing so as service hours.
- Service hours may not be “double dipped”, e.g., the Scout may not count the same hours toward a rank advancement and a merit badge.
- May not be for the benefit of the Scout, a family member of the Scout, or a for-profit organization
- May not be for the sole benefit of the Scouts own troop. For example, painting a latrine at Resica would count, but painting the troop shed would not.
- May not consist of fundraising for an organization that benefits the Scout, e.g., their school, church youth group, soccer team, or the BSA.
- The Scout may not receive payment or other direct benefit from the service. School credit, or credit toward an award by another organization are considered a direct benefit, and the Scout may not also count those hours toward their Scouting service. It is OK to accept light refreshments served during or immediately after the project.
- Trivial good turns, such as bringing in a neighbor’s newspapers while they’re on vacation may not be counted as service hours.
- Trivial maintenance tasks that take less than an hour, such as watering a flower bed are generally not considered service unless they are a continuation of a more extensive project. For example, time spent going back to water a bed the Scouts planted would count as part of the planting project, but 15 minutes spent watering the existing bed in the Upper Dublin Memorial Garden would not.