

In addition, the district activities committee should answer the following questions when selecting a project:

- Do we want a "quickie" project that will take 1 day of concentrated work or one that may last several weeks, even months?
- How about projects we've done in the past? Will Scouts still be enthusiastic, or have those projects become "old hat?"
- Are there projects that will fit nicely into Scouting and that can be worked on during meetings?
- Do we want a project in which we cooperate with other organizations such as Goodwill Industries, The Salvation Army, or other United Way partners, or shall we do it alone?
- What will it cost? Most service projects don't require a financial outlay from the unit or members. But when they do, the financial outlay should be understood in advance. What is our limit on expenditures? Can we get financial aid if we need it (through the chartered organization or through the organization to which the unit's time and effort is being contributed)?
- Does this project duplicate a service being done by another organization? (Some metropolitan areas now have central clearinghouses for ideas on service projects. They help make certain that projects are needed and eliminate needless duplication.)
- What materials will be needed for the project? Where can they be secured?
- Can the projects be supervised adequately? What adult staff is required?
- If a similar national project is being considered, will it duplicate or disrupt local planning?

Legal Restrictions

Some service projects involve public lands or buildings, health regulations, or zoning restrictions; obviously the proper authorities must give their approval before such a project can be undertaken. In addition, all service projects must conform to the Charter, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America and with the bylaws of the local council.

Conflict with Private Enterprise

If a project encroaches on the service or market of a business or industry, it should be eliminated.

For guidance on this, see the Unit Money-Earning Application, No. 4427, available from your local council service center.

Health and Safety Guidelines

Check the following guidelines to determine whether your service projects involve hazardous elements:

- They should not require crossing or working on both sides of a major traffic artery. Plan all territories so that boundaries are down the middle of major highways. Frequent crossing should not be necessary to the project.
- Where possible, eliminate extensive travel. When travel is required, safe transportation must be provided. For details, check *Tours and Expeditions*, No. 3734.
- Take care that service projects do not require lifting or moving items that are too heavy. Participants should never lift more than one-third of their weight.
- Depending on the nature of the project, allow the participants sufficient rest periods. When a project extends over a meal period, make eating arrangements.

Conducting Service Projects

Successful service projects don't just happen. No matter how badly it is needed or how carefully it is chosen, a service project can fail if it is not carefully planned and methodically carried out.

The council or district activities committee is responsible for the project's success. The committee should call upon other Scouters and consultants in the community for help, but the responsibility ultimately must rest with them.

Although this work calendar seems to contradict the democratic nature of the projects by having the council make the selection, it need not do so. Count on your leaders to know what their units will want to do. And don't forget the law of averages, which means you'll usually get enough voluntary help for whatever project you select.

The Committee's First Meeting

In addition to the questions already mentioned, the committee should begin by studying such things as: