

Process for Eagle Candidate's Eagle Project with HSC TREES Program

Congratulations on your journey to becoming an Eagle Scout and thank you for considering a large-scale native tree planting under Houston Wilderness' Houston Ship Channel TREES Program as a potential Eagle project.



HSC TREES Program is a collaborative effort with multiple partners that aims to plant thousands of targeted native Super Trees¹ along the 25 miles of the Houston Ship Channel – a heavily industrial area with surrounding residential neighbors that are at high health risk due to air pollution, coastal flooding and other stressors. Houston Wilderness (HW) staff work

with public and private entities who want to volunteer to plant large numbers of native Super Trees in various areas along the Ship Channel.

Guidelines for Eagle Scout Candidates (EC):

- Must be 15 years or older to take on an HSC trees project
- Must be able to guarantee 25 scout volunteers (parents not included in this count)
- We do not want any parent included in communication: the Scout troop Leader is the adult contact that should be looped into the organization of the project.

EC's should be planning and communicating the coordination of materials between HW and other supporting adults.



Items to Consider in Choosing Large-Scale Native Tree Planting as Eagle Project:

1. **DATES:** HW sets specific dates every Fall and Spring (between late Sept to end March) for large-scale native tree planting opportunities, where volunteer groups can engage in planting trees. The Eagle Candidate (**EC**) can select a date from that list and organize his/her large-scale tree planting project around that date and time. The list of available dates can be found on the [Houston Ship Channel TREES webpage](#).
2. **LOCATION:** The location of the large-scale native planting is determined closer to the chosen planting. The [Houston Ship Channel planting locations](#) are divided up into 5 sections² and tree plantings take place at various locations within those sections. If you do wish to visit the site prior to your project, please coordinate with HW staff for a site visit. We do not plant outside of the 5 designated sites on our HSC map.
3. **TYPE OF NATIVE TREES:** On average, each project includes the planting a minimum of 1,000 Super Tree seedlings, or between 250-500 3-5 gallon [Super Tree species](#). Depending on location and group size, we may do a combination of both tree sizes.
4. **SUPPLIES AND HW REQUIREMENTS:** All volunteers must sign waivers and adhere to any Covid protocols, where pertinent, before the tree planting begins. These items can be found at the above-referenced website. The EC collects all the signed waivers for the volunteers and gives them to HW staff before the planting. HW will supply the native Super Trees and the mulch for the large-scale plantings, all other supplies are provided by the EC and his/her troop.

To Begin a Large-Scale Native Tree Planting Eagle Project: After the EC has an initial meeting with HW staff (either virtually or in-person) and an agreement on a planting date/location has been made, HW staff will then await paperwork from the EC regarding the details of his/her project. If there is an interest in a site visit, the Scout and his troop leader may arrange a site visit with HW staff. **The EC is responsible for recruiting and coordinating volunteers. We will need a minimum of 25 Scouts volunteers (parents do not count but they can definitely join the planting.**

Day of Large-Scale Native Tree Planting Eagle Project: HW will arrive on the project site with trees and mulch at least 30 minutes before the EC project begins. The Eagle planting project location will be clearly marked. Once the EC and his/her volunteers arrive at the project site, the EC is “in charge” as the project leader. HW staff will not be a part of the project but will be present in the general area through the duration of the project.

If you are interested in working with Houston Wilderness or have any questions, please email Ana@houstonwilderness.org. We hope to see you in the future!

¹ The 14 native Super Tree species that are planted under the PoH TREES Program can be found at <https://houstonwilderness.org/resources-for-native-super-trees-and-hsc-trees-program>

² See map at <https://houstonwilderness.org/houston-ship-channel-trees-program>