

Boy Scout Service Project Opportunity

Background: The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) is the Texas Council of Governments serving the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. As the coordinating agency for more than 150 emergency response agencies and 62 municipal governments, the PRPC has purchased and maintains the Panhandle Area Regional Information System or PARIS database. The PARIS database is a repository database with information about emergency response resources and assets in the Texas Panhandle. The system is web based and is available 24 x 7 for mutual-aid and multi-agency emergency response. In addition, the system is designed to track assets needed for disaster response and for day-to-day public safety operations.

The Opportunity: Each emergency response agency and municipality is in need of assistance in gathering information about each of the assets within their control. This information would include description, model, make and serial number, GPS coordinates of the storage (or installed) location, and a photograph. This is a labor intensive plan which exceeds the capabilities of most agencies in the PRPC service area.

The Benefit to the Community: Once the asset's information is entered into the PARIS system, then the maintenance, tracking and service schedules can be developed by the agencies to protect their taxpayer funded equipment. Also, since PARIS has an asset mapping function, maps can be generated to assist disaster response personnel in locating emergency response assets when needed.

For example, The Hansford County Emergency Manager (EM) recently added each of the fire hydrants in his county to the PARIS system. Each record contains the make, model and service records on each hydrant along with the GPS coordinates and a photograph. In the future, fire officers both in Hansford county and from responding mutual aid fire departments can accurately direct responding units to needed water supplies during an emergency. Also, the Hansford County EM is using the data to track hydrant maintenance, pressure testing and repair.

What is needed: The service projects in each community or agency would be designed as follows:

- 1.) Using the following supplies, groups of scouts would be asked to travel to each asset and photograph it, record the GPS coordinates, and record on paper the make, model, serial number, location, condition and other data as needed. The data collected would vary based on the asset being recorded.

Materials needed: Digital Camera (min. 1.3MP resolution), GPS Receiver, Clip Board w/Paper, Pen and Pencils.

- 2.) Once the assigned area survey has been completed, the scouts would then return their data and supplies to their project leader. In the case of an Eagle Service Project, this would be the Life scout directing the project.
- 3.) The data captured would then be sorted by asset type and returned to the requesting jurisdiction for input into the PARIS system. (The scouts may be allowed to assist with the data entry process if some security concerns are resolved. - This is at the discretion of each agency head.)

Suggested types of assets that would need to be inventoried in each jurisdiction:

In order of need:

Critical Resources and Response Infrastructure

Fire Hydrants

Emergency Sirens

Disaster Supply Storage Areas

Water Storage Facilities or Water Ports

Mobile Emergency Equipment

Emergency Communication Supplies

Community Gathering Places

Gyms and Community Centers

Churches

MedicalClinics/Hospitals
Medical Offices

Pharmacies

Special PopulationsSchool Campuses
Residential Childcare Facilities
Day Care FacilitiesNursing Homes/Care Facilities
Dorms and Apartments**Shelters**Local/Personal Shelters
School CampusesLarge Capacity Shelters
Churches

Other assets may be added depending on the jurisdictions needs.

Funding available for this project and source: None

Would the materials needed be supplied? No, the scout in charge of the project would need to investigate if the supplies needed could be provided on loan by the jurisdiction or agency. If not, the scout would need to check with local businesses and civic groups.

How many scouts would be needed? Depends on the size of the project. The project could be broken down by agency or jurisdiction, geographic area or asset type. As with all Eagle Scout Service projects, District Advancement Committee approval is required before beginning a project. Also, BSA Youth Protection guidelines and the "Buddy System" must be followed. In addition, participating scouts and leaders must wear "Class A" uniform during the project.

Who would I contact to start this project in my community? Visit first with your local emergency manager, fire chief or police chief. If you have trouble locating that information, contact Mr. Easley-McPherson or Mrs. Nolte at the PRPC.

For more information, please contact:

Reeves Easley-McPherson

Regional Emergency Communications Program Specialist

Emily Nolte

Regional Emergency Program Planner

Panhandle Regional Planning Commission415 SW 8th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79101-2215
(806) 372-3381 (office), (806) 373-3268 (fax)

Website: <http://www.i-info.com>