

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight.

My name is **Baylor Barrow**, and I am a 17-year-old Life Scout with **Troop 145, sponsored by Arlington Community Church**, working toward the rank of Eagle Scout. To earn this rank, I am required to plan, develop, and lead a service project that provides a meaningful and lasting benefit to the community. I am here this evening to respectfully request authorization to complete my Eagle Scout Service Project in partnership with the City of Blair.

My proposed project is a **Downtown Beautification and Recycling Project**, completed under the guidance of **Mrs. Betsy Anderson**, Master Gardener and president of the Blair Parks Board. The purpose of this project is to transplant overgrown decorative plants from locations along Main Street to several pocket parks throughout Blair, including the new **Art Alley** downtown.

Several decorative plantings downtown have become overgrown and require maintenance. Rather than removing and discarding these plants, this project focuses on reusing and relocating them to enhance public green spaces across our city. By moving these plants to areas such as Art Alley and other pocket parks, we can add natural beauty to spaces where families gather, events are held, and visitors experience Blair.

As our nation approaches its **250th Birthday celebration**, this project contributes in a small but meaningful way by improving community gathering spaces like Art Alley and our pocket parks. Beautifying these public areas helps prepare them for events, visitors, and celebrations that bring our community together.

I will lead a team of approximately 4 to 8 volunteers, including Scouts and community members. All plant selections and planting sites will be approved in advance, and transplanting will follow best practices under Mrs. Anderson's direction to help ensure long-term success.

I have previously worked as a **summer employee in the City of Blair Parks Department**, which has given me a strong appreciation for our parks and the staff who maintain them. That experience has taught me the importance of safety, planning, and maintaining city standards, and I am applying those lessons to this project.

Adult supervision will be present at all times, volunteers will receive safety instructions, and we will only dig in approved areas using hand tools. All sites will be cleaned and restored once work is complete, and ongoing maintenance will remain part of the City's regular parks schedule.

I respectfully request approval from the Parks Board to move forward with this project. Thank you for your time, for your leadership, and for your continued commitment to keeping Blair a community we are proud to call home. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.