

DCS 503 - Guidelines for Consideration for a Doctoral Project/Thesis

Thesis or Project: It is recommended that the topic of a project or thesis be directly related to unit service and to your current registered commissioner position. There may be specific circumstances under which a topic related to another area of scouting would be appropriate. Local councils have the authority to approve topics related to another area of scouting when selecting one directly related to unit service isn't appropriate or practical. The council commissioner or designee may authorize an alternate topic.

Guidelines for Consideration:

- A project plan should be created with **specific objectives, timelines, measurable goals, resources required**, etc.
- Doing a project **requires a written project plan** that should be followed.
- The project **plan should be submitted** to and reviewed by the Doctoral Review Committee or the doctoral dean and/or the council commissioner. Each College of Commissioner Science should have guidelines for an approval process for a project or a thesis.
- **The project should be worthy of a doctoral degree and not part of a standard program.**
- **There should be an accounting of the amount of time required to perform the project.**
- Just like Eagle Scout projects where there is no specific time requirement, doctoral projects do not have a specific time requirement. But the amount of time spent should be the equivalent of the time required to write a thesis.
- The completed **project should have an after-action summary** report stating that the goals of the project were met, and the expected benefit has been derived.
- The **intent of doing a project is for improved commissioner service** as well as personal growth.
- A well-executed project will have multiple benefits.

Meet with your project/thesis advisor early and often