



Eagle Scout Celebration Week | February 21-27, 2021  
Eagle Scout Service Project Description  
**Andrew Dalman**

I started this wonderful project in December 2019 and completed it in February 2020. My project was re-furbishing, cleaning, and replacing broken tiles on 31 worn down benches and trash cans around Sahuarita, AZ. The area of these benches is frequented by pedestrian and bicycle traffic. My mission was to take off any loose, broken, or faded tiles. Loose tiles would be cleaned and prepared to be reattached. Broken and faded tiles would be taken to the art teacher at a local high school who agreed to recreate them (students were the ones who originally made the tiles). The planning was relatively simple, but the organization took a lot of effort. I had to figure out what the most efficient path to each bench was, organize a time to remove tiles with, and set up a meeting with the art teacher to review the broken, chipped, or faded tiles after removal. This took dozens of man hours on its own, but after the organization phase was complete, I was ready to move onto the execution phase.

To start this phase, I had to go to each bench and remove all the faded, chipped, broken, or loose tiles. This took about two days to do with myself, my mom, my sister, my grandpa, and a family friend helping. After that, we had to soak all the intact tiles in acid to remove all the stuck-on concrete and any dirt. We then met with the art teacher to review the tiles we needed to have recreated. He agreed to help us and began working on remaking them. I did it this way because I wanted to have everything ready to go when we had to put them back on the benches. That process involved scout volunteers, so having all materials prepared beforehand would make the process smoother and more efficient overall.

With all of that said, this was only the first half of the execution phase and the days of hardest work were still to be seen. Prior to even starting the project, I advertised that I was going to need help with my project soon, and after rallying for a while, I was able to get about 5 scouts and some of their parents to volunteer. On the day of the actual project, we assembled in a meeting room that one of the scouts' parents graciously let us borrow for a few days. We went over the plan, tools we would be using along with safety information. We split into two separate groups; one going up every street, and one going down every street so that they would meet in the middle and be able to compare notes on what had been accomplished. The goal for the first day was to cement down every tile that we removed during phase one of the execution portion of this project. It went relatively





smoothly, but there were a few setbacks. Like how one parent accidentally broke off a perfectly good tile while attaching others, which took a bit of work to get back on firmly, or how a few scouts had to leave early, but all in all, it went well, and we were ready for the next day that we would meet.

The following week we were ready to do our second and final day of work, during which we were going to cover the benches with a special sealant as well as a waterproofing solution. We were able to do this one without a hitch, and we all went out for lunch together, which really boosted moral and gave us a nice reprieve to run around at a park and talk for a bit. This went by much more smoothly than the first day and we managed to finish ahead of schedule, which we were all happy to accomplish. After finishing the very last bench, we were all posing for a picture. It was going normal, until my mom dumped a bucket of water on my head in celebration like in a sports game. I was annoyed at first, but looking back, it was super fun, and we all had a good laugh about it.

After the project finished, I thanked everyone for their help, support, and time, gave them all their service hours and a slice of pizza for the road. We all then headed home knowing that we had accomplished a daunting task and did something great for the community.

That same day, I typed up all the paperwork I would need for my review board and signed up for the next one available. On a side note, the total number of hours that everyone contributed was about 350, which is mind boggling to me. Anyways, on the day of the board I anxiously waited for my name to be called, but once it was, the anxiousness faded because I knew that I put in the effort, knew everything I needed to, and was more than prepared for this. I passed the board and became an Eagle Scout, which is one of the most cathartic, amazing, and proudest moments in my whole life.

It may not have been the most revolutionary project in the world, but I found it really gratifying that with some determination, hard work, and stick to-it-ness, we were able to completely change our city and beautify our community, which people will look at and appreciate for years. It is amazing to think about and I could not be happier with how it turned out. It is for these experiences that I think more people should work hard and strive to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. I feel that because of the lasting effect and effort required for my project to be completed, that it deserves to be entered into the running for service project of the year.

