



Eagle Scout Celebration Week | February 21-27, 2021
Eagle Scout Service Project Description
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Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, AZ is an Army Fort that houses and trains many soldiers and their families. The Fort includes many amenities for the families such as parks and movie theaters in addition to an incredibly old pond. After many years of erosion, the pond had become unstable and needed to be dug out and revamped. My Eagle Project took on the task of making the pond habitable for fish so that families could have a way to get their minds off deployments and training. For this transformation there were two major parts.

First, while the Department of Defense dug out the pond many trees were removed, and this left the pond at an even higher risk of algae which had been one of the previous factors that inhibited the growth of the fish. To fix this we planted 6 trees to help with shading. These Willow trees will grow exceptionally large over the lake and create needed shade for the pond and families to enjoy the pond. To choose the tree species I worked along with the National Forest Service and with our combined research we decided that these trees will be the best for the location and environment, while having the best public use for the pond.

The second main phase of this project more directly affected the pond itself and its inhabitants. In the past the main problem that this pond experienced was a lack of growth for the fish. After hours of research, we concluded that this was due to the lack of suitable habitat for nesting and shelter for the fish. This made it so that the fish barely stayed alive and never got the chance to grow. To fix this problem we came up with artificial fish habitat along with a more natural approach both of which were implemented. The first was our artificial structure that was constructed from cut 55-gallon plastic barrels, concrete to hold them down, and various size tubing mounted around the bottom to give extra habitat. Six of these were created and they each





weighed over a hundred pound with rebar anchors to allow for easy placement and removal. These were a mixture of many successful artificial fish structures that I had found online. These structures were more adept for the larger fish and were thus placed in the deeper part of the pond near the dam. The more natural structures that were created to increase nesting and protection for the bait fish were rock outcroppings. For these we had 3 cubic meters of medium to large stone each weighing around 10-45 pounds placed on the bank of the pond. Then in 5 different shallow spots in the water the rocks were piled to create mounts of rock with little holes and coves that would allow for safety for the bait fish but also the newly hatched bass and another fry.

My project has had a huge effect on the pond itself and the people who are using it. The implementation of a fountain to circulate water by the fort, and the newfound depth due to digging. along with the new habitat the Fort has seen an increase in the size of the fish. Although the effects from the trees and some of the habitat will not be seen for many more years the initial effects are incredibly positive and the pond doing very well.

