

East Lake BlisterSM

By East Lake Blister Staff
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Saturday morning, at 0900 a.m. August 22, 2009 at the East Lake Community Library, located at 4125 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34685, there was recognition ceremony of an accomplishment, by a dedicated scout, who not only was working for a scout badge, but working entirely, for the community, in the northeast corner of Pinellas County.

The ceremony took place at the entrance door of the library, under the protection of the overhang, during a thunder, lightning and rain storm, which could not diminish the interested group of about 30 who came to acknowledge the significance of this young scouts accomplishments.

Andrew Bogdan, a 14 year-old Life Scout was working to receive the necessary merit badge to qualify him to become an Eagle Scout, which is the highest plateau, which a boy scout can obtain.

When asked first and foremost how did he choose this project? Andrew replied in writing "Ever since I was little my family and I would recycle every week. We would go to the recycling center by the John Chestnut Park. When it came time to choose my Eagle Project I decided to build a recycling center because I realized that the earth is getting dirty and I want people to have another chance to clean it up. I started my project over a year and a half ago. Early on I contacted Pinellas County Utilities Solid Waste Department because they are the ones that pick up the recycling for the county. Mr. Joe Fernandez, the director of the solid waste department was a big help. He helped me pick possible sites for my recycling center and arrange for the donating of the cement slab. The East Lake Library was the 4th site we picked. The other three places didn't work out. For each place I had to put together a plan and present the idea to either the town council or whatever group was hosting the site. I used the John Chestnut park recycling center as a model but I wanted to add landscaping so people would know that recycling wasn't ugly.

The cost of my project would have been huge if I hadn't gotten a lot of things donated. Pinellas County

Utilities donated the slab and the labor to put it in. Tri-City Bolt donated the nuts and bolts to attach the chain to the poles. Progress Energy donated used telephone poles and the coast guard donated old ships chain. Also Webb Nursery donated some of the plants around the center. I raised money for the rest of the plants by holding a pancake breakfast and by recycling printer cartridges for money. I found out that people were very generous when they found out what I was doing and that it was for an Eagle project.”

Ms. Pat Holly in her capacity for the East Lake Community Library spoke to the gathering and stated, “We won’t let the weather dampen the spirit of the morning. As a representative of the East Lake Community, I want to thank Andrew for choosing us, as the focus of his Eagle Scout Project. Secondly, for his dedication to the planning with library and with Mr. Joe Fernandez, who execution of the project.” “ He and his family and fellow scouts have proven themselves to be true community servants and we are very grateful.”

This is an example of what scouting does for these young men and these are the leaders of the future.



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