

## Ethan Sterne — Eagle Scout Project at MLS

A new façade was built on the storage container located on the west side the track fabrication building over the weekend of April 13th. Ethan Sterne of Troop 526 led this project to meet one of the requirements for his Eagle Scout rank. He approached Jim Brown, a member of Maricopa Live Steamers, last year to get some ideas for potential projects. Jim suggested building a blacksmith shop and sawmill façade on the storage container and Ethan jumped at the opportunity. Ethan wanted to do his Eagle Project at the Train Park because he has a lot of great memories from his Scouting years there. He loves building and designing, so he went right to work planning the project. He drew up plans and prepared a cost estimate to present to the adult leaders of his troop at his Eagle Project Board of Review.

After getting his troop's approval, Ethan received district approval and immediately started gathering donations. He approached several businesses asking for donations of materials and started a GoFundMe account to cash donations. His hard work paid off and he was able to acquire over \$2,000 in cash and material donations. Alliance Lumber donated over \$1,000 in lumber and Dunn-Edwards and Sherwin-Williams donated all of the paint. He also received \$500 on GoFundMe to purchase the remaining supplies and received food donations from Einstein Bagels and LaMar's Donuts. Ethan is very grateful for all of the generous donations.

The construction started with building some of the props and detail pieces at Jim Brown's house on Monday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 9. The major construction took place on Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14 with 26 scouts and 15 adults participating in the work. The three main components to the work were building the façade, painting the ends and north face of the storage unit and clearing the weeds and debris around the unit. Some scouts from the troop were even able to help set some posts in a different area of the park. The finished product exceeded everyone's expectations. The mock-up sawmill, the scene inside the blacksmith shop and the antique pieces add a high level of realism and detail to the façade. This is one of the most ambitious projects that Troop 526 has completed in its history. 491 service hours were spent on the planning and construction of the project.

Ethan was grateful for the opportunity to complete this project. Please be sure to stop by and see the newest façade at the park. You will be proud of the addition!



Storage container before start of project.

Storage container – the finished product.



