



magnolia potpourri - news

Scout leads volunteers in building flower beds

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Helping Hands Community Garden has several new flower beds that garden enthusiasts can enjoy for years to come thanks to the efforts of Boy Scout Bryce Reynolds from Troop 1488.

Bryce, a Magnolia West High School junior, said he decided on the garden for his Eagle Scout Project because he found out how the handicap flower beds were falling apart, so he decided he would rebuild them and make additional plots in the process.

"So far I'm really happy with (the flower beds) and how it has turned out," he said.

The plan is to construct five low beds and two high beds to make it accessible for handicapped gardeners.

Handicap flower beds are higher off the ground so those who do not have flexibility or are in a wheelchair can still garden.

Mike Reynolds, Bryce's father and Scoutmaster for Troop 1488, said he is very proud of his son for all he has accomplished through the years.

Bryce's current rank in scouting is Life.

The project with Helping Hands Community Garden is the final step Bryce needs to reach the rank of Eagle.

Mike said as a Scout, the rank of Eagle is considered so important because it represents a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.

"It's a personal goal instilled upon them very early," he said.

Leadership is a big part of the Eagle Project, Mike said.

The Scout has to come up with the plans for funding and building the project, then lead volunteers in executing it.

Mike said it is basically Bryce's job to supervise and make sure everything in the project goes according to plan.

Part of the funding Bryce received came from a grant for \$400, given to him by Keep Montgomery County Beautiful.

He also received money from his grandmother's trust fund and Helping Hands Community Garden.

"It has been a little bit expensive," Bryce said.

The equipment Bryce purchased comprised of bricks, dirt and miscellaneous tools to aid in the construction process.



Boy Scout Bryce Reynolds from Troop 1488 talks to the Assistant Scoutmaster Tom Flynn about the measurements and proportions of the flower beds being constructed at Helping Hands Community Garden. As part of his Eagle Scout Project, Bryce Reynolds helped lead volunteers in constructing five low beds and two high beds Oct. 23.

To help in Bryce's Eagle Project, several Boy Scouts from his troop came out Oct. 23 to provide assistance in constructing the flower beds.

For their service, they receive hours towards community service.

Through the day, Bryce helped in sizing the plots and demonstrating the correct way to lay the cinderblocks.

Director of Helping Hands Community Garden Judy Rose said she has been praying for someone to help in constructing new handicap accessible flower beds.

"We were waiting for someone in the Magnolia troops to be ready for an Eagle Project," she said. "We're here for the community."

Helping Hands Community Garden feeds function is to educate the public on organic gardening while feeding those in need with the crops they grow. The garden is also registered wildlife habitat.

Bryce said he feels the work he and the other Scouts are doing at the garden is making a difference since the garden is now being expanded for additional plots.

After Bryce receives his rank of Eagle, he said he hopes to stay with the troop to give guidance to the others.

For additional information on Helping Hands Community Garden, visit www.helpinghands.magnoliatexas.org.

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