

This past summer, there was an Eagle Scout Project done within Troop 173. The project consisted of the construction of an outdoor classroom and nature trail. One of our fellow scouts designed the plans and funded the money needed to complete the project. The project cost around \$700, which was raised by monetary donations, fundraising, and the contribution of some necessary materials. The project included five wooden benches, a metal bench as shown in the picture below, a white board kiosk, and an information board consisting of information with native vegetation.

The project was built for Saint Patrick's School in Yorktown Heights, NY. It is meant to help students interact with their surroundings and be used as an alternative to the indoor classroom setting.



Students would be able to see various types of plants, trees, rocks, and soil. They would learn a great deal more by seeing things first hand. The project was a great deal of work for the Life Scout who organized it. It accumulated to over 500 hours of work, including planning, meetings, and on-the-site work. These hours consist of other members of the troop and community, as well as the scout himself. There were nearly thirty different people who donated their time in making this project successful. The

planning of this project included visits to other local outdoor educational facilities, internet websites, information regarding grants, meetings with representatives, and hours of diagramming the structures and outline for proposed area for construction.

The process started out by removing a pile of brush and debris. There were two large piles of broken up branches, and tree stumps. Saplings were then cut down to make room for the benches and chalkboard. Once the area was cleared out, holes were dug for the bases of the benches, information boards, and chalkboard. The holes were 36 inches deep, and a total of twenty holes were excavated. Five benches were then constructed. Each bench was 15 inches above the ground. One bag of cement was poured into each hole to secure the structures properly. A picnic table frame was also refurbished. A tow truck using its winch removed a large, multi-trunk tree stump, which sat directly in the center of the frame. A trail was then cleared from the main area to the information kiosk. After everything was built, approximately twenty-one yards of woodchips were spread throughout the area.



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Benches under construction with picnic table frame in backdrop



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Kiosk Containing Information on Local Vegetation



*Finished Product with Picnic Table, Benches, and Teaching Kiosk
Picnic Table*



Finished Picnic Table