



Madison Eagle Scout candidate Taylor Picillo completes his service project for the Red Cross

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ORGANIZATION — Taylor Picillo and Chapter Emergency Services Director Barb Flynn in the recently renovated storage closet Picillo designed for the Colonial Crossroads Chapter to fulfill the requirements for his Eagle Scout award.

Madison High School Junior and Eagle Scout Candidate Taylor Picillo completed his service project for the Colonial Crossroads Chapter of the Red Cross.

This was Picillo's last step towards earning the Eagle Scout rank. With the assistance of 15 Scouts working more than 150 hours, Picillo led the team in a complete renovation of the Chapter's Disaster Action Team storage closet which is used to house all emergency supplies needed when responding to an area disaster.

"Taylor put a tremendous amount of thought and time into this project and the outcome has been a boon for us," says Barb Flynn, chapter emergency services director. "Prior to this project we had limited space and we were keeping supplies in a couple of different areas. Taylor was able to gut a closet near our back door and build shelving that accommodates everything we need when we are loading our Emergency Response Vehicle."

Picillo, a member of Troop 7, has been a part of Scouting since 1st grade. "Being a Scout has had a major influence on my life," says Picillo. "Following the Scout law has become part of my everyday life and has influenced my future goals. I am interested in becoming a chemical engineer and would like to lead a research project to explore new chemical studies. Scouting has given me the necessary skills to be able to lead such a project."

Picillo first contacted the Colonial Crossroads Chapter about one year ago. Over the next 12 months he came up with a plan for shelf building, met with the appropriate people, conducted a safety workshop and took a trip to the Home Depot. On the day the project commenced, Taylor split his volunteer Scouts into older and younger ages, with an advisor to oversee each group. The younger Scouts assembled the frames and the older Scouts mounted the shelves to the wall. Over the next week, the shelves were filled and inventory was taken.

"I think as organizations look at streamlining costs, having Scouts complete projects of this caliber is a huge help," adds Flynn. "My entire Disaster Team has benefited from Taylor's work and the reorganization of our supplies has allowed us to operate more efficiently."

Madison's Troop 7 meets every Tuesday from 7:30 – 9 p.m. in the new building at St. Vincent Martyr School located at 26 Green Village Rd., Madison. For more information, contact Scoutmaster Vince Iacoviello at 973-360-0360.

Any youth organizations who may be interested in developing projects to support the Colonial Crossroads Chapter may call Volunteer Manager Marisa Hottat at 908-273-2076, ext. 25

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