

Eagle Scout Project Rehabilitates Beloved Paul Little Picnic Area and Trails

On the first weekend of October an intrepid crew of Boy Scouts from Troop 355 in San Marino and volunteers from the U.S. Forest Service were led by Eagle Scout candidate Avery Kachmarsky in the rehabilitation of the Paul Little Picnic Area and clearance of the Gabrielino Trail as it runs from the Gould Mesa Campground to the picnic area and Brown Dam beyond. In planning the project, Kachmarsky worked in close partnership with Michael Paniagua, Recreation Officer of the Angeles National Forest, to identify needs within the U.S. Forest Service and then specifically at the beloved recreation area. Project preparation included the organizing of over 25 volunteers from Troop 355 and Forest Service volunteer crews, and securing donated lumber and supplies from Ganahl Lumber in Pasadena.

Each work day began with a safety meeting and the organizing of materials that were carried over one mile into the picnic area. Crews were given directions on the day's tasks and experienced each of the work areas including clearance of brush and fallen tree limbs covering the upper and lower picnic areas, building, repairing, and painting picnic tables, benches, and horse hitch posts, and installing a new information board. During the second work day, crews cleared debris and plant materials obscuring the trail leading to and from the picnic area and beyond, making the trail more accessible for hikers, runners, bikers, and equestrians. As soon as the paint dried on the newly painted benches and picnic tables, people began to return to the picnic area and stopped to thank the volunteer crews for their efforts. The impact of the project was met with enthusiasm and gratitude from the public and fostered new awareness and appreciation between the volunteers who work in the forest and those who love these spaces and want to protect them.

Boy Scouts in the San Gabriel Valley make some of their best memories along the trails of our local mountains, and Kachmarsky wanted to ensure that his Eagle Scout project donated his time and resources to ensure that others can enjoy the forest and all of the gifts it has to offer. As the volunteers gathered together one last time at the end of each day's work, Kachmarsky dedicated his Eagle Scout project with a thank you to all and a plaque added to the new Information board that reads, "Dedicated to the U.S. Forest Service and all who enter the woods." He is grateful to the support of Michael Paniagua and the U.S. Forest Service, the dedicated volunteers who gave tirelessly to the project, and Ganahl Lumber for its donation of materials and expertise.

See attached project photographs.



Day 1 crew assembled for the hike from Gould Mesa Campground to Paul Little Picnic Area.



Day 1 crew celebrating rehabilitation of the Paul Little Picnic Area.



Day 2 crew reaching Paul Little Picnic Area after clearing trail from Gould Mesa Campground.



Panoramic view of rehabilitated Paul Little Picnic Area.



Newly rehabilitated upper and lower Paul Little Picnic Area.