

Eagle Scout & Gold Award Project Opportunities

The Forge Charitable Adventures

There are numerous project opportunities at the Heritage Quarries Recreation Area. See below for a representative list. If you've got an idea for a project you don't see below, email us at howdy@theforge.gives to tell us about it!

Construction Projects

Build and Deploy Public Furniture

The property features more than 10 miles of walking, running, and biking trails (and we're always adding more). With all those trails, people need places to sit and relax, take in the sights, observe nature, and relax. Scouts can work with The Forge Charitable Adventures to choose locations to build and deploy benches and picnic tables.

Trail Signage Creation & Installation

Work with The Forge Charitable Adventures to design a master style for running/hiking and biking trail markers throughout the Heritage Quarries Recreation Area. This project would also include producing and installing a series of signs.

Clear and construct new mixed-use trails

Working with The Forge Charitable Adventures, candidates will be assigned a section of land to build, extend, or maintain one or more sections of mixed-use trail. Responsibilities would include but not be limited to surveying the land to minimize effects on wildlife, clearing shrubbery and other plants, hauling materials to site locations, and placing trail markers.

Restoration Projects

Invasive Species Removal

There are more than 200 acres of open land at the Heritage Quarries Recreation Area that are overrun by Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Tree of Heaven, and other invasive plant species. We aim to eliminate them and re-introduce native plants and grasses over the next decade. Depending on the location, scouts can adopt a one-half to one-acre plot to clear invasives and receive native plantings.

Wildflower / Native Plant Gardens

Scouts can research native wildflowers and plants and then plant them throughout the property. Certain species of Illinois wildflowers are endangered, and restoring these endangered plant species would help restore the region's natural ecology. In addition, these wildflower gardens would attract beneficial pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies, further helping the local ecosystem.

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Technology-Enabled Education Projects

Historical Walking Tour

The I&M Canal, Shipping Canal, Lemont Quarries, and downtown Lemont are rich in history. We would love to engage scouts in a project to create a series of historic walking tours that would introduce community members to that history. Stories would be hosted digitally on one of our websites (www.quarrytales.com) and triggered by scanning a QR code on signs installed along the trails.

Wildlife (Plant & Animal) Education Tour(s)

Similar to the walking tours, scouts could create a series of signs visitors could scan to be taken to a web page to learn about the plant and animal life in the quarries. The website pages would include photos, videos, sound recordings, and other information to educate visitors about the surrounding wildlife.

Looking for other ideas? Check out this list of project ideas here:

<https://eagleprojects.boyslife.org/>