

Eagle Scout & Gold Project Availability - 2024

The Forge Charitable Adventures

Construction Projects

Build & Install Planter Boxes

There are five public parking lots overseen by The Forge Charitable Adventures that would benefit greatly from the addition of style-appropriate planter boxes. Working with TFCA, determine design style and location for placement as well as the types of plants and wildflowers to be planted.

Build and Deploy Public Furniture

The property features more than eight 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 to be used throughout the Heritage Quarries Recreation Area. This project would also include the production and installation of a series of signs.

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. Our goal is 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 of land to clear invasives in preparation to 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 wildflower are endangered in Illinois (such as black snakeroot), and restoration of these endangered plant species would help to restore the natural ecology of the region. In addition, these wildflower gardens would attract beneficial pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies, further helping the local ecosystem.

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 told digitally (on our website 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 that would educate visitors about the wildlife surrounding them.