



**South Suburban**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Dec., 2, 2015

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**Teens Earn Eagle Scout Distinction while making Improvements  
within South Suburban Park and Recreation District**

It's a win, win scenario. South Suburban Park and Recreation District provides opportunities for scouts to perform projects and fulfill requirements to earn Scouting's highest distinction, the rank of Eagle Scout. In doing so, the District receives in-kind improvements like new landscaping, refurbished park benches, new bridges and more.

Ten scouts were publicly recognized for earning the rank of Eagle Scout at the Nov. 11 South Suburban board meeting.

**Dale Kim** is a member of Troop 628. He replanted nearly 50 shrubs and trees at South Platte Park. Replanting plants will help South Platte Park recover from a drought a few years ago, which killed most of the pre-existing plants. He attends Rock Canyon High School and is a resident of Highlands Ranch.

**Jonah Vest** is a member of Troop 628. He refurbished trail side benches along Big Dry Creek Trail. He and his crew accumulated over 200 hours of volunteer time. Jonah is a resident of Lone Tree.

**Joel Ashton** is a member of Troop 355. He refurbished trail side benches along the Mary Carter Greenway Trail and Lee Gulch Trail at Mary's Rest. He and his volunteers donated nearly 50 volunteer hours. Joel is a resident of Littleton.

**Bryce Okazaki** is a member of Troop 794. Bryce wanted to do something special with Cherry Knolls Park and baseball, because his mother grew up in the District and played baseball at Cherry Knolls Park when she was his age. Bryce replaced three wood bleachers with aluminum bleachers. He and his troop members accumulated 60 hours of volunteer time. Bryce is a resident of Lone Tree.

**Kyler Fredericks** is a member of Troop 556. He refurbished five wood picnic benches in deKoevend Park. Kyler and his group accumulated more than 160 volunteer hours. Kyler is a resident of Centennial.

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**Ammon Allen** is a member of Troop 675. He removed over 1,000 ft. of 3 ft. high chain link fence for the Holm/Carlson property, west of deKoevend Open Space. The fence removal allows wildlife to move freely from the upland open space through the big Dry Creek corridor. Twilight Camp scouts also provided some help. Ammon is a resident of Highlands Ranch.

**Luke Favret** is a member of Troop 361. Luke helped install "wave breaker" erosion control structures in a section of the shore of Cooley Lake in South Platte Park. A section of the shore was being eroded from wave action created by the North to South wind. The "wave breakers" are 12-16 inch diameter cottonwood logs between 10 and 14 feet long that are set at a shallow angle to the shore and anchored with t-posts. Luke attends Castle View High School.

**Graham Gates** is a member of Troop 361. He built a bridge in the Northern Wildlife Area Loop Trail. The old bridge was deteriorating and its size was inadequate for maintenance equipment. Graham designed and installed a larger, more secure and more durable bridge in the same location. He attends Heritage High School.

**AJ McDonald** is a member of Troop 444. He installed steps down the slope on Bufflehead Lake in South Platte Park. The steep south facing slope of Bufflehead Lake was crisscrossed by footpaths from people venturing to the water's edge. The paths were the main contributors to the erosion of the slope. AJ built and installed steps to allow easy access to the lake and to prevent continued erosion. He closed off the trails; then seeded and covered the damaged area with erosion control blanket. AJ attends Columbine High School.

**Andrew Cole** is a member of Troop 456. He replaced a pipe with a bridge at the north entrance to South Platte Park from the Wolhurst Community. The path into South Platte Park from the Wolhurst Community crosses a narrow drainage. The pipe installed is too small for the amount of water that flows and is frequently clogged. Andrew designed and built a bridge to span the drainage so the pipe could be removed and increase flow. He attends Arapahoe High School.

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