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Boys Scouts and Our Local Parks

City parks are often thought of as a great location for celebrating birthdays and family barbeques, but you might be surprised to know that the parks also play a big role with local Boy Scouts. The outdoors is a vital component to the Boy Scouts, and there is perhaps no better place to experience the great outdoors than at the park.

Jason Caldwell is a local Boy Scout who wanted to fulfill his Eagle Scout project at a park. He planned to create the Cliff Dochterman Award Recipients Memorial at Rotary Centennial Park, 2625 South College Drive. The memorial would include a plaque and a designated area in the park that honors "Service Through Scouting & Rotary." Dr. Dochterman was in attendance on July 31, 2014 to recognize the completion of Jason's Eagle Scout project and help dedicate the new area.

Another local Boy Scout, Matthew Hoskins, also completed his Eagle Scout project at a City park. He wanted to install predatory bird perches at Los Flores Ranch Park, 6245 Dominion Road. The perches can help keep the rodent population under control and balance the ecosystem, which will create a safer park experience for everyone. An overpopulation of squirrels and rabbits can result in holes along the trails resulting in injuries to park visitors and horses.

Matthew worked with Recreation and Parks Department Director, Alex Posada, to locate the best location for the perches. They needed to find an area that overlooked the large valley while providing a commanding view and updrafts that would help the birds hover in flight when looking for prey. On July 12 and 13, 2014, Matthew and 10 of his fellow Scouts installed three perches in the park.

Eagle Scout projects must be beneficial to the community or a nonprofit organization. The projects also go through an approval process before Scouts can start. Both James and Matthew truly embody what it takes to become an Eagle Scout and their contributions will be enjoyed by the entire community.

Questions may be directed to the Recreation and Parks Department, 925-0951 ext. 260.

Department:	Recreation and Parks Department
Contact Person:	Teresa Reyburn, Recreation Services Manager
Telephone Number:	(805) 925-0951 ext. 269
E-mail Address:	treyburn@cityofsantamaria.org