

Bridge-building project earns Eagle Scout award



ZOOM

Photo Provided

Dan Rasfeld and his dad, Skip, stand on a bridge Dan built.

Dan Rasfeld, 15, searched the rugged trail of Johnson Hills Park in Anderson Township to come up with an idea for his Eagle Scout project.

After viewing a terrain crisscrossed with horseback trails, steep and inaccessible drainages in an area that was even difficult to walk, Dan decided to build two bridges.

It was a project that even Bill McNeese, advancement chairman for Dan Beard Council's Columbia District, thought was impossible.

But after raising \$6,900 and gathering a volunteer force of 37 helpers, the two bridges have been built, 20 months after Dan started planning the project.

"I had a lot of help from volunteers, people from the (Anderson) park district and from people who donated cash and materials," Dan said. He completed the project last fall.

Dan decided to look into doing something for the park after the district recently bought the property. He met with Molly McClure, executive director of the district, to discuss developmental needs for the park.

"When we first talked, we talked about building one bridge, but then I realized one bridge would not help the problem," Dan said.

The bridges were built over creek beds that were difficult for horses to cross.

The project earned Dan the Eagle Scout rank. He will have his court of honor in April at Camp Friedlander.

Dan is a freshman at McNicholas High School. He is a senior patrol leader for Troop 867, sponsored by All Saints Lutheran Church in Mount Carmel. He has earned 45 merit badges.

He is the son of Francis "Skip" and Jeanne Rasfeld of Mount Washington.