



MIAMI TOWNSHIP

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 11, 2017

Contact: Jill Drury, Communication Coordinator

(937) 433-9969

jdrury@miamitownship.com

NEWS RELEASE

Eagle Scout candidate completes Miami Township park project

Omietanski Park shelter gets a new coat of paint

As the saying goes, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” Those words certainly ring true for Jack Nicholaisen. The Oakwood High School senior has long been in pursuit of a final community project to help him earn Eagle Scout status. After months of overcoming obstacles, he finally found success.

Nicholaisen was originally set to paint the service building at a local cemetery. He acquired the necessary supplies, found a painting crew, and was ready to get started, but a last-minute safety issue arose and brought the project to a screeching halt. What might sound like defeat to some, only made Nicholaisen more determined to reach his goal. He had to think on his feet and quickly make a new plan. He worked with Miami Township Trustee Eric Flasher and township Park Supervisor Rex Gore, to ultimately decide to paint the picnic shelter at Omietanski Park on Nettleton Dr. in the Villages of Miami subdivision.

“I started working with them two months ago to find a new project,” Nicholaisen said. “I had to get my new proposal approved by the Boy Scout Council before I could begin. Once that happened, I had to put my proposal to work.”

-more-

All the decisions on work day were his to make. He supervised a crew of family and friends on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in September. He agreed early on that his step-father needed to head home to retrieve more ladders and paint brushes, he helped his buddies battle pesky spiders, and he decided how many pizzas it would take to satisfy his hungry crew. They didn't mind a bit.

"He's the boss man," his buddy, Reid, said. "I missed golf practice to be here to help him. That's what he would do for me, so I'm happy to be there for him."

There is no doubt that Nicholaisen is driven. Not only is he working toward Eagle Scout status, but he is a member of the Oakwood High School Marching Band, president of the French Club, a competitive rower, and works part-time.

"He's a very busy kid. For him to adapt to all the challenges he's had for his final project is quite a feat," Craig Nicholaisen, Jack's father, said. "Jack didn't freeze when the first project went bust. He adapted and immediately started looking for another project that would include the materials he already had."

Nicholaisen's work is not finished just yet. He must now complete a final report and submit it to the Scout Advisory Council, who will decide if he can take the Eagle Scout pledge. He should know the council's decision by the end of September. Whatever the outcome, he is a proud Boy Scout of Troop 236.

"The Boy Scouts have given me the opportunity to do a lot of different things and helped me gain the confidence to do them."

###