

First and last name: Vincenzo Ledonne

Year in school: Senior

Troop number: 199

Year you joined Boy Scouts: Cub Scouts 2006

When you made Eagle Scout: November 2018

What was your Eagle Scout project?

The renovation of the Yorktown Senior Center library that had sustained major water damage.

What was involved in completing the project?

After the roof was repaired (by professionals), my Eagle Project was responsible for breaking down and removing the water-damaged bookshelves and furniture. We then sorted through all the books and materials to see what could be salvaged. The entire space was cleaned, and we made sure there was no more water leakage. I acquired new bookshelves (through fundraising) and built them. The materials were then placed back in the library and organized in an accessible and inviting way for the seniors.

How long did it take you to complete the project?

More than 100 man hours.

What made you want to join Boy Scouts?

My grandfather and uncles on my mom's side were all scouts as Eagles and Order of the Arrow, so it inspired me to follow in their footsteps. I also heard about the high adventure camps from them, so I wanted to attend Sea Base camp for scuba diving from the time I was a Cub Scout.

Do you plan to continue with Boy Scouts? If so, in what capacity?

Yes. I am currently the Assistant Junior Scoutmaster for the troop, and I plan to remain active until college. I expect that as an adult, I will volunteer with the Scouts as a leader in some way.

What are your future plans? If college is your plan, what do you plan to major in?

I hope to attend the United States Naval Academy and have a military career.

First and last name: Frankie J O'Byrne III

Year in school: Senior at Willowbrook

Troop number: Troop 199

Year you joined Boy Scouts: September 2009

When you made Eagle Scout: I made Eagle in 2018. I have nine Eagle Scout palms, representing triple silver after earning 66 merit badges. I am currently the highest-ranking scout in Illinois with nine Eagle Scout palms.

What was your Eagle Scout project?

I collected 3,000 canned goods and nonperishable food items for the Community Congregational Church in Villa Park. The church works with the Christian Church of Villa Park's Disciples Food Pantry, helping the needy and less fortunate.

What was involved in completing the project?

I met with scouts from Troop 199 and Troop 979 to recruit volunteers to pass out flyers up and down the city blocks (covering about eight miles of city blocks), asking for food donations. After recruiting volunteers, the scouts passed out flyers one weekend and collected food the following weekend. I also recruited parents to drive vehicles to pick up food from the scouts who were walking house to house picking up food.

How long did it take you to complete the project?

It took five days to complete the project. I spent two days passing out flyers and collecting food in Villa Park, two days passing out flyers and collecting food in Chicago and one day dropping off food at the Disciples Food Pantry.

What made you want to join Boy Scouts?

My father and his two brothers (my uncles) are Eagle Scouts, and my two first cousins also are Eagle Scouts. I started camping at age 5 with my father, uncle and two cousins. I wanted to learn all the skills my father, uncle and cousins learned in scouting such as cooking, fishing, rifle and shotgun, oceanography, waterskiing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, scuba diving, hiking, climbing, pioneering, winter skiing, wilderness survival, CPR, golfing and more.

Do you plan to continue with Boy Scouts? If so, in what capacity?

Yes, I plan to stay active with Boy Scouts as an assistant scoutmaster and Explorer Scout. I plan on helping other scouts earn the rank of Eagle, including my younger brother, who is a Life Scout and working on the rank of Eagle Scout.

What are your future plans? If college is your plan, what do you plan to major in?

I will be applying to a number of colleges and hope to be accepted at University of Notre Dame. I plan on majoring in business/finance.

First and last name: Michael Danielson

Year in school: I graduated from Willowbrook in 2019

Troop number: Troop 199

Year you joined Boy Scouts: I joined Cub Scouts (Pack 33) in 2007.

When you made Eagle Scout: 2019

What was your Eagle Scout project?

Planting along the sidewalk on the south side of St. Alexander Catholic Church in Villa Park.

What was involved in completing the project?

The project involved a lot of planning to allow it to move efficiently. One of the biggest planning items had to do with the types of plants and how they would be arranged along the path. A large amount of thought went into the environment the plants would have to survive in (amount of shade, perennial plants, etc.). It also was important that many of the plants would be visible from a distance (such as from the Prairie Path). Therefore, I had to make sure to choose an array of different plant sizes and make sure the plants were arranged according to size such that the eye could travel up the path when looking toward the church from a distance. I also had to gather materials to start the process. Luckily, the St. Alexander Parish was generous enough to allow me to use sand from the school's old sandpits, as well as mulch from a pile near the troop's trailer. I had to buy the rest of the materials: plants, black dirt and weed filters. After much planning, I was ready to begin the project, so I made certain people knew about it and would come to help. The volunteers began collecting the sand and mulch from their respective locations and bringing them over to the work area using wheelbarrows. While this was happening, we dug small trenches on both sides of the sidewalk and used a rototiller to loosen the soil. After the rototilling was complete, we were able to dig the trenches to a depth of about 10 inches. I then cut the weed filter and laid it inside of the trenches; this precaution was necessary to ensure weeds would show up minimally along the path of plants. Afterward, a mixture of black dirt and sand was poured into the trenches. The plants went on top of this layer, and then the mixture was poured around the plants. Lastly, a layer of mulch was added. After the plants were secured within a compacted foundation of black dirt, sand and mulch, the last step was to water the plants.

How long did it take you to complete the project?

The project consisted of about five hours of work on the first day and about two hours of work on the second day. Including many hours of planning, my role in the project ended up taking about 25 hours.

What made you want to join Boy Scouts?

I saw Boy Scouts as a valuable opportunity to grow as a leader and as a member of society and to form a community of friends to bond with while I grew in such personal aspects. Boy Scouts also presented the opportunity to broaden my interests through merit badges and explore new and exciting things through outings, summer camps and troop activities. Overall, Boy Scouts had

particularly interested me because my older brothers had been a part of it, and that made me excited to join.

Do you plan to continue with Boy Scouts? If so, in what capacity?

I definitely want to continue with my participation in the scouting legacy. After college, I hope to find a troop (likely somewhere near where I would be working) in which I could participate as a guide for the current scouts. I also have considered merit badge counseling, as I think it would be a great way to give back to the scouting community. I hope to maintain some ties with Troop 199, perhaps by participating in some events and serving as a mentor for those who also strive to earn the rank of Eagle.

What are your future plans? If college is your plan, what do you plan to major in?

I attend University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where I am studying Chemical Engineering.

First and last name: Nicholas Danielson

Year in school: Graduated from Willowbrook in 2018

Troop number: 199

Year you joined Boy Scouts: 2010 BSA; 2006 Cub Scouts

When you made Eagle Scout: 2018

What was your Eagle Scout project?

My Eagle Scout project was building two benches in front of the Mary statue at St. Alexander Catholic Church in Villa Park. The purpose was to allow people to be able to sit and pray in front of the Mary statue or to just sit and be in her grace. I also replaced the wood on the picnic table for people in the parish to use.

What was involved in completing the project?

A lot of work and preparation. I was lucky to have the help of many fellow scouts and parents throughout my project, and they helped move material, build and finish the area.

How long did it take you to complete the project?

It took a total of two months. Not the actual project, but the planning and gathering of signatures took a little while, and then it took about three eight-to-12-hour days to dig the area, build the benches and fill in where we had dug.

What made you want to join Boy Scouts?

At first I was kind of skeptical, but I saw how much fun some of my friends had with each other during meetings and outings, and I wanted to feel the same way. I was lucky to have my older brother help me for the first year to get accustomed, because I was the only one my age in the troop.

Do you plan to continue with Boy Scouts? If so, in what capacity?

I plan to assist with the same troop whenever I am home and to have my kids one day go through the Boy Scout path to give them an opportunity to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

What are your future plans? If college is your plan, what do you plan to major in?

I'm a sophomore at University of Central Florida. I'm majoring in Civil Engineering and hope to be a structural engineer when I finish.

First and last name: Riley Cullerton

Year in school: Graduated from Willowbrook in 2019

Troop number: 199

Year you joined Boy Scouts: I joined when I was going into first grade (2007).

When you made Eagle Scout: 2018

What was your Eagle Scout project?

My Eagle Scout project was installing a flagpole and veterans memorial garden in Willowbrook High School's courtyard.

What was involved in completing the project?

There was a very large planning and fundraising stage and a smaller installation phase. I had to work with the school, my generous donors and my troop, as well as Boy Scouts of America, because of the estimated cost of the project. I had to secure a fundraising permit, overcome obstacles such as insufficient amount of concrete for the size of the hole that was dug for the pole and delegate tasks to my many volunteers. Principal Dr. Daniel Krause and the janitorial and grounds staff of Willowbrook were very supportive and encouraging. The project was a lot more complex than it looks.

How long did it take you to complete the project?

It took me almost six months of fundraising and planning and then about a week to install and buy supplies.

What made you want to join Boy Scouts?

I wanted to join to learn skills to set me up for life. As a first-grader, Cub Scouts looked like it would be a lot of fun, and it was. We took many trips, and I learned a lot through the years. When it came time to bridge to Boy Scouts, I chose to stick with it and earn my Eagle rank, because I knew it would give me a leg up with scholarships and job searches. The skills I learned through the scouting program are invaluable.

Do you plan to continue with Boy Scouts? If so, in what capacity?

I plan to come back later on and hope to be an assistant leader.

What are your future plans? If college is your plan, what do you plan to major in?

I'm in college and am majoring in Business Information Systems.

First and last name: Mohammed Salman

Year in school: Graduated from Willowbrook in 2018

Troop number: 199

Year you joined Boy Scouts: 2012

When you made Eagle Scout: 2018

What was your Eagle Scout project?

A food drive, with an emphasis on going out to food pantries and asking the pantries and their patrons what the most desired items are.

What was involved in completing the project?

Scheduling times to meet with food pantries and finding a food pantry that was nearby to the church. The biggest planning step for me was going out and talking to the people who ran the food pantry, so I could coordinate my design for the flyer. Also planning out a flyer to create a system in which scouts were able to come and pick up food at given times across a given area to then stockpile for transportation to the food pantry.

How long did it take you to complete the project?

It took me about three months altogether, most of which was the portion in which I spent time at the food pantries and figured out how I could best get them what they needed the most.

What made you want to join Boy Scouts?

It was actually one of my friends at first. He was a fellow student who was already in scouts, and he thought I would like it. My first troop was a great group of kids, however, I was unable to make the opportunities I wanted to be able to make for myself a reality. Two troops later, I found Troop 199, which was an amazing fit for me. I would vouch they are an amazing fit for anyone really, because this troop values people's differences in a way I have seen no other troop do before. They respected the fact that, because I am a practicing Muslim, I make special accommodations for my meals. Their eagerness to learn about my way of life, and their willingness to help me adapt in the scouting world, is entirely the reason I was able to be successful with this troop. So ultimately the reason I kept up with Boy Scouts is simply because the 12-point scout law was a system that held you accountable on all ends, and the experience was one unparalleled by any other organization I have been a part of in my life.

Do you plan to continue with Boy Scouts? If so, in what capacity?

I plan to always be a mentor with the scouts. I am in college right now, and because of a busy schedule, I find myself unable to actively participate in camping with the troop. However, it is quite often that I receive e-mails from scouts in my previous troop asking for advice and help in their advancement and planning as scouts. I hope someday I find the time to become an adult leader for a troop and increase my commitment, so I can help shape the paths that the brightest and most successful scouts will one day tread.

What are your future plans? If college is your plan, what do you plan to major in?

I actively am planning on majoring in Computer Science, as well as Music Education or Performance and Pedagogy. My perspective on this question is one of scope. Scope is what my family and I refer to as a field's potential for growth and success. I personally believe the field of Computer Science has limitless potential for growth and application in every single field. Music is a passion of mine, and I study music not to reap the benefits of money or fame, but rather to simply educate myself and expand my horizons. I perform with multiple groups right now, and I also write music for several others. It is best to cast a wide net over the job market, so you can present yourself with as many opportunities as you can.

First and last name: Thomas Danielson

Year in school: Graduated from Willowbrook in 2019

Troop number: Troop 199

Year you joined Boy Scouts: 2007 (Cub Scout)

When you made Eagle Scout: July 2019

What was your Eagle Scout project?

I built a path to the Statue of Mary in front of St. Alexander Catholic Church in Villa Park. I built this path so people could walk up to Mary and pray next to her, getting closer to her in both a physical and spiritual way.

What was involved in completing the project?

First came the planning and the gathering of materials, which was a process that took multiple trips to Menards to gather everything as the project went along. Then came the actual project itself, which involved gathering many scouts, parents and other volunteers to help on a specific day and lead them by implementing my plan for the project. We had to measure the area needed to build the path and dig it out, filling it with gravel and sand afterward. Making sure this was level as we went along was tough. After that, we laid down the paver bricks and swept leftover sand into the cracks between to make sure the path was compact. This project even required a few trips back to the path from myself and my dad to make sure it stayed compact and put more sand in where necessary.

How long did it take you to complete the project?

About two weeks from the planning phase to the completed product. Although it was a fairly short project, there was a lot packed into those two weeks.

What made you want to join Boy Scouts?

I wanted to learn essential skills that would help me later in life such as leadership skills and survival skills, and Boy Scouts was just the place to do that. Being able to do that in a group, surrounded by friends and like-minded individuals aiming toward the same goal as myself, made the experience even better.

Do you plan to continue with Boy Scouts? If so, in what capacity?

Although I have aged out at this point, I plan to visit the troop from time to time and help them out when I can, whether that be for something as big as someone's Eagle Project, or something as miniscule as a patrol cookoff.

What are your future plans? If college is your plan, what do you plan to major in?

I am pursuing a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.