



Eagle Scout Candidate

IN DOWNTOWN GROSSE
POINTE, JACK SACHS
SERVES HIS COMMUNITY
AND CONTRIBUTES TO
THE LEGACY OF
SCOUTING

Photos and Story by Phil Eich,
Storyville Social, as part of the
Michigan Main Street Story
Series

I've been a part of Scouting since kindergarten, and the magnum opus of your Boy Scout career would be the Eagle Scout project. The two requirements of the project are that it benefits your community and that you can provide leadership and guidance to other Scouts.

I had been looking for a project for years when the Mayor of Grosse Pointe Woods, where I used to live, reached out to me and connected me to Mrs. Wilcock, who leads the Main Street Grosse Pointe program. She told me that she thought there was an opportunity to find a project through the Main Street program, and I started going to the City Council meetings and walking around the village to get ideas.

Together, we came up with the

idea of some chess tables. I was excited! For one, I love chess. But two, I have spent many, many hours in this village and this place specifically throughout my life in my middle school and high school years. It's a wonderful place for the community, and I was very, very pleased to know that I was going to be a part of making the space that I love so much in my city better.

We bought tables to put the boards on and chairs to sit in—the easy part! Then we took used plywood and put tile on the inside. We had the checkerboards made of black and white marble and the trim out of ceramic gray tile.

We stained the outsides a really rich and nice mahogany. The stain was donated, which was wonderful. Then we added

the plaques here that say my name and Eagle Scout Troop 96. Then we added epoxy on top to get this clear, nice layer and weatherproof it. The chess pieces are stored under the boards in these little compartments underneath when they aren't being used.

Right now, between myself and the other Scouts who helped, we're at 330 cumulative working hours, which was more than what we planned. But at the end of the day, the project was 100% worth it. It makes me happy when I think of somebody playing on these chess tables and having chess lessons taught here.

Generally, the consensus about downtown rehabilitation, renovation or any sort of community change, is that it can be very daunting to converse with a lot of different people, especially for people my age. But in my opinion, that was the easiest part of the whole project, because of how open and welcoming the group of people at the city were to me. It was also the most fun because of all of the new connections I've made. I would recommend it to anybody my age or younger, to look at doing some sort of renovation or community change for the better.

It really is more than just obtaining my Eagle Scout rank. I look at these chess boards, now with 330 hours of work we put in, as a huge accomplishment. They turned out incredible and I'm very proud. I put every bit of my effort into this project and now, I get to come back to my hometown for the rest of my life and see these tables, because we made sure they'd stand the test of time.

- Jake Sachs, Eagle Scout Candidate



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