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## Community News

## A Peek Inside: A good Scout with a good idea

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## Zach Myones is a Boy Scout in Troop 1852 and he is working on his Eagle Scout project. He's also out to do his part to save the environment.

To get the Eagle, Scouting's highest rank, a Scout must undertake a project that will be beneficial to the community. Zach's project is to help save the environment by collecting used cell phones and other electronic devices.

In addition to cell and analog phones, Zach is gathering up PDAs, MP3 players, iPods, ink cartridges, laser jet cartridges, toner cartridges, and the like. Cell phones and similar devices contain toxic substances such as lead, arsenic, mercury and cadmium, Zach points out.

"If disposed of improperly, these pollutants will leach out into, and pollute, the groundwater," he said. "In fact, one cell phone can pollute 158,000 gallons of water, which is equivalent to over six average-sized swimming pools." Ink cartridges take 450 years to decompose, Zach added. Any items he collects will be turned over to Project RE-cell and Re-cartridge Recycle. The items will then either be repaired and re-sold, or they will be recycled in such a way that they will not release the pollutants.

That alone sounds like a laudable undertaking, but Zach's work will not stop there. Any money he raises from recycling the items he collects will then be used to brighten the day for hospitalized children. He plans to use the money to buy gifts and needed items for patients at Texas Children's Hospital.

Zach will be going door-to-door collecting phones and other devices in Quail Valley on the morning of Saturday, April 7. He will be in Plantation Bend on May 5.

If you don't happen to live in any of those areas, Zach will also be at the Missouri City Kroger store, FM 1092 and Highway 6, on March 31 and again on April 21 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you have an old cell phone, phone accessories, and electronic devices or used ink cartridges, why not help a good Scout out? Help Zach earn his Eagle and do your part to clean up the environment at the same time.

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