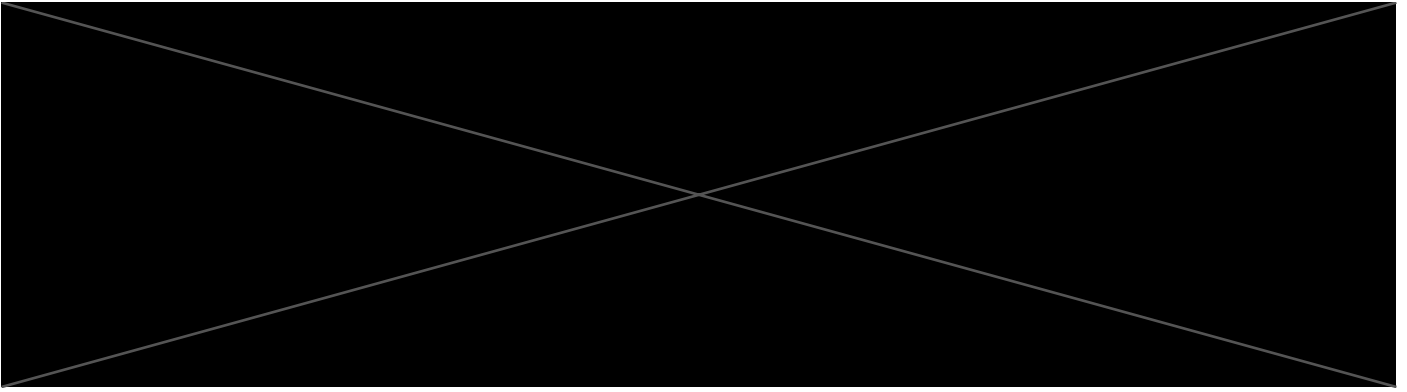




Headline: Eagle Scout Candidate Creates Lasting Addition to UPMC Memorial Trail

Blurb: High school senior Christopher Pautz used his Eagle Scout project to make an impact for patients and employees by building and installing benches for the UPMC Memorial trail.

Body:

What started as a simple idea for an Eagle Scout project has now become a lasting addition to the UPMC Memorial trail. Christopher Pautz, a local high school senior, has been in Scouts for six years, joining the club when he was in middle school. Thanks to Chris, staff, patients, and members of the community have a place to rest and reflect along the wellness trail.

After years of dedication to scouts, Chris is following in his father's footsteps by working to become an Eagle Scout. "My dad is an Eagle Scout, so being able to continue the family legacy means a lot to me," Chris said.

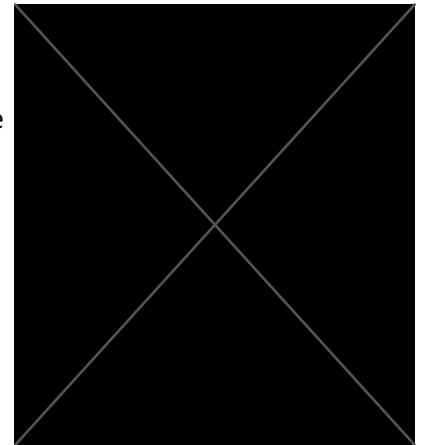
Becoming an Eagle Scout is the highest honor in scouts and requires years of dedication and hard work. As part of the process of becoming an Eagle Scout, all scouts, like Chris, are required to complete an Eagle Project. This project must be done in a public space, can't be for profit, and needs to benefit the community in some way.

With an interest in history, Chris's first idea was to try and help restore historical steel furnaces in Pennsylvania, but quickly found out that work had already been completed. When he began asking around and brainstorming for other ideas, a friend suggested doing something outdoors, like benches, while his band teacher mentioned that she often walks the UPMC Memorial trail and thought there may be something he could do there.

-Chris combined the two ideas and decided he was going to build and install two benches along the UPMC Memorial trail. Because of his mom, **Kim Pautz, BSN**, senior professional staff nurse, UPMC Memorial, he connected with all the right people for this project.

With idea in hand, Chris began putting his project into action constructing 3D models; to finalize the design and creating a materials list, Chris got his project approved by scouting leadership and began the building process. After constructing the benches, Chris ran into a brief snag, finding that when he was digging the holes for the benches, they hit a layer of clay. He had to pivot to make sure the benches could be properly installed.

"There were definitely ups and downs, but in the end everything came together," said Chris.



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The project was completed in May and Chris is now waiting for approval by the scouting board of review to officially earn the Eagle Scout title. After graduating high school this month, Chris plans to join the Air National Guard.

Reflecting on the project, Chris said “The most rewarding part is being able to step back and say, ‘I built this.’ It’s incredible to know that these benches, something that I made, will be there for years. It feels good knowing I contributed something to the community.”

Be sure to stop by and check out Chris’s benches on the UPMC Memorial trail.

