



Boy Scout Troop 353 – Eastchester, NY

Westchester Putnam Council
<http://troop353.wordpress.com>
www.wpcbsa.org



Conor McNamara (2009) – For my Eagle Scout project I worked with the American Red Cross in Westchester County to help them further their mission of preparing Westchester County for emergencies. Working with Andrea Grimaldi, Director of Volunteer Management and Human Resources, and her team of dedicated staff I helped develop an Emergency Preparedness pilot program based on the Red Cross’s “Be Red Cross Ready” training module. Using varied resources from both the Red Cross and other relief agencies I put together a training program that was focused on helping families in Westchester County better prepare themselves and their home for any disaster that could possibly strike. After we completed creating the program we then put it to use in the Village of Tuckahoe. On Saturday March 28th, 2009 the first ever *Preparing Tuckahoe Day* took place at the W.E. Cottle Elementary School. With the help of the American Red Cross in Westchester County, Troop 353 Eastchester, The Eastchester Fire Department, The Village of Tuckahoe, The Town of Eastchester, The Tuckahoe Union Free School District, The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester, and Tuckahoe, and The Hudson Valley Bank, over fifty families came out to participate in different stations that taught them how to make a home emergency kit, an emergency escape plan, what to do in case of a home fire, and how to avoid identity theft and scams.

The final results of my project were much more than I had originally hoped for. Working with the different organizations not only enhanced my program but also created ties that the Red Cross will be able to use in the future to help them execute their mission more successfully. I also helped provide the Red Cross with a complete program that they will be able to use throughout Westchester. Finally, my project equipped all participants with the skills that they may use to become future survivors instead of potential victims.