



Boy Scout Troop 353 – Eastchester, NY

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



Evan William (2001) As a child living in the suburbs I explored the local Nature Study Woods in New Rochelle on foot and bicycle. I “discovered” a route on the trails that led from the intersection of New Rochelle Road and the Hutchinson River Parkway near my home to the intersection of California Road and Highland Avenue in Eastchester. However none of the trails were marked. I decided that for my Eagle project I would mark & clear the trails of fallen trees and debris, blaze the trail using standard symbols, and create a map representing the route. My hope was that joggers, dog walkers, birdwatchers, and other visitors would use the trails more if there was a defined route.

The project required me to meet with a Westchester County representative to approve the work. I coordinated to have a local paint shop donate light blue paint and brushes, and the troop supplied saws and axes. Scouts from the troop helped me create blaze templates to ensure standard markings. Using topographical maps, landmarks, and my knowledge of the site I created an 8 X 14 scale map of the route. I purchased and installed a map box on an electric pole at the California Road trailhead.

To implement the project I had volunteer scouts and their families meet at Twin Lakes Stables. I helped with some of the work, but my primary role that day was to lead and make sure everything went smoothly. The blazes needed to be at the correct intervals, we needed to follow the correct route, and safety had to be of the utmost importance. Everything went smoothly and in one day my hard work and planning came to fruition. Today the light blue blaze is still visible and the trail can be followed. Perhaps at some point another scout or the troop can maintain what I worked so hard to create.