



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville OH 44141

www.nps.gov/cuva
www.dayinthevalley.com

Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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Mary Pat Doorley, (440) 546-5995, (440) 343-7355 (cell), or mary_pat_doorley@nps.gov

Eagle Scout Restores Patio of Historic Cuyahoga Valley Property

Brecksville, Ohio – Eagle Scout Candidate Austin Lopez, from Troop 190 in Seven Hills, recently completed his Eagle Scout project at Grazeland farm in Hudson. Established as a Countryside Initiative (CI) farm in 2002, Grazeland is located at 458 W. Hines Hill Road, in the east-central area of Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). Countryside Initiative is the park's rural landscape management program.

The project consisted of rebuilding the back patio on east side of the historic Schmidt-Foster home, located at Grazeland. The original patio was collapsing and uneven, with timbers rotting in place. The new patio is a two-tier, red brick structure with a landing in front of the back door to the house. The bricks are retained by treated 6x6 timbers. With the help of volunteers and CVNP staff, Lopez was able to complete the project in two weekends with park staff providing tools and materials, as well as planning support.

Darlene Kelbach, Historical Landscape Architect and Farming Coordinator for CVNP, commented, “Lopez’s work is helping to maintain the structural integrity, the aesthetic character, and everyday functionality of the property. This, in turn, benefits the overall CI program and its goal of restoring the living, working agricultural landscape that is the heritage of the valley.”

Other Boy Scouts contemplating an Eagle Scout Project at CVNP may contact Bridget Ambrisco at bambrisco@cvnpsa.org or call (330) 657-2909, ext. 103.

Media, please visit www.nps.gov/cuva/parknews/newsreleases.htm for before and after photos of Lopez’s project.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information about the park, visit www.nps.gov/cuva/ or www.dayinthevalley.com/ or call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667.

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