

THE RECORDER

Published on the *The Recorder* (<http://www.recorder.com>)

Greenfield youth makes Eagle Scout cleaning up Energy Park

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Friday, September 12, 2014

(Published in print: Saturday, September 13, 2014)

GREENFIELD — Eighteen-year-old Daniel Burgos will reach another milestone in his life on Sunday — one he's been working toward for 11 years.

Burgos, who actually became an Eagle Scout on July 7, will be officially recognized by his peers, family and friends at Camp Apex on the Mohawk Trail on Sunday.

All Eagle Scouts have to complete a project that they facilitate, lead and present a report on.

Burgos chose to clean up the Greenfield Energy Park at the end of Miles Street.

The young man who graduated from Greenfield High School in the spring and plans to go into the U.S. Air Force, started in Cub Scouts years ago as a Tiger Cub and worked his way through the ranks. He said that according to Boy Scouts of America rules, he had to make Eagle Scout before he was 18.

"I made it just two days before my birthday," said Burgos.

Born in Northampton and raised in Greenfield, Burgos grew up liking structure in his life.

"That's why I chose Boy Scouts and that's why I'm choosing the Air Force," he said.

Burgos met with an Air Force recruiter recently and said he needs to sign up for the test that's required before he can join.

"I'll be doing that soon," he said. "Then I'll have to pass a physical and medical test and then wait for an assignment to head to basic training."

Burgos said he joined Boy Scouts because he likes to be pushed and challenged.

"I've had a lot of fun earning my badges," he said. "I know a little about music, finance, fitness, pet care, cooking and so much more."

Burgos said that though he took a short time off from Boy Scouts shortly after he entered his teens, he soon returned because he missed it so much.

“I was getting a lot of peer pressure to quit, so I did,” he said. “Luckily, my mother kind of pushed me back into it and I didn’t fight her.”

He said everything he has learned in Scouting will come in handy during his training and tenure in the Air Force.

“I’m thinking about making it my career,” he said. “I’ll have to stay in at least four years.”

He said he’s not concerned about joining at such a tumultuous time in the country’s history.

In the Energy Park, Burgos took charge and organized a cleanup by working with one of the town’s community leaders, Nancy Hazard, and a group of others who do the cleanup and maintenance in the town park each year.

Burgos organized a group of about 20 who worked for three hours on April 13 picking up trash, pulling weeds, pruning bushes and raking.

He said he had originally looked into planting trees around the perimeter of Hillside Park, which is near where he lives on Grove Street, but was told that wouldn’t be possible because the town wants to keep the interior of the park easily visible to police because there have been drug and vandalism problems there over the past few years.

“So, I picked the Energy Park,” he said.

Burgos said he spent 23 hours on the entire project from beginning to end.

He said his volunteers did a great job cutting back overgrown brush, weeding gardens and filling six large garbage bags with trash from in and around the park.

He said one of the things he enjoyed most along the way was learning about the history of Greenfield.

“For one of my badges, I had to learn about the history of my town,” he said. “I know a lot more about Greenfield than when I started. It’s pretty interesting.”

Burgos said he has always liked to try new things.

“Scouting has really helped me along my journey in life so far,” he said. “I hope that continues.”

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