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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Eagle Scout Project Benefits Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden

Evansville, IN – Austin Flittner, a seventeen year old member of Boy Scout Troop and Venture Crew 399 out of Sacred Heart, has completed a service project for Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden as part of his quest to become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. To achieve this award, he had to plan and complete a service project for a nonprofit organization in his community. The purpose of this service project was to showcase his abilities as a leader and also benefit the chosen organization. This Mater Dei High School senior constructed and painted five photo backdrops for the Zoo. One backdrop will be permanently displayed in the Zoo's Discovery Center and depicts three Francois's langur monkeys, complete with holes for visitors to stick their heads through for a Zoo themed snapshot. The other backdrops include three Halloween designs and one wintertime scene. According to Flittner, "I choose Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden because I love all that the Zoo does for our community. I am a member of the Zoo, go there multiple times a year, and enjoy seeing the joy that it brings to the community. I decided to give back through my Eagle Scout project." Through much planning, dedication, and hours of labor, Flittner completed the project portion of his Eagle Scout requirements. In July, he officially became an Eagle Scout. Flittner hopes that his Eagle Scout project will be a great benefit to Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden for years to come.

Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden is open 365 days a year from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (entry gate closes at 4 p.m.). Adult admission is \$8.50 and children ages 3-12 are \$7.50. Children 2 and under are free. In recognition of their support, Vanderburgh County residents receive \$1 discount. Group discounts and yearly memberships are also available. Please visit www.meskerparkzoo.com for more information.



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