

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT HONORS BATTERY WHITE

Eagle Scout candidate **Bryce Laliberte**, and his Boy Scouts of America Troop #475 from Florence, successfully completed his required project for the award of Eagle Scout by installing decorative Civil War period split rail fencing on the Winyah Bay side of the Battery White National Registered landmark.

After four months of planning (and over 30 emails!), the project was completed on Saturday, June 18, 2016. A victory cookout of grilled burgers and hot dogs sponsored by the **Battery White Historical Association** (BWHHA) was then held at the Yacht Club to say THANK YOU to this group of hardworking



young men and their leaders. Everyone celebrated a JOB WELL DONE and enjoyed the sense of teamwork, understanding of what it takes to become an Eagle Scout, and the Scouts' contributions to honoring the history represented by Battery White. The Project: To obtain approval of his Eagle Scout project, Bryce was required to create the project proposal and timeline, research and inventory the resources required, raise funds and gather the needed materials, and manage the labor and operations during the project. Bryce received guidance for this project from **Randy Beaver**, Chair of BWHHA, followed by approval from Belle Isle Yacht Club's Board of Governors.



The Scouts were mindful to minimize any disruptions their work may cause to the homeowners and to keep in



mind the historical relevance of the site. In addition to installing the fencing, Scoutmaster **Harold Docherty** and 7

scouts from Troop #475 were required to screen the dirt dug for the post holes for any relics or artifacts that might be uncovered. Interestingly, the boys found three pottery shards and a clay pipe stem on the back side of the Battery, where they had installed a few sections of fence “for practice” before working on the larger sections in front. The artifacts will be placed in the Yacht Club Museum, along with a plaque to thank the scouts and project donors (**Joseph Manigault Society; Sons of Confederate Veterans; and Belle Isle residents**).

The Work: The goal of the project was to improve the visual impact of the Battery and to highlight the Daughters of the Confederacy monument area. The project specifications



were written by BWhA and included “rules of engagement,” which served as a job contract given to each scout. The plan was then approved by the Boy Scout Council. Bryce’s



father, **Todd Laliberte**, played a major support and instructional role with setting up the site survey and coordinating some of the materials. One section of fencing (3 posts and 6 rails) at the rear of the Battery went up Memorial Day weekend, giving the boys a “test run” to iron out any potential problems. A strainer was built to sift through the dirt and soil. The scouts learned to solve a few challenges arising during the project. One issue was locating enough split rail fencing to complete the project (the front 10 section required 10 posts and 20 rails; the rear section required 3 posts and 6 rails). Fortunately **Lowes in Florence** came through with the materials and even added in some donations and delivering to Belle Isle which is way outside their usual delivery route. Another interesting dilemma arose because of the unevenness of the ground. Bryce had to decide whether he should install the posts to follow the natural topography or to bury some posts deeper than others, thereby lining up all posts at the same height horizontally. After all fencing was in place, the boys cleared all areas of any remnants of construction debris and then enjoyed a well-deserved respite on the deck of the Yacht Club while the burgers cooked.

This wonderful Eagle Scout project is part of a larger vision which hopefully someday will



include information signage (like we see at historic parks) located between the fencing and behind the memorial, along with additional sections of fencing placed near other Battery White mounds. Tax deductible donations (payable to Battery White Historical Association, PO Box 1279, Georgetown, SC 29442) are always welcomed

(beavrl@hotmail.com)!

THANK YOU BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA TROOP #475!

Scoutmaster, Dr.
Harold Docherty

Scouts
Bryce Laliberte
Justin Mathews
Palmer Dockerty
Jackson Taylor
Richie Kaiser
Jonathan Kaiser
William Anderson
Mathew Howard

Todd Laliberte

