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## Oakdale Patch Whiz Kid: Tyler Frickson

A local teenager mapped out Oakdale Nature Preserve trails for his Eagle Scout project.

By [Cindy Schneider](#) | [Email the author](#) | June 21, 2011

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[Email](#)[Print](#)[Comment](#)**Related Topics:** [Boy Scouts](#), [Eagle Scout](#), and [whizkid](#)Do you walk the Oakdale Nature Preserve trails? [Tell us in the comments.](#)**Oakdale Patch Whiz Kid:** Tyler Frickson, 12th grade**School:** [Tartan High School](#)**Accomplishment:** He mapped the paved and grass trails throughout the [Oakdale Nature Preserve](#), and created a series of corresponding trail markers and created a companion map.**Key to Awesomeness:** If you enjoy using the trails in and around the Oakdale Nature Preserve, you will soon find it much easier and more pleasant to find your way around, thanks to Tyler Frickson's efforts. For his Eagle Scout project, which is in its final approval stages, he created a highly detailed and visual map of all of the trails through the park.

After a brainstorming session with Bruce Anderson in Oakdale's Park and Recreation department to come up with a project that would be long-lasting and useful to as many people as possible, Frickson began planning his project with a cross-section of Oakdale government and advisory board members, including staff in the city's cartography and engineering departments, the city council, and the park and recreation board. Planning for the project began in February of 2010.

As in every Eagle Scout project, he needed to get approvals from the city and the Boy Scout Board of Review for his project, create duty rosters, meal plans, safety plans and track the hours worked and cost of materials. All Eagle Scout projects must be planned down to the smallest detail, before being approved to go forward. Tyler's project encompassed 120 hours of volunteer time and 20 volunteers; it took two days to map the trails.

The first step was to use a mileage wheel on each trail throughout the park, paved and unpaved, to get exact lengths. The elevation of each trail was noted, as well as its level of difficulty and the topography. Brown fiberglass trail markers were posted at most trail intersections, with colored stickers pointing to the various trails, and to show where benches, picnic tables and "mutt mitts" are located. The trails were initially going to be named after birds, but it was later changed to colors, for ease of use and understanding. To ensure accessibility for colorblind individuals, the color red was not used, as there is a high degree of blindness to this color.

A detailed map of the trails and their corresponding color, as well as the mileage, topography and trail difficulty information, was created. The map also has points of interest about the wildlife and birds that may be spotted, and helpful information about the Oakdale Nature Preserve and [Discovery Center](#). The map will be available as a download from the city's [website](#), and print copies will also be placed in kiosks around the park and inside the Oakdale Discovery Center.[Close](#)