

June 4, 2012

Eagle Scout project results in fitness zone

Dedication set for Tuesday

You'll be able to add a weight training routine to your next workout at Central Park, courtesy of a 14-year-old from Saugus.

After two years of planning and fundraising, Drake Hougo fulfilled his goal of bringing a fitness zone to the Saugus park to promote healthy living within the Santa Clarita Valley.

Hougo and the city of Santa Clarita will officially open the Central Park Fitness Zone with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

"It really feels great," Hougo said, looking at the 11-piece workout area situated near the basketball courts. "I'm so proud of how far I've come and how hard the volunteers worked."

The finishing touches were put on the fitness zone last week, and it opened to the public over the weekend. The equipment provides the opportunity for residents to give themselves a workout in the park - with no gym dues to be paid.

In the last two years, the soon-to-be Saugus High freshman raised \$13,180 to pay for equipment and installation of the equipment. His love of fitness and frequent use of Central Park inspired him to create the fitness zone, which eventually became his Eagle Scout project.

The zone has a total of 11 pieces of fitness equipment, including an elliptical machine, push-up bars, parallel bars, sit-up bench, leg-press machine and back extension machine.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 2222 spent the recent weekend helping Hougo dig holes for the equipment, lay down concrete and install the pieces.

"It was the craziest two hours ever," he said.

The kids and their families also spent a night in Central Park to watch over the equipment before it was installed. More than 50 volunteers helped Hougo reach his goal.

"They made this project happen," he said.