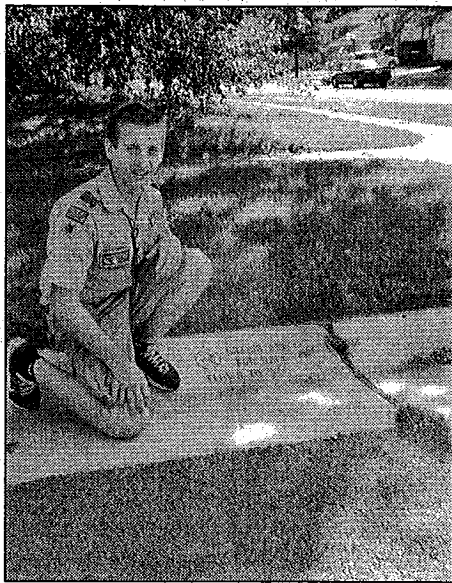


Eagle Scout receives commendation from Sylvania Township Trustees



Scott Anderson in front of one of the catch basins.

BY MIKE JONES

Scott Anderson has been presented with a letter of appreciation by the Sylvania Township Trustees for his work on an environmental project this summer in the township.

Anderson, 15, along with other members of the Boy Scout troop from First United Methodist Church, placed stencils at 97 catch basins in the St. James area as a project needed for him to reach the rank of Eagle Scout.

The work took the latter part of June, all of July, and the first week of August this year, he said.

The scout said he knew of an earlier, similar project by a young man working toward the

Eagle Scout rank and contacted Greg Huffman, public works manager of the township.

"Mr. Huffman suggested I use stencils for the project. Before, they used decals which were smaller and some chipped off."

The stencils read, "Drains Are for Rain," and "Flows to Waterway." They are meant to remind people that curb-side catch basins capture water after storms, but that water does not flow through sewage treatment.

Mr. Huffman said not all residents understand that they contribute to pollution when they pour substances down these drains.

Significant environmental harm can be caused by those who dispose of oils, paints, and petrochemical waste products into community sewers.

He praised Anderson's work in leading other members of Troop 154 in placing the warning stencils at the catch basins.

He added that the project should significantly improve residents' awareness of groundwater contamination and its detrimental impact on our waterways, rivers, lakes, and ultimately, even our drinking water.

The son of Scott and Stacey Anderson, the Southview High School sophomore is a member of the school's football team and competes in wrestling and track.

In addition to those activities, scouting and church work, he likes to fish and hopes that the stencils are effective and have a positive impact on the marine habitat.

The trustees presented the letter at their most recent meeting.

Mike Jones is the Public Information Officer for the Sylvania Township Trustees.