



City of Yakima

News Release

Subject: Boy Scouts Painting Yakima Fire Hydrants

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Boy Scouts to Paint 100 Fire Hydrants Saturday in Northeast Yakima

A dozen Boy Scouts from Troop 141 of the Yakima 4th Ward Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will be busy on Saturday, May 18th painting fire hydrants in the Northeast portion of Yakima. The volunteer Boy Scouts will primarily focus on an area east of North 1st street and north of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

The project is the idea of Boy Scout Coby Johnson, a sophomore at West Valley High School, who is working to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The City of Yakima is providing 14 gallons of paint and other supplies for the work, which is expected to be an all-day project for the young volunteers.

The Boy Scouts hope to paint up to 100 hydrants by the end of the day. The idea was inspired by Coby's uncle, who headed up a similar community service project in Yakima more than 20 years ago.

"It's been a long time since anyone has volunteered to paint fire hydrants in Yakima," said City of Yakima Water Distribution Supervisor James Dean. "Its a win-win situation for the both the City and the Boy Scouts. They get to fulfill community service requirements and the City gets much needed maintenance done on its fire hydrants at a much lower cost than normal," said Dean.

The City of Yakima has nearly 3000 fire hydrants, and normally about 25% of them are repainted each year with bright fluorescent yellow paint on the base and black on the top. With the help the Boy Scouts are providing, the City is likely to get more hydrants painted this year than it usually does.

"We are very grateful to Cody and his fellow Boy Scouts for stepping up and helping," said Dean. "It's volunteers like these guys pitching in that make Yakima a great place to live."

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