



1875

MAGNOLIA CEMETERY

My name is Gavin Johnson and I am 13 years old. A lot of people think that is young to reach the rank of Eagle Scout. But I have been able to learn many things in Scouts and in my life that have given me opportunities to do many things and learn how to be a good leader. I think my life's purpose is to make the world a better place for people. I try to make others' lives easier and happier by carrying their burdens. Boy Scouts has helped me think of doing a good deed every day.

Someday I know I am going to invent something that helps people or makes them happy. Recently, I have thought I would like to be a rocket scientist because I am very curious about fireworks and how different chemicals react to one another. I have been learning how to make them. It is very fun. Another thing that I hope to be is a chef. Cooking has always held an interest for me and I can make many different recipes. Of course, one of the most important things I hope to be is a good and fun father for my future family.

I have had many opportunities to show leadership. I am currently president of the Deacons' Quorum and have been 2nd counselor in the quorum before that. One of my responsibilities is to help plan activities for the boys, go to meetings where I represent all the 12-13 year old boys, welcome new boys, help with fast offerings and help make sure there are enough deacons to pass the sacrament. I think it is really important to be a friend to each person in the quorum and help them know that the gospel is fun to live. In scouts, I have been senior patrol leader of the younger scouts. My job is to call all the boys about activities, camps etc. and call on people to say prayers when necessary. I feel the responsibility to set a good example of what a good scout should be and to get to know each scout and make them feel accepted and comfortable.

A few awards I have received this year were: my artwork made was selected to compete in the Montgomery County Art Show where it received honorable mention, I was selected to be a Highlighted Highlander at McCullough Jr. High (which is where a teacher nominates one student who demonstrates integrity and hard work), and I received straight A's the whole school year, even in my Pre-AP classes. I think one of my greatest achievements this year was completing my eagle project—it took 431 hours of volunteer work and was very valuable to me, the volunteers and to those people in the Magnolia Cemetery. I will never forget that experience.

Time Well Spent

Pre-cemetery day Planning 72 hours

(investigating idea and organizations online, traveling to scope out graveyards, meeting and speaking with two different geneology organizations, meeting with caretaker, learning about headstone symbols, meeting at library with Jan Smoorenburg to learn her format for imputing information, signups, preparing supplies, putting in stakes, string, and posters dividing cemetery into 8 sections)

Cemetery Service Day 238 hours (54 brave volunteers)

Connor Dunkley 3 ½	Taylor Shumway 3
Greg Wilson 3 ½	Dbrav Dunkley 4
Jackson Bowen 2 ½	Chandler Bowen 3
Nick Goodrich 3 ½	Layne Bangeter 3
Cory Goodrich 3 ½	Lauren Bangerter 3
John Buffington 3 ½	Riley Dunkley 4
Nathaniel Buffington 3 ½	Mario Romero 2, 3
Austin Roemer 3 ½	Shelby Boseman 3 ½
Jimmy Hales 2 ½	Rhianna Boseman 3 ½
Malia Johnson 3, 5 ½, 3	Alexia Boseman 3 ½
John Moore 3, 5 ½, 1	Briana Moore 3, 5 ½, 1
Evan Long 3	Brandon Bangerter 3
Kim Long 3	Derek Johnson 3, 5 ½
Sienna Long 3	Sierra Moore 3, 5 ½, 1
Eliana Long 3	Spencer Johnson 3, 4 1/2
Hannah Lett 3	Ryan Johnson 3, 5 ½, 3
Sarah Lett 3	Jennifer Shumway 2
Jess Taylor 2 ½	Madeline Shumway 4, 2
Cullen Taylor 2 ½	Isaac Shumway 4, 2
Jorie Taylor 2 ½	Dan Lett 3
Brant Taylor 2 ½	Doran Johnson 3, 5 ½, 3
Chase Taylor 2 ½	Shelly Johnson 3, 5 ½, 3
Jensen Dunkley 5	Terri Davis 5
Brenda Dunkley 5	Michael Goodman 3
Ryan Sorensen 2	Annalee Johnson 3 ½
Zach Shumway 2 ½	Gavin Johnson 3, 5 ½, 3
Matt Judd 2 ½	Brian King 5

Taking two photos of every headstone –one with helper holding whiteboard in front with each index number of the headstone and then photo with just headstone **28 hours**

Post-Cemetery Day Service

Phone calls/emails/dropping off and picking up binders **6 hours**

Uploading photos, title each photo, edit each photo, and organized **18 hours**

Information Imputers: 30 hours

Kim Egan 3

Colby Stringham 4

Rick VanNess 4

Angela Romero 3

Dave Hilbig 4

Sophia Armado 4

Jane Vogel 4

Shelly Johnson 4

Proofreaders: 23 hours

Deanna Jenson 6

John Buffington 3

Rick Van Ness 3

Gavin Johnson 3

Shelly Johnson 3

Derek Johnson 1

Spencer Johnson 1

Bryan King 3

Compiling information (format information, burn disc, make plot map) **11 hours**

Reporting to Jean Smoorenburg (GenRootsWeb for Texas) to turn in project **2 hours**

Reporting to Jan Cortez (Texas Tombstone project) **1 hour**

Changes

List any changes to the original project and explain why those changes were made.

We had a couple things happen that changed my project a bit. Some were good things and some were not so good. For example, the length of time it took. We had no clue that it would take 431 hours. We estimated it to be about 200 hours. We completely underestimated how many people were in the graveyard and how long and tedious it would be to input all the information correctly. My mom got a blister from taking 1400 photos—I thought that was funny.

We came the night before the cemetery day to lay out the sections of the cemetery. We set up ropes and stakes and sign so everyone would know where their section started and stopped. When we arrived early the day of the project, the lawnmower guy was there and had taken all of our ropes and stakes down! We did appreciate him mowing as it probably scared off more snakes and did help make it easier to weedwack around the headstones. So we just worked around him because he mowed the lawn for free and we didn't want to offend him. He has mowed that graveyard since he was a junior in highschool and that was 30 years ago! Also when some people found a copperhead and the Shumways caught it and killed it with an axe. And my brother Spencer fell into a huge fireant mound, fortunately the men grabbed him and pulled off his clothes quick and used the blower to look for ants in his hair.

A good change we had to make was we had no idea how many people would show up so we were amazed that 54 people came to the cemetery to help. Also we had double the people we needed to do the computer work!

Interesting facts:

431 hours total service rendered

733 very grateful dead people whose lives have now been recorded and headstones photographed

5 places the transcription will be found:

Montgomery County Library

Montgomery County Courthouse

USGenRootsWeb website

Texas Tombstone Project website

the Johnson family computer!

63 living people got involved in this project

1 snake perished (thanks to the Shumway boys)



GAVIN JOHNSON