

# Redmond Reporter

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## Eagle scout lends a hand to Friends of Youth

### REPORTER STAFF

Kyle Cook, an Eagle Scout candidate from Woodinville, has taken the Boy Scout motto of "Be Prepared" to a new level.

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Cook decided to create and donate emergency preparedness kits to Friends of Youth, a Redmond organization that provides a broad range of services to young people in need, in-

cluding homeless shelters, foster homes, and transitional and permanent housing.

Cook became interested in emergency preparedness when he took a Fire Safety class offered through his high school. He said he saw how unprepared people were during the storms last winter and knew he wanted to do something about it. He also said, "I wanted to do something to help kids because I'm a kid."

To begin the project, Cook met with the Woodinville fire department, conducted internet research, and met with other people in the emergency preparedness field. He raised almost \$2,500 through car washes and donations from his family and friends. In addition, Cook received in-kind donations from Lisa Hart, Prevention Medical, Dr. Everett Dental Office and Cardinal Health.

Cook designed the kits,

stocking each one with: a case of water in 1-liter bottles, latex gloves, band aides, dental floss, toothbrushes, ice packs, rolls of gauze, ace bandages. Cook also included a Red Cross emergency kit, which he determined was the most cost effective way of including all the items it contained. Cook used the donated money, in-kind gifts, and negotiated discounts to create a total of 30 kits that will help up to 54 Friends of Youth residents and clients survive after a disaster.

Cook's Boy Scout Troop 573 helped assemble the kits and deliver them to the Friends of Youth administrative offices in Redmond. As a final piece of the project, Kyle trained managers from each Friends of Youth program site on how to use and maintain the kits.

Ed Belleba, President and CEO Friends of Youth, said "These kits are incredibly helpful to us. Emergencies can



Submitted photo

**Kyle Cook designed and then donated emergency preparedness kits to Redmond's Friends of Youth.**

strike at any time and it is important that all of the youth we serve, regardless of their current circumstances, are as safe as possible. We cannot thank Kyle enough for all of his work."

Through this process, Cook says he learned life skills, money management, leadership, and business skills. He also learned a lot about emergency preparedness, which will come in handy when he pursues his goal of becoming a firefighter.