

"In the Mud" Award Nomination 2021 Lodi Valley Chapter



The "In the Mud" award is given to IATA member volunteers who display dedication to the mission and goals of the IATA and a willingness to roll up their sleeves on behalf of the Ice Age Trail. An In the Mud recipient:

- * Consistently shows up at workdays and dives into the dirty work
- * Makes significant efforts to establish the Ice Age Trail
- * Epitomizes the bedrock volunteer spirit responsible for building trail

The 12 boys and 2 adults who make up the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 113 are being recognized by the Lodi Valley Chapter as this year's In the Mud Awardees. This troop stepped up to support the work of the chapter through a special project as well as trail maintenance.

Our chapter decided to do a socially distanced activity as part of our Tyke Hike program. The purpose of the activity was to provide an opportunity for young children to decorate their own hiking sticks. Chapter members collected the sticks (mostly from downed trees on the Trail) but then faced the challenge of peeling the sticks so they could be decorated by the tykes. We showed up with 50 sticks and the Scouts peeled them all! (And not a knife injury to report!) Because of the efforts of the Troop, 44 young children were able to create their own hiking stick to take out on the Trail. We have some great photos of the children with their hiking stick creations.

In addition, the Scouts helped out with maintenance of our local Trail segments, sometimes as part of the trail maintenance days organized by the chapter and sometimes as independent projects, with an adult accompanying them for safety. At one of the trail maintenance days, Troop members made up 12 of the 18 people in attendance. They were an integral part of the work that we were able to accomplish on those maintenance days.

One of the goals of the Lodi Valley Chapter is to involve youth on the Trail. We believe that this partnership with BSA Troop 113 has benefitted both the chapter and the Scouts who were involved. We look forward to partnering with them in the future.