

Introduction:

My name is Vaughan Noble. I am a rising senior at Mount Mansfield Union Highschool, and have been a proud Richmond resident all 17 years of my life. I am a Life Scout (last earned badge before Eagle) and working towards my Eagle Scout Rank; the highest and most coveted rank. The most foundational aspect of your Eagle Scout Rank is your Eagle project: which is a community oriented project that is focused on benefitting or improving your town/area.

**My Proposed Project:**

I have always been one to immerse myself in the outdoors and am someone who really appreciates the outdoors. I came up with this idea with some help from the Richmond Racial Equity groups who have been trying to do similar work. My idea is to build signage by hand with



help from my troop to acknowledge the land that was once used by the Abenaki Tribe. As members of the community we must all recognize the importance of the origins of our land. Centuries ago, the same trails that are now used for biking, hiking, and walking were once home to a great nation. I personally find it so incredible that I can step foot on and use the same land as an ancient civilization. My proposal is to place signage of Abenaki words in places of importance around the trails. For example the Maple Tree was a very important tree to the Abenaki, so I would make a sign and mount it to a Maple Tree that would state "Senomozì" (the translation for Maple Tree).

Another key factor in Abenaki culture is water; it is the lifeblood of our world and is essential to all humans. In the Andrews Community Forest there are many tributaries of the Winooski, which feed into Lake Champlain. I would also like to highlight different waterways with signage as well. I think that it is very important to highlight and acknowledge the culture and impact of the Abenaki people and their deep ties to Vermont and the land we share.

Resources:

I have done a lot of research with resources from the Vermont Abenaki website and read countless articles on language and culture. If you want any more information here are 2 videos I used:

<https://youtu.be/f8NP8qUPtPc>

<https://youtu.be/QWKmKZoyBjQ>