

FROM PAGE 3A

SCOUT

parallel bars and push-ups – more than enough to get the most sedentary person involved.

Arteaga, as do all Eagle Scouts, conceived his project, designed it, estimated the costs, raised the funds, got the organization that houses the project behind him and built the apparatuses, taking about a year from conception to completion. Actual installation took about two days.

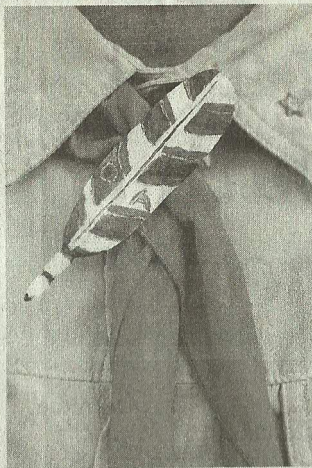
While some of the stations were relatively easy to install, at least one required special attention. Ironically, the most difficult station – the pull-up area.

“It was probably the most difficult, but it was the coolest. There were three sticks that were like 10 feet long, and we had to dig holes to

make sure they were all level. Then we had to put the bars through them, and we had to have people to hold them up so we could get the poles in,” Arteaga said. “Everything had to be right.”

Throughout the project Arteaga got help from his father. But he did the yeoman’s work, speaking at St. Michael’s Masses to raise funds, researching the Internet for ideas of how to create the stations and drawing plans to specifications. In the end, he raised about \$3,000 – double the \$1,500 cost to establish the fitness path. The extra money goes to the church and school to maintain the equipment and grounds of the fitness path.

The fitness project wasn’t his first choice. At first, Arteaga recalled, he wanted to create bat boxes and place them in a park. Then he thought about seats for a



JANET BLACKMON MORGAN
jblackmon@thesunnews.com

Constructing the fitness path helped Daniel Arteaga earn his Eagle Scout honors.

park. But somehow, those ideas weren’t quite right. When he hit upon the fitness path idea, he knew he had found his project.

“We came across a fitness path a couple of years back,

and I thought, ‘this is cool,’ something I could do, and we didn’t have one of those around here,” Arteaga said. But he put it to the back of his mind until it came time to present his project.

There is an exercise path in the park at the Surfside Beach library, but not one nearby that is specifically for fitness.

Not only did the fitness path gain Arteaga his Eagle Scout rank, it helped with his senior project for St. James High School. He wrote a paper about the project and the path doubled as his community service project.

And while Arteaga has other hobbies – such as watching and playing sports, playing video games and going to the gym – scouting is in his blood.

Therefore, he expects he’ll stay in the family business, no matter where life takes him.