

Eagle Project Day Three/Four Report

1 Attendance

Day Three

- Falcons
 - Brendan Lin
- Wolverines
 - Nicholas Chen
 - Joshua Yuan
- Dragons
 - Bryant Lin
 - Jackie Wu
- Ravens
 - Dashiell Rhoden

Day Four

- Falcons
 - Richard Chen
 - Andrew Jin
 - Brendan Lin
- Wolves
 - Justin Wang
- Sharks
 - Kevin Chow

2 The Goals

The goal of Days Three and Four was to stain and varnish the two lecterns constructed earlier in Days One and Two. Since it takes several hours for the stain and varnish to dry completely, and no work could be done on the lecterns in the interim, I decided to have the two shifts on different days, so that people would not be occupied literally watching paint dry.

3 What Happened

Day Three began with sanding down the lecterns in preparation for staining. Despite our best efforts earlier, the junctions between different pieces of the lecterns were not perfectly flat nor aligned, and so it was necessary to sand them to the desired flatness. This task was fairly time consuming, in that even the plywood had occasional rough patches scattered throughout, and accounting for all of those took some effort. Moreover, the holes left behind by the passage

of the nails used to attach the framework of the structure together were exposed and somewhat conspicuous; I therefore delegated a group to use some light spackling to fill them in and make the surface uniform.

After about a half hour of preparation, I decided that we were ready to begin staining the wood. Working with a number of staining pads, we slowly stained all of the plywood, and then afterwards fixed the edges where different pieces met. Though I tried to ensure that all of the stain was applied equally, and that no singular part was especially darker than the rest, there were a few patches where the uniformity was not quite perfect. Even so, the scouts worked efficiently and managed to complete the staining within a fairly short period of time—as expected, since the staining process is fairly quick, needing only a single pass over an area to get sufficient coverage.

Day Four—the last shift of my project—started off similar to Day Three in that it began with sanding once more. This time, the goal was to make sure that there were not any major rough patches on top of the stain, in preparation for the application of varnish to protect the surface. This process was quicker than before, since the large majority of rough spots had already been dealt with before the staining.

Once the varnishing itself began, I split the group up, due to the short supply of brushes capable of applying varnish. While a group of three was working on painting a layer of the polyurethane compound onto the wood, another was working on a somewhat different (albeit tangentially related) project: to restore the finish of the example lectern I'd been provided with earlier. This was yet more sanding, but thankfully could be greatly simplified by judicious application of power tools. Thus, the focus of the shift was still on the varnishing process.

Unfortunately, due to some problems in quality control, the first application of varnish had some droplets and drips on crucially visible areas of the finished piece; as such, I personally began to supervise the varnishing team to clean up the mistakes and smoothen out the surface of the finish. Once the scouts got the correct method down, though, it didn't take long for them to finish up the other lectern, and so we managed to finish up fairly quickly. Other than waiting for the varnish to dry and delivering the lecterns themselves to Lynbrook, the project was essentially finished—and so I began the cleanup process, from moving the lecterns off the driveway and back into the garage to picking up the random bits and pieces which were left lying around after previous shifts. Once cleanup finished, I got everyone together for a picture, and then the scouts were dismissed.

4 Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank Mr. Jin, Mr. Wu, Mr. Chen, and all of the other adults who showed up to help supervise my project. Your contributions were an essential part of making today successful, and I greatly appreciate the time you have donated and effort you have spent.

I'd also like to thank all the scouts that showed up, as it is their effort that made today successful—I couldn't have done it without you.

5 Some Pictures















