

Scouts plant flowers to make a difference

1,986 daffodil bulbs in Thompson Park

Posted by the [Asbury Park Press](#) on 10/24/05

BY [A. SCOTT FERGUSON](#)
STAFF WRITER

MIDDLETOWN — There were 1,986 daffodil bulbs to plant on the grounds of Thompson Park Sunday. By 2 p.m., Heather Lane had done her part, planting seven of them.

"It's a little easier if you have the right tools," said Lane, a 13-year-old Girl Scout with Troop 1757 from Neptune. "It's a really, really dirty project, but we're going to come back in and see how the flowers bloom in April."

Lane was just one of about 100 Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts who came to the county park on Newman Springs Road in the Lincroft section Sunday to plant the nearly 2,000 daffodil bulbs as a continuation of National Make a Difference Day.

The number of flower bulbs planted on Sunday — 1,986 — matches the year that Monmouth County inherited the land and mansion from the owner, Geraldine Thompson, said Laura Kirkpatrick, a spokeswoman for the county park system.

The mansion, now called the Thompson Park Visitor Center, recently underwent a \$3 million rehabilitation project.

"It's a feel-good thing," Kirkpatrick said. "This is part of our whole Make a Difference weekend. On Saturday, we had a trash pickup on the Henry Hudson Trail, and today we're planting bulbs. Plus, it's fall and it's the time of year that you would plant these bulbs."

For about three hours Sunday, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts planted the daffodil bulbs near the park's mansion and around the nearby grounds. **Several master gardeners were on hand to offer advice and expertise.**

The daylong project not only helped to beautify the park but also helped the various scout troops fulfill community service requirements.

For Girl Scout Troop 1757, Sunday's planting will help later on when the girls begin a much larger project of starting a garden at a school or nursing home, said Lora Moore, one of the troop leaders.

"This is practice for us, and now they know what they are in for," Moore, 41, said.

At one point, Monisola Adesanya, 13, Lauren Moore, 14, and Kerryn Hughley, 12, took a break to clean the dirt off their hands.

"We have never done any planting before," Adesanya said. "We usually do something else."

Craig Forman, the scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 34 of Jackson, said the day's events not only help the community but also the scouts looking for community projects to help with merit badges or to move up a scouting rank.

Christopher Ruboyianes, 13, a Star Scout from Jackson, said Sunday was more than just planting flowers. It was about making a difference in the community.

"I think it teaches you something," Ruboyianes said. "You might not think about it now, but it will help you in the future."

