



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Scout Donates Flag Retirement Box to City of New Braunfels**

**New Braunfels, TX** — The New Braunfels Public Library now serves as home to a flag retirement box — courtesy of a local Scout.

As part of his Eagle Scout Service Project, Mason Mitchell, a Life Scout in New Braunfels Troop 381, and fellow troop members dedicated more than 65 service hours toward the construction of the flag collection box.

“The pride and spirit of our country is symbolized in our flag,” said Mitchell. “By responsibly disposing of your flags, you are, in turn, honoring the principles that our country was founded on.”

Mitchell said that before this fall, Troop 381 didn’t have an accessible outlet to collect old flags, which the troop collects for an annual Flag Retirement Ceremony conducted each Flag Day, June 14th. The troop holds the ceremony at VFW Post 7710, whose members assist and educate the Scouts in the proper handling of the flags and procedure for the ceremony.

He said that while most people know it is disrespectful to throw away the U.S. and Texas flag, many people don’t know how to respectfully retire them. According to U.S. Flag Code, “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

“From tiny parade flags to the colossal flag flying over the Cemex quarry, Troop 381 retires flags of all shapes and sizes,” said Mitchell. “This is done through the burning ceremony. During this ceremony, old flags are presented one final time and placed into the fire to be properly retired.”

The troop requests all flags be properly folded before being deposited into the flag retirement box — the U.S. flag should always be folded into a triangle before being stored.

For more information about the library’s flag retirement box, contact the New Braunfels Public Library at 830-221-4300.

For more information about Troop 381, visit [www.troop381nbtx.org](http://www.troop381nbtx.org).

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*Photo: Scout Mason Mitchell of Troop 381, center, along with his sister, Scout Emily Mitchell of Troop 363, presents his flag retirement box to Library Director Gretchen Pruett, right, on Sept. 25, 2019. Mitchell created the flag retirement box as part of his Eagle Scout Service Project.*