



Bluebirds readily accept manmade nest houses in cities, as they don't have enough natural nesting places. Boxes can increase the local bluebird population and offer many hours of enjoyment for the birdhouse owner. Bluebirds have a 'cheer-cheery' song, and with their bright blue feathers, the phrase "bluebird of happiness" takes on a special meaning.

The main reason to have more bluebirds is to have **fewer mosquitos**. They are one of the most effective natural mosquito controls and the more we invite them to stay in Glendale the less we may need to spray for mosquitoes, plus spraying only gets front yards and the bluebirds can take care of the backyards. Mosquito control is in part why the Cub Scouts want to do this.

The birdhouses should be located four to five feet high on poles, trees or fences. The opening should not be facing west, the direction of prevalent winds. They need to be in fairly open, and preferably, sunny areas. The birdhouses should not be installed in brushy and heavily wooded areas or too close to shrubbery.

In late February or early March, the scout will contact you and arrange a time for them to install your birdhouse. A parent will be with the scout when they install the birdhouse. They will discuss with you how to monitor the house to watch for eggs.

Then in March, 2013, the scouts will go back to each birdhouse and clean them out. The scout will take a younger scout with them so that they can pass along this project. The birdhouse should easily last five or more years.

To request a free bluebird house please email Cub Scout Den Leader Paul Luther at lutherpaul@swbell.net, or call him at 821-2321.