

EAGLE NEWS



LOCAL
SCOUT RISES
TO THE
CHALLENGE

Volume 1 Issue 1

October 3, 2003

Troop 1184 Does It Again!

Ryan Benjamin Simmons, son of Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Simmons, has earned the highest honor awarded by the Boy Scouting Program, the Eagle Scout. A special Court of Honor will be held on October 3, 2003 at St. Thomas United Methodist Church, where he will receive his award.



Earning the rank of Eagle Scout requires a great deal of perseverance and dedication to reaching a goal. It also requires a lot of work, including learning and using new information, practical skills, and leadership skills.

Working to reach a goal is nothing new to Ryan. He began his career in Boy Scouts as a Webelos Scout in BSA's Cub Scouting program. In his two years as a Webelos, he learned many things about himself, his family, his country, and the world he lives in, while earning his Webelos Activity Pins. When he had earned several pins, he earned the Webelos Rank. After a few more pins and other requirements, Ryan ended his Cub Scout career with the highest rank available to Cub Scouts—the **Arrow of Light Award**.

After bridging into Boy Scouts, Ryan followed a long and well-worn path on his way to the Rank of Eagle Scout. He has held many positions of responsibility and earned many other honors. He served as Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 1184 from March 8, 2001 through March 21, 2002.

MERIT BADGES EARNED

REQUIRED:

Citizenship in the Community	Personal Management	Camping
Citizenship in the Nation	Communications	Swimming
Citizenship in the World	Family Life	First Aid
Environmental Science	Personal Fitness	

ELECTIVE:

Mammal Study	Canoeing	Nature Study	Basketry
Wilderness Survival	Home Repair	Leatherwork	Rowing
Fingerprinting	Rifle Shooting	Pioneering	Radio
Fish & Wildlife Management	Art	Life Saving	Fishing

During that time, Ryan was nominated to become a member of Boy Scouting's **Order of the Arrow**. He passed his "Ordeal" and was inducted into the OA in May of 2001.

In June of this year, Ryan was awarded the **National Capital Area Council - Certificate of Merit** for assisting in the rescue of an injured skier last February at Ski Roundtop.

Ryan had to advance through the ranks learning new scout skills and leadership skills, each rank just a little bit more difficult than the last.

In addition, he had to earn at least twenty-one merit badges—eleven required and ten elective—before he could be awarded the coveted Eagle Scout. Ryan has earned twenty-seven.

But that is not all. He had to plan and carry out a service project for his community as well.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Ryan decided to contact the National Park Service about replacing the split-rail fence at the entrance to Manassas National Battlefield Park.

His project was approved and the work began! The Park supplied the new split rails, black locust wood from Pennsylvania. The new rails should last at least fifty years.

Ryan had to round up the volunteers and tools necessary to do the work, as well as coordinating the delivery of the rails with the dates of the project.

The project took two weekends in September 2002. As many as fifteen workers at a time came to help Ryan rip out the old dilapidated fence and construct the new one.

The new fence extends approximately one fourth of a mile along the entrance to the Park, right where everyone can admire it.

Who knows? Maybe someday Ryan will bring his own children to see it.

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

Scout	Feb. 18, 1999
Tenderfoot	May 27, 1999
Second Class	Feb. 24, 2000
First Class	May 25, 2000
Star	June 21, 2001
Life	Feb. 28, 2002
Eagle	May 14, 2003

