

Our Unlimited Future

A History of Troop 236



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written by Carl Brand in 1997.*

*This report was updated and
edited by Ryan Stone, with
additional edits by Eddie
Modugno Jr., in 2017.*

"The work of today is the history of tomorrow and we are its makers."

*- Juliette Gordon Low,
Founder of the Girl Scouts*

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- Carl Brand

Thank you to Carl Brand for originally detailing the crucial years of our Troop's fruitful beginnings. Thanks, also, to Mr. Thomas Wills who provided me with the original report written by Carl Brand. I owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Al Thomson, as well, for connecting me with Mr. Wills. Additional thanks to Mr. Jim Maguire, Mr. Ian Thomson, Mr. Ed Modugno Sr., Mr. Eddie Modugno Jr., Mr. Walter "Wally" Bartus, Mr. Erik Anderson, Mr. Tim Casey, Mr. Kevin and David Haynes, Mr. John and James Moon, Mr. Robert Falcone, Mr. James Kowalak, Mr. Ed Bruder, Mr. & Mrs. Petronella, various news publications that documented our scouts' Eagle projects over the years, and all the fellow scouts and leaders of Troop 236 who helped fill in important parts of our troop's history. Thank you to the many others who contributed invaluable information to this report, as well. I couldn't have done it without you.

- Ryan Stone

Forward

I sat at the table, dressed in full Class "A" uniform, right down to the red-top green knee high socks. Surrounding me were the eyes of the men tasked with determining my eligibility to reach the highest level of Scouting. After a brief statement by one of the men, I was generously awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

Upon graciously thanking the men, I was charged to give back more to scouting than I had received from it. That charge echoed inside my head and has remained a strong sentiment that I still carry with me today.

Within these pages are not just the facts or the details of times past. Within these pages are not just the spirits of men and women who've contributed something tangibly great and ever-lasting to the world. Within these pages are the memories that we inherit when we put on our uniform, when we step into our patrol lines at a troop meeting, when we summit mountains and even when we demonstrate the Scout Oath and Law in our everyday lives.

There's a quote that sticks with me and I think of it now. It's not from an expected source, rather, it's from the TV comedy, *The Office*. It goes: "I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them."

These are the good old days – right here, right now. My only hope is that within these pages, I've captured those good old days for generations of Scouters to relish in for years to come.

- Ryan Stone

I

A Brief History of Boy Scouts

Lord Robert Baden-Powell of Great Britain became famous for his service as a cavalry general upon returning home from the Boer War. He decided to use his influence to help British boys become better men. Thus, he created the Boy Scouts and in 1907, he invited a group of boys to attend the world's first Boy Scout camp on the English island of Brownsea. The success of the camp led him to write a book he called "Scouting for Boys," which was an instant best seller the world over.

One day in 1909 an American visitor in London by the name of William D. Boyce lost his way in a dense fog. He had stopped under a street lamp to try and figure out where he was when a boy approached him and asked if he could be of help. Mr. Boyce explained that he was lost and how he was looking for a certain business office. The boy said that he would take Mr. Boyce there. When they reached the destination, Mr. Boyce reached into his pocket for a tip, but the boy stopped him saying: "No thank you sir. I am a Scout. I won't take anything for helping."

Mr. Boyce asked, "A Scout – and what might that be?" The boy told of himself and his brother Scouts. Mr. Boyce became very interested and after finishing his errand asked the boy to take him to the British Scouting office. At the office, Boyce met Lord Baden-Powell and was so impressed that he decided to bring scouting with him when he returned to America.

On February 8, 1910, Mr. Boyce and a group of leaders founded the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). One year later, the BSA published the “Handbook for Boys,” an American version of Baden-Powell’s “Scouting for Boys.” The rest, as they say, is history.

II

Building a Dynasty: The Formation of Troop 236

By 1986, Troop 436 was an established organization with a proud history of service in Long Valley, New Jersey. Unfortunately, while Troop 436 was one of the most popular troops around, it had grown too large—almost a hundred scouts on the roster with roughly half of them active. With such a surplus of troop members, the committee agreed that they would have to reduce the troop to a more manageable size. While the committee's first thought was to divert members to other troops in town, they realized that many of these troops were also rather large. So the committee began to discuss starting a whole new troop to manage the enormous growth of Troop 436.

The BSA has guidelines for the creation of a new troop that the committee had to follow. First they would need a charter, which is an organization that manages the troop, controls the program of activities, appoints a chartered organization representative to provide supervision of the troop's program, and provides a meeting place for the troop. Fortunately, Father Ed Collins, the pastor at the then newly founded St. Mark's Mission Church, said that he would sponsor a new troop.

With St. Mark's as the charter, the Committee was ready to choose a new troop number. The three existing Long Valley troops were 436, 136 and 36; the committee chose to keep that pattern and named the new Troop 236. Lastly, the committee would need at least

five adult leaders and five boys to officially form the troop. The committee sent out letters to scouts and parents alike, looking for charter members and spreading the good news of a new Boy Scout troop in town. Mr. Edward Bruder, the Committee Chairperson of Troop 436, directly recruited Joe Rizzo, Jered White and his neighbor, Mike Falls.

In no time, several more volunteers came forward to form what would become Morris-Sussex Council's and Olde Colonial District's new Troop 236 of Schooley's Mountain, NJ. Those original charter members were:

Leaders

- Mr. Bruce Anderson
- Ms. Clara Bruder (Troop Treasurer)
- Mr. Edward Bruder (Scoutmaster)
- Father Ed Collins (Charter)
- Mr. Charles Galbreth Jr. (Committee Chair)

Scouts

- James Moon
- Mike Falls
- Erik Anderson
- Jered White
- Tim McGrath

III

Early History:

A New Troop Begins to Grow

Mr. Bruder agreed to become the first Scoutmaster of Troop 236, with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Galbreth as Assistant Scoutmasters. Mr. Bruder was a fixture of the Scouting movement in the area and was a beloved leader and mentor, known for his large frame, large mustache, and mostly for his very large laugh that could be heard across a campsite; however, Mr. Bruder's son was in his last year of scouting. Since Mr. Anderson's oldest son Erik was in his first year of Boy Scouts, his younger son Brian would join the troop three years later, and he had natural leadership ability from being a sports coach in town, Mr. Anderson was selected as the second scoutmaster and would serve in that position for the next three years. Mr. Anderson had also agreed to help Mr. Angelo Villardi with his duties as the Cubmaster of Pack 436 temporarily given that Mr. Villardi and his son agreed to join Troop 236 the next year.

Since there were only five boys in the troop, there was only one patrol, the Bear Patrol. Growth was difficult in the early years, especially with only two Cub Scout packs for four different troops to recruit from. Troop 236 held meetings on the opposite side of the Kossmann Elementary School gym where Troop 436 would meet. These meetings took place from 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Monday nights. Two scouts left the troop after the first year, leaving behind Jared White, James Moon and Erik Anderson, who were all very young at the time.

Since all the boys were young in the early years of the troop, there were unusual things like a Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) that was thirteen years old. As the troop progressed, though, it began to add new boys each year to bolster its ranks.

In 1987, Mr. Joseph Rizzo Sr. moved with his family from Chicago to Long Valley and joined Troop 236 with his son, Joseph Rizzo Jr., who was already an Eagle Scout. Both Mr. Rizzo Sr. and Joe Rizzo Jr. were instrumental in the success and early development of the troop. Joe Rizzo Jr. took on the role of Senior Patrol Leader the second year of the troop's existence, while his father became an Assistant Scoutmaster. Mr. Rizzo Sr. built the original three patrol boxes; researched, acquired and stored the original troop trailer; built portable mess tables to be assembled and used on campouts; and built the troop's original two Klondike sleds out of scrap lumber.

The story goes that the Villardi's front porch had fallen into disrepair, so it was torn down and the lumber left in a pile. That's when Mr. Rizzo Sr. swooped in to take the lumber off the Villardi's hands. Mr. Rizzo Sr. cleaned up the old wood so well that Mr. Villardi joked that he wanted to take it back to rebuild his porch. Mr. Rizzo Sr. stuck to the plan, however, and built two Klondike sleds from scratch. Mr. Rizzo Sr. continued to be a significant resource in the troop for both the boys and the adult leaders providing not only scouting skills (particularly with his extensive knot tying skills) but also engaging campfire stories.

Mr. Bruder returned to Troop 436 after one and a half years with Troop 236 and Mr. Anderson took over as Scoutmaster in the fall of 1987. That same year, Mr. David Haynes joined with his twin sons, Michael and Kevin. The family quickly became very involved in the troop, with Mr. Haynes sharing many of the Scoutmaster duties with Mr. Anderson.

Troop 236's numbers continued to increase to twenty in its sec-

ond year under Mr. Anderson's leadership. By 1989, the troop had three patrols – Bear, Buffalo and Cobra. The troop continued to grow into the early-90s and began to develop its own ceremonies, traditions and awards. Mr. Anderson, and later Mr. Bill Armstrong, worked to instill the idea of Troop 236 being a boy-led troop along with the guidance of Mr. Dave Greeley. These adult leaders let the scouts decide their activities: what they wanted to eat, where they wanted to go. They let the scouts learn from their mistakes and their successes, intervening only where and when appropriate.

In the late 80s, Troop 236 established a Venture Scout designation for scouts that were fourteen years old and at least First Class. These scouts could join Venture Crew and get orange epaulets (worn on the shoulders of the Class "A" uniform, which itself includes scout socks, pants, belt, button up shirt, neckerchief and slide). The Venture Crew would go on outings that were above and beyond the scope of summer camp at Allamuchy. This included High Adventure trips like Philmont, Sea Base, Mead Wilderness Base and white water rafting. In 1990, the Armstrong family moved to Long Valley from New Hampshire and began searching for a troop to join. Benjamin "BJ" and Scott Armstrong joined Troop 236 because its meetings did not conflict with their swimming schedules. Mr. Armstrong eventually took over as Scoutmaster of the troop in 1991 and held that position until 1997. Around this time, the troop's three patrol names had changed from Bear, Buffalo and Cobra to Loch Ness, Lightning Bolt and Shark.

In 1992, Mr. Wally Bartus took over Committee Chair duties from Ms. Becky Bruening and the troop's three patrols were Bigg Mixx, Sharks and Flash. At one point there was also a No Name Patrol. The patrols changed names often in the earlier years and they would again change in 1993 to Dragons, Vipers and B.R.A.P.s (coined by Patrol Leader Scott Armstrong - short for the Boston Red Sox Appreciation Patrol).

Around this time, with the great assistance of Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Greeley and Mr. Anderson, the troop grew to more than fifty scouts over the next few years. A lot of effort went into creating a program and recruiting cubs from the packs that did exist at that time. The troop flourished under Mr. Armstrong's leadership. He kept a tight ship, but took an interest in every scout's development and made sure to encourage community service and teach life values to scouts. Mr. Armstrong is famous for bringing a full-sized teepee on campouts that he would set up and let scouts check out while teaching them a great deal about Native American history and lore. Mr. Armstrong is also responsible for the creation of the infamous Joe Blechman Black Frog Award.

In 1995, around twenty Webelos joined the troop, including Edwin "Eddie" Modugno and his father, Mr. Ed Modugno. Mr. Modugno – an Eagle Scout himself – had visited his old scoutmaster, Mr. Jim Hart of Troop 54, at one point when looking to join a troop because Mr. Modugno found the new troops lacked many of the traditions and practices of the troop with which he grew up. In the end, Mr. Hart advised Mr. Modugno that the solution was to get involved and become the catalyst for the changes he wanted to see. While he was admittedly reluctant, after being in the troop for several months, Mr. Modugno would register as a leader and share his insights and philosophies with the troop.

Mr. Modugno began to raise some interesting points at a few committee meetings: how scouts didn't wear Class "A" uniforms to every meeting, how the troop did not regularly attend Klondike, and how the troop went to Allamuchy every year instead of going to a higher adventure summer camp like Sabattis. Two of those questions would lead to major changes in the troop.

At the time, the troop's schedule was irregular and informal. Meetings were held on two or three Mondays each month, but which days would change from month to month. Additionally, there was a

rule that if it was the Monday after an activity (usually a campout), scouts could wear Class “B” uniforms, which is the Class “A” green pants with a red troop shirt. This was because it was presumed that Class “A” uniforms were still in the laundry. However, this led to scouts who did not even attend campouts to not wear their Class “A” uniforms, which, coupled with the inconsistent meeting schedule, led to general confusion since it was not always clear when the troop was meeting and if Class “A” or Class “B” was required. This confusion was apparent especially before email was used as it is today.

Mr. Modugno pushed the committee to change the rule and make it so that every meeting was held on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. and that all scouts were required to wear full Class “A” uniforms to these meetings. The committee agreed and set the rule in place. Now scouts show up for the first three Mondays of the month in full Class “A” uniform ready to work on scout skills, while the fourth Monday of the month is dedicated to Committee meetings.

Around this same time, Mr. Modugno – who had grown up attending the Klondike – asked the committee why the troop’s district didn’t host a Klondike every year. To Mr. Modugno’s surprise, the committee affirmed that the district did, in fact, host a Klondike every year, but attested that there simply was not enough interest from the scouts. So Mr. Modugno set out to change that by getting the two sleds the troop had stored at adult leader Mr. Dave Greeley’s house, bringing them back to his shop and refurbishing them to be used at the upcoming Klondike. From then on, Mr. Modugno rallied scouts to go to Klondike every year. Even if there were only one or two patrols, Troop 236 would attend the Klondike all but one year during Mr. Modugno’s term as Scoutmaster.

The last change Mr. Modugno tried to enact was in getting the troop to go elsewhere for summer camp besides Allamuchy. When Mr. Modugno was a scout, he attended Sabattis. At this camp, everything was outdoors – scouts cooked their own food and were more

involved in nature than Mr. Modugno believed they were at Camp Allamuchy. Unfortunately for Mr. Modugno, the demand to stay at Allamuchy was high and leaving for even one year risked losing their usual camping spot at Site 9. So, the troop stayed at Camp Allamuchy and has attended summer camp there every year since.

By 1997, the Troop had three patrols – Scorpions, Stags and Eagles (formerly, the Flying Eagles) – each with around eight boys of all ages. These patrols would end up being mainstay patrols that lasted through to the present (in addition to the Lightning patrol, which would form later). Heading into the 2000s, the troop saw continued growth and evolution.

IV

The Turn of the Century – A New Era

After five years as Scoutmaster, Mr. Armstrong wanted to step down from his post. Committee member Mr. Greeley first told Mr. Modugno that he would be the next Scoutmaster before it was ever official, simply based on Mr. Modugno's scouting experience and overall persona. In 1997, Mr. Armstrong officially stepped down and Mr. Modugno took over as Scoutmaster. Already a well-known adult leader in the troop, Mr. Modugno took the position in stride and would remain Scoutmaster for 8 years.

Around this time, the troop experienced a great lull, only retaining roughly 24 scouts in total. In addition to only recruiting a handful of scouts, troop member Carl Brand turned eighteen in 1998, which left Eddie Modugno and Ian Thomson as the oldest scouts in the troop at the age of thirteen. The troop's drop in numbers, therefore, was more due to the older scouts leaving rather than a lack of recruitment. Still, major recruitment efforts would need to be enacted if the troop were to continue and grow.

In 1999, two local councils – Morris Sussex Area and Watchung Area councils merged to become Patriots' Path Council. In that merger, Patriots' Path acquired several camps that Troop 236 never had the opportunity to attend. Two of those camps were Sabattis in Long Lake, NY and Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ.

Coincidentally, the troop wanted a campout for new scouts and spring recruitment – one that would cater to teaching basic scout

skills in a relaxed environment to provide an introductory campout for new scouts and parents. Ironically, the troop originally wanted to go to Allamuchy for this, but there was no room, so they looked at the newly available Camp Winnebago and were able to stay there for the first time instead and give scouts a chance to get acclimated to the environment of Boy Scout camping.

Each month, the four Long Valley troops would come together to discuss each troop's state of affairs. At one such meeting, every troop agreed that recruitment was still an area that needed attention. The Cub Scout packs had pitched an idea for a local camporee where Cub Scouts and their parents could camp with the Boy Scouts to see how Boy Scouts worked. The troops agreed to this idea and set up the Long Valley Camporee along with the local Cub Scout packs.

The camporee was a place for Cub Scouts and their parents to actually meet each troop and find the best fit for them. Previously, each troop would organize its own recruitment events. The Long Valley Camporee put all troops on equal footing and allowed them to engage in some friendly rivalry, while also ending the whole idea of feeder packs, where the troop expected to recruit every kid from a pack just because they shared a number.

The first year or two, the Long Valley Camporee was held at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center in Califon. In later years, the Long Valley Camporee would move across the way to the fields of Teetertown Ravine Nature Preserve, where it continues to this day.

Around the turn of the millennium, to continue recruitment efforts, the Troop 236 Committee discussed establishing a feeder pack, as there was no Pack 236 at the time. All agreed and Pack 236 was established in April 1999.

Up until 2002, Troop 236 and Pack 236 continued to meet at Kossmann Elementary School on Flocktown Road until 9:00 p.m. Some nights, though, the custodians at Kossmann would start turn-

ing the lights or asking us to leave early so they could finish cleaning. In addition, whenever the troop would go on campouts, scouts and leaders would meet at Our Lady of the Mountain Church atop Schooley's Mountain or at the Tri-County Fire House and leave cars there for the weekend while the troop carpooled to and from the campsite. After one such campout, Our Lady reached out to the troop to express their concern in regards to the troop leaving vehicles behind in the church parking lot. These factors combined led the troop to look elsewhere to host meetings.

St. Mark's the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Long Valley had just renovated their church, adding a whole new parish hall in July of 2002 for their congregation to meet for services. This left the former parish hall readily available for multi-purpose use. The troop reached out to St. Marks, who had always been the troop's charter, and asked to use the old parish hall. They said yes and so the troop began meeting there in the fall of 2002 and has been there ever since.

Up until the new millennium, the troop was a part of the Olde Colonial District. This district would later join the West Morris District for a few years (which had existed since 1971) before becoming the Black River District by the end of 2003.

In 2006, then-SPL Nick Tepfenhart, with the help of future SPL Mike Wilder, formed an elite Klondike patrol dubbed the Screamin' Eagles. The name stemmed from two points of inspiration: one, the Eagles Patrol itself as most members of the first Screamin' Eagles Klondike team were from this patrol; and two, in homage to the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army, an elite infantry paratrooper unit. Dressed in battle garb and helmet, Nick Tepfenhart led his team of scouts to one of the troop's earliest top finishes, all the while chanting military cadences.

From that year on, the Screamin' Eagles would continue to deliver extraordinary scout skills, knowledge and spirit every year at

the Klondike, racking up handfuls of top-10 finishes, and several 1st place finishes as well, including a record-breaking score in 2013 (11 points from perfect) led by then-SPL Samuel Walczuk.

In the spring of 2005, Thomas Maguire entered Troop 236 with his father, Mr. Jim Maguire. Upon his arrival, it was almost a guarantee that Mr. Maguire would be taking over the position of Scoutmaster from Mr. Modugno, especially since Mr. Maguire was the long-time Cubmaster over at Pack 236. So, in the fall of 2005, Mr. Modugno stepped down and became an Assistant Scoutmaster and Mr. Maguire took over as Scoutmaster.

Over the next several years, the troop would blossom incredibly, topping out at over fifty to sixty registered scouts and leaders each year. While Mr. Modugno had encouraged scouts to attend Klondike, it was Mr. Maguire who brought a whole new level of enthusiasm surrounding the Klondike to the troop. Throughout the fall leading up to the Klondike, troop meetings consist of sharpening scouts' skills and knowledge in preparation for the Klondike's events. Around this time, due to the increased popularity of the Klondike, Mr. Modugno, Eddie Modugno and Mr. Maguire got together to build two more sleds to be used at the Klondike.

The week before the Klondike, Mr. Maguire holds a rally at his house to not only build excitement in the scouts attending Klondike, but also to ensure that all of the patrol gear is packed and ready to go ahead of time. Because of this, Troop 236 is always fully prepared to enjoy themselves at the Klondike. By the end of the 2000s, the troop had grown to be quite large. And as one of the most respected troops in the Black River District, the troop has earned several awards, such as the annual Quality Unit Award and the Award of Merit, as well as continued recognition over the years.

V

The Troop's 25th Anniversary

In 2011, the troop officially celebrated its 25th Anniversary. On June 10, 2011, the troop not only held the annual summer Court of Honor, but the troop also turned the event into a silver anniversary party. Notable guests included both scouts and leaders of the past, as well as the families of current scouts. Scoutmaster Mr. Maguire gave a passionate introductory speech to kick off the evening. Below is transcript of that speech in full:

Paraphrased and adapted for our celebration; from Chuck Wills' most excellent book - Boy Scouts of America, A Centennial History:

"Robert Baden-Powell, William D. Boyce, Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, James E. West. Collectively, these men are recognized as the founding fathers of the Boy Scouts of America. The product of their visions, talents, experiences and determination lives on today. Ed Bruder, Becky Bruening, Bruce Anderson, Clara Bruder (troop treasurer), Fr. Ed Collins, Charles Galbreth and James Moon, Mike Falls, Erik Anderson, Jered White, and Tim McGrath - these are the founding men and women of Troop 236."

"The product of their visions, talents, experiences and determination lives on today. It has remained fundamentally unchanged and relevant through the decades. It lives on through the images and stories [we revisit] here this evening. Officially, its purpose is presented this way:

"The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

"This [simple] powerful statement crystallizes the volunteerism, the sacrifices, the dreams, the aspirations, the patriotism, and the collective essence of our truly American story. We should also mention that it can be a heck of a lot of fun! Our [community] has always been anchored in the ideas of service, community, and purpose; and synonymous to this, by way of the Scouting programs that develop them, is the sustaining power of values and morals in the lives of individuals."

"We are Robert Baden-Powell, William D. Boyce, Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, and James E. West. We are Ed Bruder, Becky Bruening, Bruce Anderson, Clara Bruder (troop treasurer), Fr. Ed Collins, Charles Galbreth, We are James Moon, Mike Falls, Erik Anderson, Jered White, and Tim McGrath."

"We are Troop 236... We are the Boy Scouts of America. The hundreds of Scouts and Scouters who have been, and are now, a part of our Troop, represent our proud history and the highest ideals our shared vision has instilled in them."

"So tonight, as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary, our relevance to young men and to society remains strong and will be clearly evident in our presentation. This milestone and the contents of our wonderful program tonight, document our journey – a journey ignited by the vision of our founding fathers, nurtured by our volunteers, and enjoyed by hundreds of Scouts and families and citizens."

"In this spirit, let us all celebrate our glories past, while we look with excitement and anticipation into our unlimited future."

VI

Present-Day

Now thirty-one years strong and counting, Troop 236 is thriving and growing each year. As of September, 2017, the Troop has amassed 90 Eagle Scouts. The Troop still boasts membership of over fifty to sixty scouts any given year in addition to several volunteer adult leaders.

We have at least five patrols at all times – Eagles, Scorpions, Stags, Lightning, and Yeti. Scout Doug Falcone was instrumental in creating the Yeti Patrol, in addition to custom designing the patrol patch. The patrol was created in 2008 in response to overcrowding in the Lightning Patrol, particularly with older scouts who were nearing 18 or who had already earned their Eagle, but who were still active. Today, Yeti is made up of older scouts, usually ages 15 or 16 and above, who aren't a part of the Senior Patrol (made up of the Senior Patrol Leader and his assistants), but who are still in the troop and often working towards their Eagle Scout rank. Depending on the year and the amount of new scouts the troop gets, there have been up to three “new boy” patrols, as well. So far, one patrol for the new scouts seems to be a mainstay; currently, that patrol is Phoenix, but in 2016, we also had Alpha and Mighty Acorn. These patrols are where the new scouts go before joining the ranks of older scouts in Eagles, Scorpions, Stags and Lightning the year after they bridge over from Cub Scouts.

For much of the troop's existence, the patrols formed on camp-

outs were different than they were at troop meetings. As long as there were at least two scouts from a patrol, it was an effort to let those two (or more) boys stay in their designated patrol. However, without proper leadership, some boys moved to other patrols temporarily. To this day, due to the large variation in attendance of scouts to troop meetings versus campouts, patrols are generally formed specifically for each campout as opposed to keeping them as they are at meetings.

VII

The Troop's Notable 'Firsts'

- The troop took its first campout from June 20 to the 21, 1987 at Camp Bernie in Port Murray, NJ.
- The first patrol was the Bear Patrol and the Long Valley Township Girl Scouts gifted the first patrol box.
- The first Patrol Leader was James Moon, and the first Senior Patrol Leader was Jered White.
- The first money to support the troop in the beginning came from the local Women's Club, Frazier Industrial Company, and candy selling.
- The first trailer was bought with \$1,000 donated by Exxon Research and Development; they also gave us money for equipment.
- The first year at summer camp was at Allamuchy in 1987, and all five original scouts went along with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Bruder.
- The troop's first Eagle Scout was James Moon, who earned his Eagle rank on August 14, 1990.
- The first scout to earn palms was also James Moon, who earned three palms by 1992. The first scout to earn four palms, which is now the record for most palms earned by a Troop 236 scout, was Collin Petronella in 2016.
- The first time one of our patrols won the Klondike was in 2009 when Chris Rec led the Screamin' Eagles to victory.

VIII

Fundraising & The Evolution of Troop Gear

Up until the late 1990s, the Troop earned money from candy sales and a lot from money grants from AT&T (as the Troop had many fathers that worked there). From the 2000s on, the Troop has earned a significant amount of its funds from annual popcorn sales. Scouts set up stands outside supermarkets and shopping centers in town, in addition to going door-to-door, to sell popcorn and raise money for the troop.

The troop started with only one patrol so there was only a need for one patrol box and equipment for just a few scouts and leaders. In 1995 when Mr. Ed Modugno joined the troop, there were only three patrol boxes. The three patrol boxes were originally designated to the three mainstay patrols: Eagles, Scorpions, and Stags. However, upon Mr. Modugno's arrival, he noticed how old and worn the patrol boxes were at the time. In addition, whenever the troop would need a patrol box on a campout, instead of taking the box specific to the patrol attending the campout (i.e. Eagles take the Eagles Patrol box, Scorpions take the Scorpions Patrol box, etcetera), the scouts would simply take the "best" patrol box.

To remedy this, Mr. Modugno returned to the troop he was a part of when he was a scout to look at and measure the old patrol boxes he and his fellow troop members built back in the day, which were still in use as of 2012. Coming back with an idea of the perfect patrol boxes, Mr. Modugno got to work building three brand new pa-

trol boxes for the troop. Then, at a troop meeting, Mr. Modugno brought in the boxes, except for the Eagles Patrol box, and gave one to each patrol to paint. The reason the Eagles Patrol box was not brought in was because Eddie Modugno was the Eagles Patrol Leader at the time and had already claimed and painted the Eagle's patrol box.

Up until this time, leaders would eat with the patrols of their choice. This became a problem when patrols with exceptional menus were making enough food for all the adults in addition to their own patrol members. This policy got nixed and, once the adults started making their own food, Mr. Modugno made a patrol box for the leaders. One of the Modugno's neighbors, Mr. Domareki, later built a patrol box for the Lightning Patrol.

Fast-forward to today and the troop still has those five patrol boxes. In addition, we have four extra boxes we acquired when Troop 136 folded in the early 2010s. These extra boxes haven't been used yet, but the four patrol boxes Mr. Modugno built are still used whenever needed for campouts.

In 2013, the troop committee discussed repairing versus replacing the decades-old trailer. After extensive research, the committee agreed to replace the old trailer with a new one, one that would not require much maintenance, but carry more equipment and promote scouting to anyone that sees it. The new trailer that was purchased is taller and slightly longer to fit more equipment and is 90% aluminum for low maintenance. Also, thanks to adult leader Mr. Tony Cretella and his Custom Sign Source sign business, the new trailer was branded and ready to be shown off to the public whenever we drove it to and from campouts and other events.

In the early 2010s, local Pack 236 asked if they could store their equipment in the troop's shed. At the time, the old shed was rather small and the troop had it pretty filled up with equipment already. After much discussion, it was decided that the troop would

tear down the old shed and replace it with a much bigger one that would be split to house both Troop and Pack 236's equipment.

Unfortunately, Pack 236 would fold in 2016, so now only Troop 236 stores camping supplies, including Dutch ovens, lanterns, propane tanks, tents, tarps, stakes, rope, flags, patrol boxes, first aid kits, woodsman tools, fire building tools, and more inside. Pack 236's equipment is still on its designated side untouched as of 2017.

IX

The Leaders & Parents of Troop 236

Fathers and mothers join the adventure of Scouting along with their sons. Boy Scouts gives parents a chance to spend quality time with their son, seeing him grow up from a boy to a man and maturing both physically and mentally.

As a leader, the parent can participate in the life of his/her son and those of other scouts, helping and teaching the boys various life skills. The joy of being a leader, a Committee member or a Merit Badge Counselor is making a difference in the lives of these scouts.

Still, the work of leaders too often goes unnoticed. A troop cannot exist without leaders. Their hard work and dedication are what keeps a troop running smoothly, or running at all for that matter. Mr. Modugno himself has noted how great the Troop 236 Committee is; without them, the Troop would not run as well as it does.

No boy would ever be able to earn the rank of Eagle were it not for the help and guidance of the registered adults. In fact, up until the spring of 2002, it was the Scoutmaster alone who reviewed every Eagle Project proposal from top to bottom, providing edits and feedback to the Eagle candidate. Mr. Modugno, the Scoutmaster at the time, came to the committee asking for a system to be put into place so that he did not have to review multiple pages of Eagle Project write-ups by himself while managing all of the other aspects of being a Scoutmaster.

Committee member Mr. Greeley took this opportunity to bol-

ster his Eagle mentoring program, which he had started back around 1993. Mr. Greeley had a system in place already in which he would: aim to work with scouts in their sophomore year of high school to complete their Eagle Projects; act as a coach to "teach, cheerlead, cajole...advise...explain procedures" and more, as Mr. Greeley put it himself; and, finally, let the boys do the work while he stood watch on the sidelines.

Being so entrenched in the Eagle process as it was, it made sense for Mr. Greeley to further assist the scouts in reviewing and editing their Eagle Project proposals before having the scout get verbal approval from Mr. Modugno. Mr. Greeley would continue to do this through 2007, when Mr. Bob Falcone began to help Mr. Greeley assist scouts in working through their Eagle Projects. By 2008, Mr. Falcone had taken over for Mr. Greeley and has been coaching Eagle Scout candidates ever since.

Also worthy of praise are the Advancement Chairs who keep track of all the scouts' rank advancement, merit badges, service hours, nights camped and more. Ms. Jane Casey first held the position, followed by Mary Mathe, who stepped down in 2001. Ms. Cindy Huson took over as Advancement Chair for the remainder of the decade before Ms. Paula Masiello would take over in 2010. These leaders have worked tirelessly to keep the scouts' records up to date.

X

In Honor of (Blaine) Bruce Anderson

Mr. Anderson went by Bruce, but his first name was Blaine. He was born in Minneapolis, MN in 1946, but his family would later move to Martinsville, NJ in the 1950s. After Mr. Anderson graduated from Rutgers University in 1968, he was an officer in the United States Navy. For most of his career, Mr. Anderson was a real estate investment executive with Mutual Benefit Life. As a husband and father, Mr. Anderson would move his family first to Randolph and then Long Valley in 1979.

He was very involved in the Washington Township community as a coach for soccer and baseball, in addition to being a “Big Brother” mentor. The Anderson family also hosted and worked with children from the Fresh Air Fund and foreign students from Academic Adventures in America.

Mr. Anderson went on to help establish Troop 236 and become the troop’s second Scoutmaster. Mr. Anderson played a pivotal role in the growth of the troop during his time as Scoutmaster and helped to put in place longstanding traditions that continue today. Even after his sons left the troop, Mr. Anderson continued to advise leaders and teach scouts merit badges, such as Personal Finance, for the duration of the 90s and early 2000s.

In 1995, Mr. Anderson was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, but he still continued to help out in the troop and meet with scouts regularly to work on merit badges. Even in a wheelchair and with his

health declining, Mr. Anderson still worked with scouts and leaders in the troop. To show their appreciation and admiration for Mr. Anderson, several fathers from Troop 236 got together under the guidance of Mr. Modugno, a skilled carpenter, to build the wheelchair ramp in the garage of the Anderson household in 2001. The Anderson family felt greatly honored by this kind gesture.

The troop later donated a large sum of money to Patriots' Path Council on behalf of Mr. Anderson in order to award him with the James E. West Fellowship Award at a Court of Honor in August 2002. The award is a pin and special knot to be worn on the uniform recognizing gifts to local council endowment funds. Mr. Anderson prepared a speech to be delivered through a speech device, as his disease had impeded his ability to speak; however, the device's batteries died before Mr. Anderson could begin his speech. His son, Erik, quickly ran to the store to pick up more batteries and brought them back so that his father could deliver his speech. By all accounts, it was a tremendous, emotional speech and a truly proud moment for Troop 236 and for the Anderson's.

On March 4, 2003, Mr. Anderson passed away at the age of 57. His funeral was held at Vasa Park; many scouts and leaders attended in full uniform to honor him. The Navy had gifted a flag to the Anderson family in Mr. Anderson's honor. Mr. Greeley and some scouts presented the flag to Mrs. Anderson at the ceremony.

In 2006, former scout Keith Applebaum had the idea to memorialize Mr. Anderson and so the troop made arrangements to have a memorial flagpole put up in Palmer Park in his honor. Surrounding the flagpole are a few bushes and a path leading directly to it. The flagpole also has a light shining up at the flag and a plaque at its base that reads:

*B. Bruce Anderson
Scoutmaster 1986-1990
Troop 236 B.S.A.
Schooley's Mountain, N.J.*

In memory of his devotion to scouting and the youth of Long Valley

Mr. Anderson's contributions to the troop and the community will never be forgotten.

XI

Scoutmasters &
Committee Chairs of
Troop 236

Scoutmaster Name	Years
Ed Bruder	1986-87
(Blaine) Bruce Anderson	1987-90
Bill Armstrong	1990-97
Ed Modugno	1997-05
Jim Maguire	2005-

Committee Chair Name	Years
Charles Galbrith, Jr.	1986-90
Becky Bruening	1990-92
Wally Bartus	1992-00
Jim Kowalak	2000-05
Jerry Stone	2005-08
Tim Gelsinger	2008-

XII

SPLs of Troop 236

SPL Name	Years
Jared T. White	1986-87
Joe Rizzo, Jr.	1987-88
James E. Moon	1988-89
Ben Warrener	1989-90
Keith S. Applebaum	1990-91
Brian Falcone	1991-92
Benjamin F. Armstrong	1992-93
Timothy M. Casey	1993-95
Scott Armstrong	1995-96
Jonathon W. Greeley	1996-97
Brian Wills/Jim Bartus/Carl Brand	1997-98
Edwin Modugno, Jr.	1998-99
Ian Thomson	1999-00
Joseph Coyne	2000-01
Thomas Modugno	2001-02
Peter Ceran/James Kowalak	2002-03
Ryan Gelsinger	2003-04
David Huson	2004-05
Nicholas Tepfenhart	2005-06
Mike Wilder	2006-07
Chris Rec	2007-08
Joe Tepfenhart	2008-09
Brendan Stokes	2009-10
Thomas Maguire	2010-11
Ryan Stone	2011-12
Sam Walczuk	2012-13

SPL Name	Years
John Craig Borman	2013-14
Tyler Longo	2014-15
Joe Pinelli	2015-16
Seth Hanchett	2016-17
Alberto Garza-Gomez	2017-18

XIII

Eagle Scouts

Eagle Scout Name	Date
James E. Moon***	8/14/90
Jared T. White	5/2/91
Keith S. Applebaum	9/9/92
Kevin Haynes	8/14/93
Michael Haynes	7/18/94
Benjamin F. Armstrong	3/20/95
Timothy M. Casey	3/14/96
Brian T. Wills	9/23/96
John S. Misdary	12/3/96
Matthew T. Dellibovi	1/6/97
Jonathon W. Greeley	1/14/98
Timoty S. Doucette	2/11/98
Carl Walter Brand	10/29/98
Edwin Modugno, Jr.**	3/10/01
Ian Thomson*	6/25/01
Jimmy Reade	7/11/01
Keith J. Stolte	4/10/02
Gregson E. Mathe	8/13/02
Marc Joseph Draghi	10/1/02
Darren Michael Zega	10/29/02
Joseph Jerome Coyne	12/27/02
Thomas Modugno	3/30/03
Brian Fitzpatrick	3/21/04
Christopher Draghi	7/26/04
Peter R. Ceran	5/27/05
James E. Kowalak	6/22/05

Eagle Scout Name	Date
Daniel Lennon	7/29/05
Ryan Gelsinger	4/6/06
Daniel Callahan	7/24/06
Doug Falcone*	8/8/06
David Huson	12/6/06
Eric Draghi	7/26/07
Craig Draghi	8/14/07
Nicholas Tepfenhart	9/18/07
Christopher Hendricks	9/19/07
David Kent	11/13/07
Greg Hatcher	11/28/07
Matthew Gelsinger	12/11/07
Eric Stricker	3/25/08
Chris Rec*	4/8/08
Evan Wykoff	5/14/08
Charley Adler	8/14/08
Matt Elchison**	9/18/08
Mike Clark	10/12/08
Brent Roehrich	1/31/09
Rob Falcone	2/12/09
Bryan Dickson	6/22/09
Ross Wykoff	11/11/09
Justin Guenther	12/29/09
Brandon Fransworth	6/21/10
Scott Elchison	7/7/10
Joe Tepfenhart	7/12/10
Brendan Stokes	9/1/10
Ryan Stone***	7/18/11
Connor Hatcher	8/16/11
John Carkitto*	1/5/12
Jeffrey Garry**	1/19/12

Eagle Scout Name	Date
Chris Mazzei	5/1/12
Dan Mazzei	5/8/12
Alex Falvey	7/28/12
Christian Paolella	7/29/12
Thomas Maguire	8/13/12
Cody Gelsinger	8/21/12
Kurt Stenger	9/18/12
Tim Santos	10/6/12
Brian Kluse	10/28/12
Sam Walczuk	3/21/13
Austin Farnsworth	4/16/13
Michael Schommer	5/7/13
Jeff D'Ambola	9/14/13
John Craig Borman	1/27/14
Zach Plocic	7/12/14
Greg Engemann	8/2/14
Nicholas Masiello	12/27/14
John Madaras	3/10/15
Brian Degen	3/18/15
Collin Petronella****	4/8/15
Sean Roehrich	6/16/15
Sam Uong	7/27/15
Joe Harmon	8/24/15
Tyler Longo	12/15/15
Trey Mastriani	12/22/15
Nathan Schommer	4/20/16
Jimmy Cantwell	7/25/16
Seth Kourpas	8/27/16
Tyler Haas	11/1/16
Dan Garry	11/2/16
Charles Roehrich	1/24/17

Eagle Scout Name

Date

Tim Carpenter
Joe Pinelli

3/21/17
8/22/17

* = number of palms earned

As of August 2017, the way palms are earned changed. Before, scouts could only earn palms after Eagle if they held a position of responsibility and remained active in the troop for six months. As of August 2017, scouts can earn palms based on merit badges earned before attaining Eagle without needing to stay active or serve in a position of responsibility afterwards.

XIV

Service to the Community: Troop 236's Eagle Projects

Joe Rizzo Jr. was a boy who joined the troop already having his Eagle at the early age of 13. He had attained it while a member of another troop in Chicago, Illinois.

Troop 236 gave an Eagle ceremony for another boy, Jacob Bruening. Jacob didn't rise through the ranks with Troop 236, nor did he perform his Eagle service project while a member of the troop. His family moved to Germany when he was younger, so he went through scouting and performed his service project over there. But just before he could have his Eagle court of honor, he was forced to move back to America with his family. When he moved to Long Valley and joined Troop 236, arrangements were made and Jacob had his Eagle Court of Honor at Camp Merry Heart as a member of Troop 236.

Below, however, are the scouts and their respective Eagle Projects earned while members of Troop 236.

1) James Moon – Constructed seven outdoor benches for St. Mark's Church (which itself was still being constructed at the time). The benches were originally to be placed along a path between the parish residence and the church with the goal of turning the path into a series of reflection and prayer spots, or possibly to have another scout produce seven more so that a trail for the Stations of the Cross could be created. In reality, the benches were placed closer to the church and used both indoors and out.

Because James was the first Eagle, the troop didn't have an Eagle ceremony designed to perform because they never did one before, so the troop leaders, led by Mr. Moon, went to ceremonies of other troops in the area and took parts from all of those and put one together. Mr. Villardi conducted the ceremony at St. Mark's.

2) Jered White – Constructed a 20' x 12' x 1' collapsible stage platform for the priest at St. Mark's to stand on during his services.

3) Keith Applebaum – Studied a large tract of land that had been acquired recently by the Morris County park commission. The site was located between Rock Road and Camp Washington Road on top of Schooley's Mountain. He made presentations to the township PTA's informing them of this unknown resource.

4) Kevin Haynes – Staged a large campaign to make and distribute personal first aid kits. Over 125 kits were made and sold; the monies generated were used to purchase stethoscopes and blood pressure cups for the Long Valley First Aid Squad.

5) Michael Haynes – Constructed a bridge over a tributary creek of the Raritan River at the location of a park under development by the Washington Township Land Trust. This 24-foot-wide bridge allowed access to the newly acquired Land Trust property behind the old LaTourette gristmill.

6) Benjamin James Armstrong – Built and put in place several wooden archery stands, complete with hay-bale backboards, for the MVCA summer camp day program, which greatly augmented the archery program.

7) Timothy Casey – Designed, constructed and installed a community bulletin board at Rock Spring Park. He arranged its location next to the parking and concession stand by the Long Valley Raiders football field. In that position the board could be readily used and easily seen by the entire community.

8) Jonathan Misdary – Constructed railroad tie barriers around the Long Valley First Aid Squad's sign at their headquarters and then filled the barriers with tree bark mulch.

9) Brian Wills – Organized, with help from the Long Valley Women's Club, the making of little Vile of Life bottles (bottles containing instructions in case a person is in need of medical attention and cannot give needed information concerning allergic reactions to certain medications, etc.) for local senior citizens. He gave a speech to the Women's Club explaining what he planned to do and also gave speeches to the senior citizens telling them what a Vile of Life bottle is and advertising his service.

10) Matthew Dellibovi – Raised, realigned and reformed the foundations on about 200 gravesites that had shifted and/or sunk below grade due to time and poor soil conditions, greatly improving the overall appearance of the cemetery at Our Lady of the Mountain church.

11) Jonathan Greeley – Built a handicap ramp at the Beattystown Presbyterian Church. The ramp was built to be in accord with the recent federal statute governing handicap access for all public places. Beattystown Presbyterian Church thus achieved compliance with the 1994 federal law.

12) Timothy S. Doucette – Cleaned up and improved the overall

appearance of the old Tri-County Fire Association of Mansfield squad house and property, which was instrumental in effecting the sale of the old property so that the TCFA could commit to a new squad house.

13) Carl Brand – Addressed the deteriorating ground of a portion of the Our Lady of the Mountain cemetery that had been neglected in an effort to help refurbish the cemetery. His reset markers aligned with the slope rectifying settling that had occurred over the years.

14) Edwin Modugno, Jr. – Landscaped the side of St. James Episcopal Church in Hackettstown facing Moore Street. Eddie's project improved not only the church grounds, but the appearance of the surrounding neighborhood as well. The result was a renewed interest in the church's structure and the church's ministry.

15) Ian Thomson – Built two benches in the entrance plaza of the Washington Township Library. The benches were custom made and stained to blend with the surrounding gardens. The design added to the library's function by affording a secluded outdoor reading site as well as a site for summer outdoor programs.

16) Jimmy Reade – Constructed signage for the Beisler Outdoor Ministries. Building names and locations, activity field signs (with directions), general signage, such as "offices" and "parking," were created and installed. The result was an improved flow for all visitors and campers.

17) Keith J. Stolte – Created a garden in the water retention basin at St. Mark's Church shortly after the church had been renovated. This involved reworking the soil and coordinating the plants with other landscape projects.

18) Gregson E. Mathe – Worked on the east side of the St. Mark’s Church-hall complex, which was wild, full of weeds, vines, ivy, rocks and small trees. Greg oversaw an effort to completely rework the landscape: soil conditions were improved; debris removed; and mulch, trees, and plants were put in place. The result was a transformed and beautified border to the church-hall side of the property.

19) Marc Joseph Draghi – Created a very pleasant and secluded section in the outside area between St. Mark’s church and hall that provided a quiet area for meditation. Benches, many plants, a path and area of paver stones greatly beautified a rather desolate area of the church front.

20) Darren Michael Zega – Reworked the Cross Roads (Beisler) Outdoor Ministries Center’s navigation infrastructure: trail signage, tree blazes, and trail conditions, such as obstacles, borders and erosion controls were all added.

21) Joseph Jerome Coyne – Surveyed and document the entire cemetery at Our Lady of the Mountain Church, realigned the major sectors, and discovered and replaced the disappeared or absent small grave markers.

22) Thomas Modugno – Landscaped the area in front of the Washington Township Library and built and installed two wood-stained bike racks.

23) Brian Fitzpatrick – Painted a fireman symbol – the Maltese Cross – on the streets of the community to identify fire hydrant locations. Brian’s project amounted to about 200 paintings that greatly aided fireman in emergency searches for hydrants.

24) Christopher Draghi – Constructed and installed two directional signs for the Palmer Park athletic fields and a host of identification signs providing desperately needed guidance to park patrons.

25) Peter R. Ceran – Landscaped a picnic area at Palmer Park and constructed a bulletin board near the main parking lot.

26) James E. Kowalak – Repainted the chapel at the cemetery on Coleman Road and cleaned up the surrounding grounds.

27) Daniel Lennon – Designed and constructed a new picnic area at Palmer Park in Washington Township. He supervised the construction of four picnic tables, and the excavation and preparation of the site by over twenty volunteers.

28) Ryan Gelsinger – Constructed a path around Koehler's Pond. The path provides access to scenic locations around the pond, along with a consistent walkway and improved access.

29) Daniel Callahan – Cataloged artifacts on display at the Washington Township Historic Society.

30) Doug Falcone – Refinished fourteen picnic benches and five tables at Rock Spring Park by power washing, sanding and staining them.

31) David Huson – Constructed a walkway leading up to the flagpole at Palmer Park. In addition, David landscaped the area by adding shrubs and a piece of granite to mount the plaque dedicated to former Troop 236 scoutmaster Bruce Anderson.

32) Eric Draghi – Constructed, painted and installed fifteen flower

boxes along East Mill Road in Long Valley.

33) Craig Draghi – Built and installed six concrete planters at St. Mark's Church. Craig also planted flowers in the planters.

34) Nicholas Tepfenhart – Designed and created an 8' x 12' pergola and sitting area in the front lawn of St Mark's Catholic Church as an outdoor space where parishioners and church employees could relax, meditate and enjoy the outside on nice days. The project earned praise from the parishioners and pastor and went on to feature additional improvements, including the installation of a statue of Our Lady.

35) Christopher Hendricks – Constructed a prayer labyrinth, complete with a large wooden cross in the center, at the Long Valley Presbyterian Church on Bartley Road.

36) David Kent – Completed the construction of a garden at the Seeing Eye in Morristown for people whose Seeing Eye dog had been retired or passed away as a place where they can sit and mourn the loss of their dog. There is also a plaque commemorating all the Seeing Eye dogs that have passed away.

37) Greg Hatcher – Built a skate park at his church, Valley View Chapel in Long Valley. He directed more than thirty people in building two ramps, two manual boxes, and two ledges. Valley View Chapel has since expanded the skate park plans under the direction of Jonathan Russell and has added rails and a full mini-ramp to the park. The project is part of Revelation Skaters, a chapter of Christian Skaters International.

38) Matthew Gelsinger – Refurbished the senior center at Rock

Spring Park by painting the entire interior – including the kitchen, bathroom, and common room – cleaning the space, creating and installing new curtains, and reinstalling the blinds on the windows.

39) Eric Stricker – Built and installed wood covers to go over the metal I-beams that line the guardrails at the Harrington Park playing fields off of Flocktown Road

40) Chris Rec – Constructed a twelve-foot circular meditation area made of pavers in front of a statue of Mary at Our Lady of the Mountain Church. Work on the project included digging and excavating earth, laying pavers, and planting shrubs. The area has been used for outdoor ceremonies/blessings and serves as a nice place to think and pray.

41) Evan Wykoff – Cleaned and repainted the inside of the bathrooms at Rock Spring Park. In addition, Evan sanded and painted the benches that surround the tennis courts at Rock Spring Park.

42) Charlie Adler – Completed several signs for the Long Valley Food Pantry at the Long Valley Presbyterian Church on Bartley Road, including a permanent sign at the entrance/parking lot and another one in the driveway (both of which bear the name, phone number and operating hours of the Food Pantry) and additional multipurpose, weather-proof sign-holders to be placed around town marketing the Food Pantry.

43) Matt Elchison – Landscaped around the Washington Township Police Department by removing the mulch and rock from the station grounds, along with digging holes for new plants and then planting them and re-mulching the area.

44) Mike Clark – Created metal sign holders that were placed along Route 513 coming into Long Valley and used to advertise the Long Valley Food Pantry’s annual “Sponsor a Wreath” fundraiser. It was a unique project that required welding skills (taught by adult leader Tim Gelsinger); numerous scouts and leaders worked in an assembly line manner to put the frames together.

45) Brent Roehrich – Cut back trees around the parking lot on West Morris Street at Trinity United Methodist Church in Hackettstown with the assistance of Iona Hill and Donaldson Farms. In addition, Brent planted two raised flowerbeds with a row of bushes in between, cleaned the area with weed whackers and spread new mulch and soil.

46) Rob Falcone – Helped refurbish the Colonial Musketeers Fife & Drums Corps’ equipment room, which is the room where the Musketeers stored all of the drums, uniforms, camping supplies and other various items. The project involved replacing a door, redoing all of the drywall, building a new drum rack, and installing new shelving for all the camping supplies.

47) Brian Dickson – Created the Mill Pond Park Trail along the south branch of the Raritan River in Long Valley.

48) Ross Wykoff – Refurbished benches and installed them along the footpath around Harrington Park. There were a total of eight old benches located behind the Long Valley Rec Department. The majority of the seating planks were removed and replaced with a water-proof composite material and the benches sanded and painted before being cemented into the ground.

49) Justin Guenther – Built benches and landscaped for the Long

Valley Dog Park.

50) Brandon Farnsworth – Constructed a sign for Our Lady of the Mountain church, painted the window flower boxes on the adjacent building, and restored the Virgin Mary statue hanging on the front of the building.

51) Scott Elchison – Partnered with the Long Valley Food Pantry for his project to not only make new collection boxes that were placed around town for the food pantry's annual charity wreath hanging, but also helped clean up the pantry itself to reduce the crowdedness inside and build a brand new bench and mulch bed for outside.

52) Joe Tepfenhart – Landscaped near the front of the Grace Bible Chapel in Chester, including adding new shrubbery, in addition to refurbishing an old church bell that was laying around rusted and unused on the property.

53) Brendan Stokes – Built a fire pit for St. Mark's Church to use for the Easter Vigil service. Brendan constructed a centerpiece made of stacked paving stones upon which sits a stone cauldron to house the fire. Around the centerpiece is a semi-circle, made of retaining wall stones, so there would be better access to the fire cauldron. Brendan also constructed a brick walkway that leads to the fire cauldron. Lastly, Brendan also did some landscaping around the Pastor's home due to an unprecedented large turnout by fellow scouts and friends.

54) Ryan Stone – Beautified the Long Valley Arts/Teen Center on West Mill Road. Two benches were built and put on the porch on either side of the entrance and a railing was built for a small set of

stairs on the side of the building. In addition, the front porch, side ramp, and stairs/railing on the side of the building were all re-stained and the wooden railing on the ramp and the pagoda on the porch were both re-painted.

55) Connor Hatcher – Built and installed benches along the Columbia Trail.

56) John Carkitto – Landscaped at Our Lady of the Mountain church, including stonework and digging holes for a new white fence, which John installed with the help of fellow scouts and leaders, along Schooley's Mountain Road.

57) Jeffrey Gary – Worked with the historical society to design and install a bronze sign that marked the location of a famous mineral spring. In addition, Jeff coordinated with public officials to install a trailhead kiosk at Cataract Park in Long Valley. The kiosk was designed from scratch, materials were purchased through donations from local businesses, and other scouts, under Jeff's supervision, helped to build it.

58) Chris Mazzei – Added approximately thirty feet of spoke wood fencing around the Senior Center building at Rock Spring Park, in addition to repainting the railing that leads to the building's entrance and replacing some shrubbery around the building.

59) Dan Mazzei – Refurbished office space at the Zion Lutheran Church, including installing sheetrock, taping joints, spackling and painting. Once the refurbishing was complete, Dan also put up trim and set up the entire office.

60) Alex Falvey – Built two picnic tables that would unhook into

four benches to be used at Mountain Top Church in Hackettstown. Alex also renovated a children's room in the church, which included painting, molding and hole repair.

61) Christian Paolella – Recorded information on the stones in the cemetery of the old Union Church on Fairview Avenue. This included gathering, mapping and taking note of the individual stones, many of which were written in German, some going back to 1774. This project helped the church apply for another restoration grant.

62) Thomas Maguire – Built a new garden for the Long Valley Presbyterian Church on Bartley Road. The garden is 100' x 30' and consists of three sections. The first section is a community garden, the second is for local scouts to take care of, and the third is used to donate fresh produce to the Long Valley Food Pantry.

63) Cody Gelsinger – Helped Schiff Nature Preserve in the maintenance of the meadow that contained their bluebird boxes. This came in two parts: replacement of the old bluebird boxes and the removal of invasive plant species around the edge of the meadow. Cody removed twenty-two boxes and installed twenty-four new ones that he made, in addition to working with the Schiff Nature Preserve staff to identify large sections of invasive plants and remove them from the meadow.

64) Kurt Stenger – Created four bike racks at area parks for his service project. Kurt put two bike racks at Harrington Park, one at Cobblestone Park, and one between the tennis and basketball courts at Rock Spring Park.

65) Tim Santos – Installed four benches that he and several scouts constructed along the Columbia and Patriots' Path trails for the

Morris County Parks Commission.

66) Brian Kluse – Collected used bicycles and repaired them to be donated to Pedals for Progress, an organization that takes bikes to third world countries and donates them to people to use as transportation to their jobs.

67) Sam Walczuk – Helped coordinate the “Columbia Trail Tromp” twelve-mile walk/bike/run charity event held in August 2012 to help fight pancreatic cancer. The event required Sam to obtain town permits, set up the registration tents and rest areas, organize crossing guards and promote awareness about pancreatic cancer within the community.

68) Austin Farnsworth – Cleaned up and renovated a section of Patriot's Path Trail.

69) Michael Schommer – Paved, edged a path, built benches, and refurbished a memorial of Bruce Anderson, the co-founder and former scoutmaster of Troop 236 who passed away in 2003. The memorial surrounds the flagpole at the entrance to Palmer Park.

70) Jeff D'Ambola – Built two 3x10x3 foot planters at the Holly Manor nursing home in Mendham so that residents could garden, which research found helps keep the brain more efficient and less likely to suffer from dementia. At the end of his project, Jeff and his fellow scouts helped some of the residents plant flowers in the planters, which are still used today.

71) John Craig Borman – Cleared an area at Califon Pond, just off of Pleasant Grove Road and next to Califon fields, to place a picnic bench that he built with the help of fellow scouts. In addition, John

dug postholes and installed two in-ground benches, as well as gardened to beautify the area.

72) Zach Plocic – Built and installed an information kiosk for the then, newly founded community garden at Palmer Park. This was in an effort to better organize the existing members and draw more people to the community garden. Over the course of two days, the kiosk was built, assembled and cemented into the ground. The kiosk is still there and actively used today.

73) Greg Engemann – Refurbished the playground at Long Valley Presbyterian Church on Bartley Road, including spreading new sand and installing a new wood border.

74) Nicholas Masiello – Installed an informational kiosk, a bench and an informational trail sign at the trail bend behind the pump house right after the East Springtown entrance of Schooley's Mountain Park.

75) John Madaras – Worked with the nature Conservancy to construct a bird blind in the Budd Lake area on the banks of the Raritan River.

76) Brian Degen – Cleaned and repaired the pavilion at Long Valley Presbyterian Church, which included power washing the rafters, tables and benches, and concrete floor. After cleaning, Brian installed bird netting on the rafters to prevent birds and squirrels from living in the roof and he also repaired some damaged soffit around the outside, and raked up the leaves surrounding the pavilion.

77) Collin Petronella – Built an altar, five wooden benches and a

prayer garden with a statue honoring St. Francis of Assisi behind Our Lady of the Mountain Church.

78) Sean Roehrich – Refurbished, repainted and replaced a number of rotted wooden planters along Route 513 (East Mill Road) in Long Valley. The Long Valley Women’s Club has since decorated the planters and actively uses them today.

79) Sam Uong – Repurposed an old storage room into a locker room and painted two classrooms for the American Christian School in Succasunna, NJ.

80) Joe Harmon - Built information kiosks – dedicated to his grand-mother – for the South Branch Nature Reserve in Mt. Olive. The kiosk provides valuable information to people who visit the reserve.

81) Tyler Longo – Created forty bluebird houses that were placed on a site belonging to a local environmental group and adjacent to a farm in Budd Lake. In addition to cultivating bluebirds, the birds also served as a means of pest control for the farm, helping to reduce pests that can destroy crops.

82) Trey Mastriani – Designed, printed and installed educational, QR-coded trail signs – some of which needed to be attached to posts that needed to be inserted into the ground – for a hiking trail at the South Branch Preserve of the Land Conservancy in Budd Lake. The trail allows visitors to learn about the various wildlife and nature formations along the trail while hiking. Visitors can use their phones to scan the various codes and learn what the Preserve has to offer.

83) Nathan Schommer – Refurbished the picnic tables and park

benches, which included some board replacement, sanding, patching, and staining, at Rock Spring Park.

84) Jimmy Cantwell – built four 7-foot garden benches that were placed along two trails at the South Branch Preserve in Mt. Olive.

85) Seth Kourpas – Installed an information kiosk at the Union Church cemetery, located on Fairview Ave at the Historical Museum in Long Valley.

86) Tyler Haas – Constructed raised planting beds for seniors at the Paragon Village Senior Living Facility.

87) Dan Garry – Constructed garden beds at the Long Valley Presbyterian Church for the Long Valley Food Pantry.

88) Charles Roehrich – Built two picnic tables and two benches for Rock Spring Park.

89) Tim Carpenter – Landscaped and restored picnic tables at the Long Valley Christian Nursery School.

90.) Joe Pinelli – Refurbished and repainted the front porch of the Zion Lutheran Church's office in the center of Long Valley.

XV

Interesting Contributions and Awards

Mr. Villardi and Mr. Haynes’ “The Great Siamee” – In the troop’s earlier years, one of the annual outings was to the fictional Siamee Lodge. During a campout, the Webelos (Cub Scouts) would gain initiation into the social ranks of the troop, but first they would have to pass a secret test. How it would work is that adult leader Mr. Haynes would wander off into the woods unnoticed and get dressed into a Native American chief costume.

Another adult leader, Mr. Villardi, would have all the scouts stand around the roaring campfire in a big circle with their backs to the flames and he would tell the story of Siamee Lodge and the Great Siamee. At the end of the story, Mr. Haynes would run around all the boys and run off into the woods. Then, out in the distance, the “Great Siamee” would say “O-W-AD-DA-GOO-SI-AM,” and Mr. Villardi would ask each scout to whisper in his ear what the password was.

The older scouts, who knew it ahead of time from experience, would whisper it and were free to go. The new scouts, however, could not figure out what the password was, so Mr. Villardi would make them all take a half step closer to the fire. And then, in the distance, the “Great Siamee” would again say the secret password, this time rephrasing the syllables. Those who figured it out could leave, the rest had to take another step back. They repeated this until finally the “Great Siamee” would say “OH-WHAT-A-GOOSE-I-AM,”

and all the boys would say, “Oh, now I get it!” and they were free to go. The new scouts kept it a secret from the Webelos the next year and the cycle merrily continued.

Hilariously, even some of the camp counselors fell victim to the Troop 236 tradition. The counselors at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Camp got such a kick out of this ritual that, after they participated in it, they did a spin off of it every year for a number of years as an opening skit for the scouts at summer camp.

Mr. Rizzo’s Wendigo Story – Mr. Rizzo was a famed storyteller in the troop. One of his most notable stories was that of the Wendigo (or Windigo). The story of the Wendigo comes from the Algonquian Native American tribes that used to live in the Atlantic Northeast of present-day North America. According to sources, the Wendigo is a monster or evil spirit that allegedly dwells in the Atlantic Northeast and Great Lakes Region of North America. Some say the Wendigo may appear as somewhat human, or as a monstrous human possessed by a spirit. Mr. Rizzo would tell this story and others like it to scouts around an evening campfire.

The Class “A” Challenge & Scout of the Year Award – Ryan Stone first headed the Class “A” Challenge, originally started by Mr. Jim Callahan in the mid-2000s, when he was the Scribe in 2007. As Scribe, Ryan would bring a roster to troop meetings every week and check off each scout’s full uniform. Each uniform item was a point; the patrol with the most points at the end of the year won a prize. The challenge simmered off after Ryan moved on from being Scribe to Assistant Patrol Leader, but Ryan brought back the challenge as Senior Patrol Leader in 2011 with a new twist.

In order to incentivize scouts to wear their full uniform regularly, attend meetings and campouts, and demonstrate the Scout Oath and Law in their everyday lives, Ryan came up with a sort of re-

wards program.

At the end of each month, the scout who earned the most points would earn a certificate crowning them the “Scout of the Month.” With it, the scout also earned a bag of assorted candies. At the end of Ryan’s term as Senior Patrol Leader, he designed and painted a wooden plaque to gift the troop in order to award the “Scout of the Year” every year with the first award going to Charles Roerich. Now, each year, a scout in the troop is recognized for going above and beyond in their dedication to the troop through regular attendance and for their demonstrating of the Scout Oath and Law in their everyday lives.

Joe Blechman Black Frog Award – Joe was a crazy, very outspoken, class-clown kind of guy. Even though he would of-ten upset the leaders with some of his antics, they just couldn’t help but laugh at them. Joe made sure that there was never a dull moment in the Troop. One of his well-known jokes went as follows:

A man walks into a restaurant and asks what the soups are. “Turtle and Pea,” replies the waiter. “I’ll have the Turtle soup,” says the man. The waiter goes to the kitchen and says to the Chef, “one Turtle Soup”. A few minutes later the man changes his mind and calls the waiter back, “I want the pea soup instead.” So the waiter goes back to the kitchen and says to the Chef, “hold the Turtle and make it pea!”

Joe’s only problem was that he didn’t know when to stop. On one campout, BJ and Mr. Armstrong, as well as Tim Casey, told Joe that every time they said “Black Frog,” he was to stop talking and be quiet. Before the end of his scouting career with Troop 236, however, Joe was forced to move to Philadelphia.

In Joe’s wake, Mr. Armstrong decided to make the Joe Blechman

Black Frog Award in his honor. This award is to be given to the Scout or Leader who exhibits the comical thoughtlessness that made Joe Blechman who he was, usually in the form of public embarrassment.

The Dubious Paddle of Distinction (formerly, the Golden Paddle) – Gifted to the scout or leader who does something thoughtless or embarrassing on a boating trip, the Dubious Paddle of Distinction was officially introduced by Scoutmaster Mr. Maguire in the late-00s. The award had existed in a more unofficial capacity prior to this. Considered the boating equivalent to the Black Frog Award, the Dubious Paddle of Distinction is awarded to someone who, for example, gets lost on a boating trip, leaves someone behind on the island at Casperson, or capsizes the boat thus dumping all the gear into the water.

The Square Compass Award – Around 2002, the troop took a trip up to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, led by Mr. Draghi. This was one of the first times the troop had ever gone to Cooperstown. The troop was to stay at Camp Henderson. Finding Camp Henderson in those days before GPS proved to a bit too much for Mr. Draghi. Leading the caravan of drivers with cars full of scouts, Mr. Draghi traversed many roads and drove in many circles in the quest to find Camp Henderson. Eventually, after what felt like forever, they found the camp, albeit much later than originally anticipated. Mr. Modugno awarded Mr. Draghi with the honorary Square Compass at the next Court of Honor. Mr. Draghi was very gracious in his acceptance speech.

Fast-forward to the spring of 2007 and Committee Chair Mr. Jerry Stone was driving his son Joe Stone and other scouts down to a week of high adventure at New River Adventure Camp in Virginia. Mr. Stone was following another troop leader, Mr. Falcone, who

was driving a blue van. Unfortunately, a very similar blue van was also on the road and it exited well before the exit for the camp. Mr. Stone, losing track of the “right” blue van, followed the other van off the exit along with the other Troop leaders who were following Mr. Stone. Seeing all this happen in his rearview mirror, Mr. Falcone had his son Doug call Mr. Stone to inform him that he was now following the wrong van. Fortunately, the error was quickly rectified and the caravan was able to continue along again.

To commemorate this loss of direction, Scoutmaster Mr. Maguire handmade a new wooden Square Compass (as the old one had disappeared), resurrecting the award and bringing it back to life to be given to those who not only get lost, but spectacularly lost.

The Bruce Anderson Golden Heart Award – In the late 90s, the troop received a somewhat anonymous donation of collectible gold coins. The troop’s committee decided to create an award in honor of former Scoutmaster Bruce Anderson and give the recipient the gold coin as the award. Thus, at the winter Court of Honor at Merry Heart, the Bruce Anderson Golden Heart Award was created to give to a scout who was a great contributor to the troop and the community. Eddie Modugno was the first recipient of the award, followed by Ian Thomson and then Darren Zega. Later, the award became a plaque.

The Scoutmaster Award for Summer Camp – After a fun and productive week at summer camp, scouts would go home having earned several merit badges and partaken in several activities. Scoutmaster Mr. Modugno wanted to recognize a scout who had demonstrated great scout spirit, lived by the scout oath and law, and worked hard while at Summer Camp. Therefore, Mr. Modugno created the Scoutmaster Award for Summer Camp and awarded it at the September Court of Honor. This award was later discontinued.

Guiding Light Award – In 2005, Mr. Maguire was inspired by something he heard while at Wood Badge, the Boy Scouts’ highest level of leader training available. Mr. Maguire had gotten the idea to recognize leaders who went above and beyond to serve and help scouts. Mr. Maguire immediately knew whom he wanted to give this award to: Mr. Greeley, the Troop’s long-time Eagle Mentor. At the 2006 Merry Heart Court of Honor, Mr. Maguire, along with a few other adult leaders, honored Mr. Greeley with the Guiding Light Award. The first award came with a model lighthouse in addition to a plaque. The plaque commemorates a leader whose outstanding service to the troop deserves the utmost praise and thanks.

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Further Reading

Please visit our Troop website at Troop236BSA.org for more information about our troop. There you will also find our "Campout Catalogue," which features a full-listing of all the campouts our Troop has ever been on, including detailed descriptions and histories. You can also check out our Blog to view posts from our Scoutmaster and Scribe, as well as most of our old troop newsletters.

You can visit the Patriots' Path Council website at PPCBSA.org and the Black River District website at PPCBSA.org/black-river-district.

Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook to stay up to date with the latest Troop news and to see event and campout pictures.

This historical document is managed by volunteer scouts. If you or someone you know would like to contribute to this document, please send a note to webmaster@troop236bsa.org.

All stories, documents, photos and historical memorabilia related to Troop 236 of Schooley's Mountain, NJ are welcomed.
