

## Long Valley Scout Earning His Eagle Scout Merit Badge

By Henry M. Hobbes

Fifteen-year-old Bryce Abramson, a Boy Scout in Troop 236, in Saint Mark's Church, in Long Valley, is earning his Eagle Scout merit badge.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank in Scouts BSA (formerly the Boy Scouts of America). To attain this status, the scout must earn 13 specific merit badges required. And he must accomplish the tasks required of an Eagle Scout, including a large service project.

"I became interested in earning the Eagle Scout badge because when I was in the Cub Scouts, I saw my friends earning it," said Bryce.

"I always looked upon the older kids to guide me and help me through problems. I've always looked up to them and I wanted younger kids to look up to me so I could help and guide them through the tough times or answer any questions they may have.

"I joined the scouts in 2016." Bryce did not have scouts in his family when he joined but now, he has two brothers in the Cub Scouts, and a sister who is a Girl Scout. Bryce also has been a Den Chief for Cub Scout Pack 62 at Sandshore School for the past 3 years.

Bryce has 11 Of the required 13 Mer-

it badges to earn the Eagle Scout badge. "I need my camping merit badge, and my cooking merit badge to have the 13 for Eagle Scout. I expect to get them over the summer or early fall.

"I have 30 merit badges total including the 11 for Eagle. Most of the badges are for leadership and how to help around in the community. Some of the other merit badges are helpful for developing skills or something that you might not learn in school."

Bryce's service project is to make an outdoor classroom for the Sandshore School, in Budd Lake. The project will consist of six benches, a white board, and a kiosk. This way, the teachers can teach the students outside, in nature's environment."

Bryce has a lot of great friends who are helping him. "I have an estimated cost of around \$2,000. I am raising the funds through a Go Fund Me page. So far, we have raised about \$1,700, which is amazing."

His Council Representative is Barry Haines, and his project advisor is Ryan Stone who is also an Eagle Scout. "He helped me work through the project's issues and made sure that nothing goes wrong.

"I am planning on having the outdoor classroom completed by July or early August," he said.

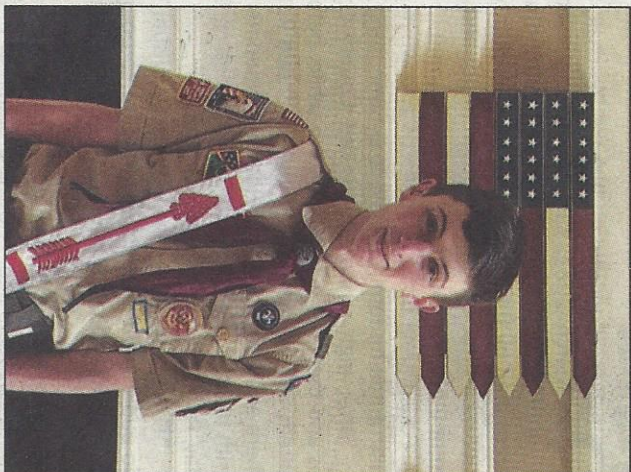
Bryce says that most of the Eagle Scouts he has met turn out to be good leaders.

"I've been to some of their Eagle Scout projects and see that everyone has to be coordinated. You must know everyone's strengths and weaknesses. To make my project successful, I have to know all of my helper's strong points and weaknesses, and be able to put them in a specific jobs."

"Most of the Eagle Scouts I know from school belong to a lot of clubs that go out and help the community such as picking up trash or donating money. So, I really look up to a lot of them. They have some of the characteristics that I would like to have."

Bryce says that in general, Eagle Scouts are always determined to do their job to the best of their ability. "They are always hopeful, helpful, and cheerful. They are optimistic. And they are incredibly positive people, with very few negative tendencies, if any."

"I want to thank everyone along the way who helped me by donating to the Go Fund Me page, because every small donation adds up. The PTA also helped me. They are donating a whiteboard and benches. Without other people's help I would not have been able to do this project."



Bryce Abramson is wearing the Order of the Arrow brotherhood. It is the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts, composed of Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. (Courtesy Bryce Abramson)

To donate toward Bryce's project, visit [www.gofundme.com/f/eagle-scout-sandshore-school-outdoor-classroom](http://www.gofundme.com/f/eagle-scout-sandshore-school-outdoor-classroom).