

GREEN MOUNTAIN COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

2022 EAGLE SCOUT RECOGNITION DINNER

***Tuesday, May 6, 2022
Capitol Plaza Hotel***

Thank you, Green Mountain Council President Rich Jacobs.

Thank you, Chairman Ron Larose. And thank you to all the scouts and their families for their hard work and service throughout your scouting journeys.

Thank you Troop 635 of Essex Junction.

It's so nice to be here in person with you all. The challenges of the pandemic have been long and tiresome, but I am thrilled to be here, together, on this beautiful day in the Capitol City of our Green Mountain state. What a beautiful day it was for your proclamation ceremony on the steps of the people's house, the state house.

It is my pleasure to be here with the Boy Scouts for the Green Mountain Council Eagle Scout Recognition and celebration, and to help honor the many young men, and soon many young women, who have achieved scouting's highest ranks, Eagle Scout, as well as those that have achieved their Venturing Summit Rank.

I offer my greatest congratulations to all the Scouts and their families here today for their hard work and achievements.

Achieving Eagle Scout is no easy task; the over 20 merit badges that are required, the extensive service projects – the Eagle Project - that is required, and carrying the Scout Spirit in your daily life; all demonstrate your commitment to scouting, learning new and vital skills, and community service.

Vermont is truly better off and better served with scouts in our communities.

While I briefly participated in scouting growing up, I'll admit my participation was indeed very brief.

So my parents kept me busy with work on my family's dairy farm in Newbury. There was never a shortage of tasks or new challenge to solve on the farm.

When my parents sent me out in the field or to the barn, and something didn't go as planned, I had to lean on my own ingenuity and problem-solving skills to address whatever the day's challenge was. Those days on the farm helped me develop a strong work ethic and problem-solving skills. Not too different than what is gained during a scout's journey to Eagle and Summit Rank.

Every Eagle develops qualities during this arduous journey—qualities that help guide you through the rest of your life and the challenges you will face throughout it.

Self-reliance. Trust of self, and others. Doing things right and doing the right thing. The importance of honor and personal integrity. Helping others and caring about them. These are the qualities and lessons that a journey through scouting provides.

Every one of you will face challenges and obstacles. Life is full of obstacles.

And success is about overcoming them. But I don't have to tell you all that—you already know it. Your example and dedication to service and your communities helps teach this lesson.

Today we officially recognize your prestigious and well-deserved rank of Eagle Scout and Summit Rank. Your hard work and achievements have poised you to be the next generation of leaders.

But you have been soaring in the sky above our Green Mountains and valleys with the highest, bravest, strongest eagles your entire life. And because of your journey through scouts, and service to your communities, I believe you always will.

Today's celebration and recognition is proof that spirited hearts, determined minds and courageous souls can accomplish anything. Vermont looks up to you in awe and with admiration for your work and service. Congratulations!