

Fall 2024 Edition



ABS Today

A Publication of the Association of Baptists for Scouting



ABS Eagle Corner

Association of Baptists for Scouting would like to recognize the following scouters for reaching the highest rank in Scouting. Congratulations for a job well done.

Eagle Scout David Noah Dyer

The Association of Baptists for Scouting recognizes Eagle Scout David Noah Dyer. David is a member of Troop 4 in the Natural State Council in Jonesboro, Tennessee and the 84th Eagle Scout from the troop. He is the son of David Dyer and Dr. Argelia Lorence.



For his Eagle Project, David chose to rejuvenate the flowerbeds at the Hispanic Center. His plan included soil samples for the Agriculture Extension office to study to help him choose the best plants that would survive in the beds. All plants he selected were perennials and were found in Latin American countries.



The goal for his project was multifaceted. He wanted the garden to require low maintenance for the center. He desired to have plants from Latin American countries for Hispanic visitors. With the addition of plant labels, he added an

educational aspect for the children. Noah raised \$1000 and had 20 volunteers with a total of 182.5 hours committed to the project. His team placed 90 plants in an area of 850 sq. ft. To ensure plants survival, David gave the center hoses, sprayers, fertilizer and even some potted plants for their front doorway.

On the day of the project, the temperatures were in dangerously high ranges, so David had a cooling station and frequent rotation to keep his volunteers safe.

During his scouting experiences, David earned all four of the P.R.A.Y. Religious emblems earning the 4 Star award. This was the first in the Natural State Council and only the third in the last 20 years. He also earned 2 separate Supernova Awards and 51 merit badges at the time of his Board of Review for Eagle Scout.

Congratulations, David. May God continue to guide you as you use your Scouting skills to serve others for Him.





Eagle Scout Banyan Finger

The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud to recognize Eagle Scout Banyan Finger. Banyan is a member of Troop 413 in the Chief Seattle Council in Ellensburg, Washington. He is the son of Nick and Kimberly Finger.

Banyan's Eagle Project required him to recruit and lead a team of volunteers in creating a new section of the West Fork Trail System in the Teanaway Community Forest. Not only did they create a new part of the trail but designed the trail to prevent erosion and conserve the natural resources in the area.

During Banyan's Scouting years he was able to learn leadership skills through the positions he held. Some of his positions were Librarian, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Troop Guide. He earned his World Conservation Award by completing the three required merit badges (Sustainability, Soil and Water Conservation, and Citizenship in the World). He also helped with additional conservation related service projects, such as cleaning up dog waste on our local walking trail and removing construction litter from a nearby development.



Congratulations, Banyan for reaching your goal of Eagle Scout. May God continue to guide you and help you use your Scouting skills to serve others.

Eagle Scout James Hamlin

The Association of Baptists for Scouting recognizes Eagle Scout James Hamlin. James is a member of Troop 140, Texas Trails Council, in Sweetwater, Texas. He is the son of Chris and Cindy Hamlin.



James's Eagle Scout project was to refurbish and create a display for a WWII M1A4 Carr Howitzer 75mm Cannon owned by the Sweetwater VFW Post #2479. The cannon was chained to a tree in front of their new building due to being stolen by other VFWs. The Post needed a place to display and secure the cannon. After discussions with the VFW, it was decided to create a concrete slab and place a 3000-pound piece of granite on top where the cannon now seats. With the help of his community, family, fellow Scouts from Troop 140, the Order of the Arrow members, and Lamar Street Baptist Church members, James was able to complete his Eagle project.



James passed his Eagle Board of Review on October 28th, 2024, and celebrated on November 9th, with loved ones and community members.

James has always set high goals in Scouting. As a Cub Scout, James earned the Arrow of Light and encouraged his fellow scouts to get their Arrow of Light.



James crossed over into Troop 140 and held multiple positions, from Troop Historian to Senior Patrol

Leader. He participated in summer camps, helped plan Cub Scout camps, and large theatrical campfire shows which included lights, fog machines and sounds systems. After earning First Class, he was called out to become a member of the Order of the Arrow.

James held leadership roles on both of his Philmont Scout High Adventure Backpacking trips, once as the Wilderness pledge Guia, then as the crew leader for the 2024 trek.

James has always placed his faith in Jesus Christ and thanks God daily for giving him the opportunities through Scouting to draw closer to Him in his everyday life. "Do a good turn daily" is truly James's motto. Congratulations, James. May God continue to guide you as you serve others for Him.

Eagle Scout

Andrew John Powell

The Association of Baptist for Scouting proudly recognizes Andrew John Powell for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Andrew (Drew) is the son of Andrew (Erin) Powell and Rebecca (Heath) Wadkins.



Drew began his Scouting journey in 2012 as a Tiger Cub with Pack 50 in Wetumpka. After earning his Arrow of Light award and obtaining the Webelos rank with the Pack, Drew continued his journey with Troop 50, also based in Wetumpka, and eventually achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on June 11, 2023.

Drew is a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and has held the positions of Historian, Quartermaster, and Senior Patrol Leader with Troop 50. During his road to Eagle, Drew earned many service hours, such as participating in Adopt-a-Mile (a road clean-up project), volunteering at the Elmore County Humane Shelter, and assisting other Scouts with their Eagle projects.

For his Eagle Project, Drew chose to help tell the history of a crater that fell in Wetumpka. Drew's project consisted of obtaining funding, coordinating volunteers, and directing them in the rebuilding of the Crater Commission sign that is positioned beside Highway 231, just south of Wetumpka. When asked why he chose this project, Drew stated that he "wanted to inform more people about the crater in Wetumpka..." Drew's Eagle project was completed and revealed to the city in July of 2022.



Drew is a Senior at Wetumpka High School and currently maintains a 3.5 GP. He has participated in robotics and arts electives and is a member of Mu Alpha Theta (Math Beta Club) and the history club. He is a member of First Baptist Church of Wetumpka and is active in the youth group. Drew will attend Auburn University of Montgomery in the fall of 2025 to pursue a degree in Business Management.

Congratulations, Drew. May God continue to guide you into the future and allow you to use the skills you learned in Scouting to serve others.

Eagle Scout Michael Woida

The Association of Baptists for Scouting recognizes Eagle Scout Michael Woida. Michael is a member of Troop 38 in the Potawatomi Area Council, New Berlin, Wisconsin. He is the son of Todd and Kara Woida and the nephew of Michael Woida.

Michael's Eagle Project consisted of building



a 4-foot by 4-foot wooden donation box for the homeless veterans' organization in Racine. This organization, the Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin, helps get sober, homeless veterans back on their feet using tiny homes. The organization relies on donations from the community and needed a new box for their food pantry, which was properly created and built by members of Troop 38 under Michael's leadership.

Michael has had many adventures while in Scouting. His favorite memories include watching the lightning at the Summit High Adventure Camp in West Virginia light up the pitch black mountains. He enjoyed whitewater rafting on the New River Gorge, under the massive arch bridge.

Michael has held multiple positions in Scouting. Quarter Master, Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide, and Troop Guide are a few of the roles that have strengthened his leadership skills.

Through leading the prayer at almost every meeting, Michael has developed an interest in theology. Michael has begun taking theological classes in pursuit of becoming a pastor. An interest in electrical work has lead him to take some engineer and trade work classes, too.

Congratulations, Michael. The Association is proud of your determination to reach your goal. May God continue to guide you as you use your Scouting skills to help you serve others for Him.

