

Winter Special Edition 2022



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 Kurtis Levi McConnell



Congratulations to Kurtis McConnell, the son of Tina and Jace McConnell. Kurtis is a member of Troop 406 in Trenton, Florida. He is the first to earn the Eagle Scout rank in the troop since the pack reopened 10 years ago.

Kurtis' Eagle Scout project involved expanding a hiking trail in Fanning Springs State Park in Fanning Springs, Florida. In addition to working on the trail, Kurtis added two benches and a picnic table to the trail area.

Association of Baptists for Scouting is honored to recognize Eagle Kurtis McConnell.

Eagle Justin Wyatt Schiefer

Congratulations to Justin Wyatt Schiefer, a member of Troop 319 in Findlay, Ohio. He earned the Eagle Scout rank on August 18, 2022. Justin's Eagle project involved repairing five sets of stairways at the City of Findlay reservoirs. The repairs improved the safety of the area.



Justin is a senior at Van Buren High School and plans to attend college after graduation.

The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud to recognize Eagle Justin Schiefer.

Eagle Ronnie Charles, Jr



Congratulations to Eagle Ronnie Charles, Jr. of Troop 845 in Coldspring, Texas. Ronnie earned his Eagle Scout in February 2022. He is the son of Betty and Ronnie Charles. His Eagle project involved building a puppet theater for the local library to aid community involvement and participation. He visited a local childcare facility and taught the students how to make puppets that were donated to the library. Ronnie says his service project is only part of the experience he had while working on the Eagle Scout rank. The Scouting experience helped him gain valuable leadership knowledge and organizational skills.

The Association of Baptists for
Scouting is proud of your determination and hard work to reach your goal.

Eagle Cameron Peters

Cameron Peters, the son of Craig and Paula Peters, completed the requirements for Eagle Scout rank at the age of 16, during Covid. His board of review was February 6, 2021, and his Court of Honor was held on December 18, 2022.

Cameron's Eagle Scout project involved building a beautiful fire pit at the Northwyck Neighborhood Park in Liberty, MO. After several months of use, the fire pit was vandalized beyond repair. Unfortunately, the park system removed it before it was even in place for a year.

Cameron joined Cub Scouts in first grade and after camping and earning badges he eventually earned his Arrow of Light. After joining the troop, he held leadership positions of Den Chief, Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. In August of 2022 he attended a 10-day high adventure trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and served as the Philmont Crew Leader during the trek.

He is presently a senior at Liberty North High School and has been inducted into National Honor Society.

In his home church, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, he has been actively involved in the youth program and has been a part of the creative arts production team by running cameras, lights, video, sound, and live broadcasting for worship services. He presently helps lead a middle school small group of 6th grade boys. Cameron has been a part of many missions' trips at home and will be going on mission abroad in the Spring 2023.

After graduation, he plans to continue his education seeking a four-year degree and continue his involvement in scouting and youth leadership.

The Association of Baptists for Scouting congratulates Eagle Cameron A. Peters for reaching his goal and demonstrating Christ's love to others.



Eagle Noah and Eagle Elijah Cameron



Noah and Elijah Cameron are the sons of Rochelle and Tony Cameron. They each earned the Eagle Scout rank on July 18, 2022. They are members of Troop 130 in the Buckskin Council in Pineville, West Virginia. Noah and Elisha are the first set of twins to ever come through their troop and both achieve the Eagle rank.

Noah's Eagle Scout project included benches and flower beds outside his church for members to enjoy after church dinners.

Noah is a senior at Wyoming East High School where he is active in several school activities and clubs. Noah is the vice president of student government this year. He has been accepted at Marshall University and plans to major in Radiology and Medical Imaging.



Elijah's Eagle project honors veterans of Wyoming County. He installed a flagpole and solar lights to ensure it is always visible. He planted a flower garden at the foot of the flagpole as a memorial to the veterans.

Elijah is a senior at Wyoming East High School where he participates in numerous school clubs and serves as president of the student government. He has been accepted at Marshall University where he plans to study criminal justice with the goal of one day applying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy.

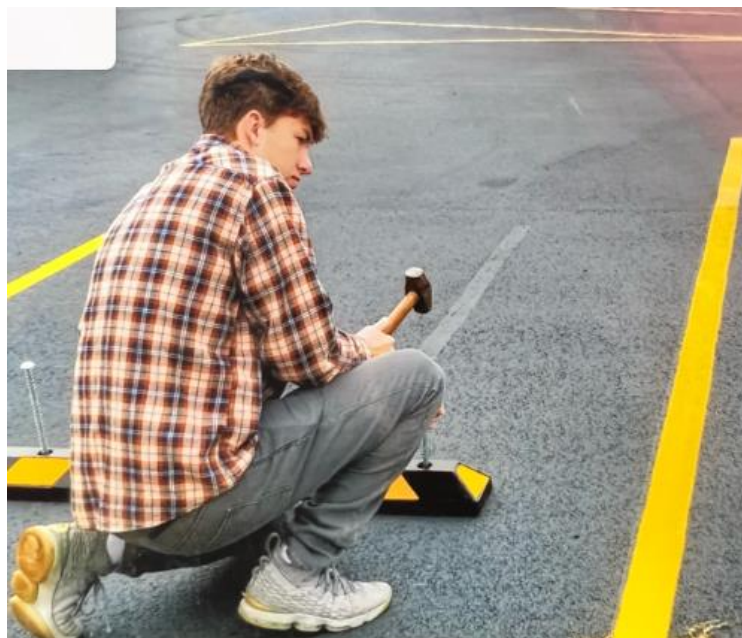


Congratulations to Eagle Noah Cameron and Eagle Elijah Cameron. The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your dedication and perseverance needed to reach your goals.

Eagle Conner Walter

Congratulation to Eagle Conner Walter. He was recognized at his Court of Honor on May 21, 2022. His Eagle project involved upgrading the parking lot at the First Baptist Church in Gallipolis, Ohio, which housed his school from kindergarten through high school. He installed 32 tire bumpers along the outside perimeter of the lot to keep street traffic from coming into the parking area of the church. He then built a safety fence between the parking lot and the playground area to keep cars from entering the playground area and the soccer fields.

Conner graduated from Ohio Valley Christian School in Gallipolis on May 28. He is a member of Faith Baptist Church in Rodney, OH where he is actively involved in the youth group.



The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of Eagle Conner Walter for achieving his goal.

Eagle Christian Allen Norris



Christian Allen Norris passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review on October 19, 2021. His Court of Honor was May 22, 2022. He is the son of Mr. Jack Allen Norris and Ms. Nadia Diaz Norris, and a member of Troop 312, Indian Waters Council in Columbia, South Carolina.

Christian's Eagle project involved implementing a sustainable donation method to help pay for cancer treatments for children in Mexico, where there may be found, the largest concentration of cancer in Latin America. Coordinating with scouting units in Mexico, Christian promoted the collection and recycling of plastic bottle caps. The caps were placed in a metal heart-shaped collection containers throughout the community. Christian had promised to place 5 containers but based on the success of the collections this grew to 20 containers. The caps are collected by a local business, Casa Feliz, and taken to a recycling plant that buys the caps. The money is used to cover the cost of treatments, lodging and meals for the families of the cancer patients. The collections are already providing enough money to help 16-17 children and their families with treatments, lodging and meals, on a weekly basis! The success of the project has led to talks of bringing the idea to the USA.



Christian's project has earned 2 levels of the Eagle Scout Project of the Year Award and is now in contention for the National Award.

A video to highlight the project can be found at <https://youtu.be/94foHJfLEyl>

If you wish to contribute as the project continues, the gofundme link is active: www.Gofundme.com/f/future-eagle-fights-cancer (100% of donations are used to purchase additional heart-shaped recycling bins, which create an indefinite sustainable donation to pay for cancer treatments, housing, and meals)

Eagle Timothy Charles Melton



Timothy Charles Melton, a member of Troop 16 of the Greater St. Louis Area Council, received his Eagle rank on November 10, 2022. During his scouting career he has held a variety of leadership roles, such as Quartermaster and Senior Patrol Leader.

Timothy's Eagle project involved updates to the preschool playground at Upper Alton Baptist

Church and Preschool. His project included working with the preschool director, acquiring the approval of the Church, organizing scouts and volunteers, obtaining materials and necessary tools, and seeing the project to completion. The final project consisted of replacing a retaining wall around a portion of the fence, digging out and installing a foundation for a shed that continued to sink, repainting wooden tables and benches, replacing the gutter garden, and spreading 5 tons of rock to make it safer for the children. The preschool leadership and children are grateful for a safer place to play.

Timothy is the son of Terry and Jennifer Melton. He is currently a junior at East Alton Wood River Community High School in Wood River Illinois. Upon graduation he plans to attend the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois pursuing a career in Electrical Engineering.

Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud to recognize Eagle Timothy Charles Melton. Congratulations, Timothy.

Eagle Jack Henry Jones

Jack Henry Jones, the son of Jeff and Nita Jones, earned the rank of Eagle Scout and was honored at the Court of Honors on July 23, 2022, at Quail Springs United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Jack is a member of Troop 349 in the Last Frontier Council of Oklahoma City. During his scouting career he has led in many leadership positions. He has been Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and is currently Troop Guide to a new patrol of young scouts in the troop.

Jack is a sophomore at Edmond North High School, where he plays the trumpet in the marching band. He is active in the youth group of his home church, Quail Springs Baptist Church.

Jack's Eagle project involved building two ADA Compliant picnic tables for the Martin Nature Park in Oklahoma City. These have already been a useful addition to the community.

Congratulations Eagle Jack Jones. Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your dedication and accomplishments.



**Eagle Scout Jack Jones and
Scoutmaster James Bell**

Eagle Kevin Charles Koonce



Congratulations to Eagle Kevin Koonce, of Lewisville, Texas, for earning the rank of Eagle. Kevin is a member of Troop 451 in the Longhorn Council.

Kevin's Eagle project involved working with Search One Rescue, an organization that assists governmental agencies in locating lost and missing persons. He built 32 scent boxes that will be used to help train K9 dogs and their handlers in their search. Kevin created and designed one box the size an adult can enter and six boxes, 3' x 3' with guillotine door so the dog and the handler do not have to move once the dog has located the target scent. Twenty-five additional scent boxes, 1' x 1' with a hole on one side for smaller items that aides in the beginning training of the dogs and handlers were built. Kevin supervised 14 adults and many younger scouts in the process of creating and building the boxes.

Kevin's scouting experience started as a Tiger cub. In Cub Scouts, Kevin earned his religious emblem, Arrow of Light and the Super Achiever Award before bridging into Boy Scouts. He is presently a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, an honor camping society that uses the principles of the Scout Oath and Law and fosters continued participation in scouting. Kevin is a Tom-Tom beater, to help give back to younger scouters.

Kevin is a senior this year. He is in all advanced courses, as well as being on the varsity football team. He is active in the youth activities at his church and works part time cleaning families' pools.

Kevin is the son of Jim and Shelly Koonce. He is the youngest of three children, a sister-Tara and a brother-James. James is also an Eagle Scout. Congratulations to Kevin for reaching this milestone in Scouting and to all who helped him through the Scouting process-parents, scout leaders and fellow scouters.

Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your determination and success of reaching the rank of Eagle.



Eagle Dylan Middleton

Dylan Middleton, son of Tonya Middleton and Brandon Middleton, earned the Eagle Scout rank on February 17, 2022. Dylan's Eagle project involved designing, planning, and installing a new flowerbed at an entry to the swimming pool in Bishop Park, a recreation center in Bryant, AR.

Dylan is a ninth grader in Troop 17 in the Quapaw Area Council. He is the first African American in Troop 17's history to earn the Eagle Scout rank. He has been active in weekly meetings, monthly campouts, and other BSA special events. He has served as a patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and the senior patrol leader. He was the only scout to earn his Arrow of Light when he bridged over to Troop 17.



Dylan's leadership skills have been evident in scouting as well as in his school. He served as president of the 2021-2022 student council and was an active member of Future Business Leaders of America. In 2021-2022, he earned 1st place for public speaking and 2nd place for exploring computer science at the district IV middle level FBLA spring leadership conference. He is a swimmer and diver and qualified for the state championship swim team. Dylan was named the 2022 outstanding freshman for the high school swim team. In addition, he is an avid runner and pole vaulter, participating on the cross country and track teams.



Dylan desires to attend Texas A&M with a major in nuclear engineering, with aspirations to build the first nuclear plane. In his spare time, Dylan enjoys fishing, hunting, and traveling. He is a member of Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church in North Little Rock, AR.

Congratulations, Eagle Dylan Middleton for reaching your goal. Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your hard work and success.

Eagle Matthew Gene Stringer



Matthew Stringer earned the rank of Eagle Scout on July 13, 2022. He is a member of Troop 222 in Arlington, Texas and the son of Michael and Sara Stringer.

Matthew's Eagle project allowed him to use his audio/visual production skills to develop three recruitment videos for the Fine Arts programs-choir, orchestra, and band, which have declined since the Pandemic. Being a member of the school choir and orchestra programs, Matthew took personal interest in developing a way to promote these programs. Using his scouting skills, he brainstormed ideas and presented them to the school principal and teachers. He developed a timeline, accessed resources, and organized fellow scouts and students to produce the videos. The final videos were presented to the school.

Congratulations to Eagle Matthew Gene Stringer on reaching the rank of Eagle. The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your hard work and success.

Eagle Riley Ephraim Chavez

Eagle Riley Ephraim Chavez completed the requirements for Eagle Scout in September 2022. He is a member of BSA Troop 234 in the Cataloochee District of the Great Smoky Mountain Council. His Court of Honor was held at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Tennessee, where he is an active member.

His Eagle project involved helping clean, repair, paint, restore, and purchase needed equipment for residents of the Douglas Residence, an affordable apartment complex for the elderly in the area. Riley and his team's focus was to bring about a happier, better quality of life to those who lived at Douglas.



Riley is the son of Stacy Walker. He has achieved much in his fifteen years. Along with Scouting he continually excels academically, being a Scholars Bowl Champion as the Captain of the team, competing at the state level of Spelling Bees, playing the violin, mandolin, guitar, and jaw harp along with other instruments. As a freshman he was elected and remains President of the JCHS Chess Club. He is also a member of the Yearbook Staff, Technology Student Association, and multiple Honors Societies. Currently his focus of study is to be a part of cybersecurity. He hopes to attend Carnegie Mellon University after high school. His future goal is to have a part in defending our nation's security online. Riley has always been known as a true friend, witty, clever, full of hilarious one-liners and a talent for sleight of hand card tricks.

Congratulations, Eagle Riley Chavez. The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your determination and success.

Eagle Jason Wayne Stanton



Eagle Jason Wayne Stanton is the son of Jessica and Patrick Stanton. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout on May 18, 2022. He is an active member of Troop 394 in the Heart of America Council in Claycomo, Missouri.

Jason's Eagle project involved working with Liberty, Missouri 's Games and Parks Department to be the

catalyst for a park at Jefferson-Cates Park. The field had been set aside for years to become a playground for local children. Jason planned and installed a ga-ga ball pit at the park. This action prompted the city to order the playground equipment.

Jason's scouting experience begin when he was 6 years old. He completed the Arrow of Light before crossing over to the troop level. He completed the NYLT course the summer of 2020 and is currently staffing the NYLT course. He is a part of cross country and track teams, active member of Providence Baptist Church in Kansas City and attends a weekly Bible study at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

Congratulations, Eagle Jason Stanton for reaching your goal. Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your hard work and success.

Eagle Luke McKenzie

Luke McKenzie obtained the rank of Eagle Scout on August 20, 2022. He is a member of First Baptist Church's Troop 12 in Clinton, Mississippi. He is the son of Mauricka and Oona McKenzie.

Luke's Eagle project involved restoring a grape vineyard for the Women's Ministry Shelter, Buried Treasures, in Byram, Mississippi. Luke and his troop members spent a day pruning vines and replacing cedar posts on an old quarter-acre grape vineyard. The fruit is harvested annually and used to show women how to make pies, jams, and healthy juices while teaching them about the Lord Jesus.

In addition to Scouting, Luke serves as a ministry assistant at Fountain of Life Baptist Church in Clinton, Mississippi.

Congratulations to Eagle Luke McKenzie for achieving this goal in Scouting. Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your determination and success.



Eagle Matthew Gibson

Matthew Gibson of Troop 5048 in the Simon Kenton Council has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Matthew is the son of Allen and Kari Gibson of Jackson, Ohio. Including Scouting, Matthew is an active member of Jackson Baptist Temple.

His Eagle project involved repairing and refurbishing the Jackson City Schools' track and field facilities. He chose this project because of his love for running and his participation on the track and field team. He helped his school and track team by giving them a better field to practice, compete and be proud to host events.

Matthew's Court of Honor was August 20, 2022. Congratulations, Eagle Matthew Gibson. Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your success.



Eagle Noah Akins



Scoutmaster Kevin Martin, Noah, and COR Steve Barham

Noah Akins, member of the Cherokee Area Council, Troop 82 in Harrison, Tennessee, achieved his Eagle Scout Award on April 27, 2022. His Eagle project, which was completed on June 29, 2021, involved replacing dilapidated decking boards on one of the fishing piers in Booker T. Washington State Park on Chickamauga Lake near Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Park provided the materials and Noah provided the leadership and labor.

Scouters from his troop and adult volunteers offered their help to complete the project that is used by people all year.

Noah graduated from high school this year and attends Tennessee Tech to study Mechanical Engineering. His Court of Honor was July 17, 2022. He is a member of Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Congratulations, Eagle Noah Akins for reaching your goal. The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your determination and success.



-Repairing Fishing Pier

Eagle Robert Penzone III



Robert Penzone, son of Robert and Karin Penzone, earned the rank of Eagle on December 16, 2021. He is a member of Troop 2062 sponsored by the United Methodist Church in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania.

Robert's Eagle project involved creating a Veteran Memorial Flower Garden in Lawrenceville's Power Cemetery. During his years in Scouting, Robert has been a Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and the Troop Historian.

Congratulations, Eagle Robert Penzone. Association of Baptist for Scouting is proud of your determination and success.

Eagle William S. Kennedy



William S. Kennedy completed his Eagle Scout advancement on May 22, 2022. William is both a Lone Scout and Sea Scout in the National Capital Area Council (NCAC) and serves as the Boatswain for National Service Territory 12. William's path to Eagle included earning 32 Scouting and Sea Scouting Awards, 82 Merit Badges,

12 Eagle Palms and the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. His Eagle Scout Project involved leading a group of volunteers in the construction and replacement of a 16' footbridge for the National Park Service in Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, VA.

In addition to serving as the Boatswain for NST 12, William serves as the NCAC Boatswains' Mate for Program, and Boatswain's Mate for Program for Sea Scout Ship 1942, Arlington, VA. William is a regular attendee at Manassas Baptist Church, Manassas, VA.

William is the son of CW5 John R. Kennedy and Mrs. Charleen Kennedy. Congratulations to Eagle William Kennedy. He wishes to thank his faithful parents and leaders that encourage and supported him through this process.

Congratulations, Eagle William Kennedy. The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your hard work and accomplishments.

Eagle Giovanni Jamison Taylor



Eagle Giovanni Jamison Taylor is a member of Troop 116, Wright Brothers District in Centerville, Ohio. Giovanni passed the Eagle Scout review on October 24, 2022. He is the 108th Eagle Scout in his troop. His Court of Honor was held on December 11, 2022, at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio.

Giovanni's Eagle Scout project involved building a wood storage shed for the Centerville Washington Township Park District. The district needed a place to store wood for park events. Prior to construction of the storage shed, park employees had to travel great distance to obtain wood for park events. The new shed will save them time and money.

Giovanni is the grandson of Roberta Taylor. He is a senior at Centerville High School in Centerville, Ohio. He has been a faithful member of his church and has sung in the male chorus, taught youth Sunday School and been president of the Young David's group for 2 years. He has earned two God and Family medals through his scouting career.

The Association of Baptists for Scouting is honored to recognize Eagle Giovanni Jamison Taylor for reaching his goals and wish him God's blessings in the next chapter of his life.

Eagle Scout Nathan Huerta



Eagle Nathan Huerta, of Troop 76 in McAllen, Texas. He is the son of Juan and Cheri Huerta. His journey through scouting began in Tiger Cub and has included many leadership roles, camping trips and high adventure camps. In Spring, 2022 he completed the National Leadership Training course. Nathan is a junior at World Scholars in Edinburg, Texas, and a member of Calvary Baptists Church in McAllen, where he is active in the church's youth group.

Nathan's Eagle Scout project involved collecting over 800 old and worn United States flags. On September 11, 2021, local veterans and community members were present at the town's Veteran's War Memorial where dozens of scouts, scout leaders, and other volunteers from the McAllen area helped Nathan hold a 9/11 remembrance ceremony and retire the collected flags.



Congratulations to Eagle Nathan Huerta for reaching his goal. Association of Baptists for Scouting is honored to recognize him and his achievements.

Eagle Barrett Ashton Nardi



Congratulations to Eagle Barrett Nardi, a member of Troop 561 in Eastman, Georgia. He is the son of Heather and Joe Molewski, Eastman, GA, and Tim Nardi and Ann Nardi, Augusta, GA. Barrett's three older brothers are also Eagle Scouts, Brayden Nardi, Ben Molewski, and Alec Molewski of Eastman, GA.

His Eagle project involved designing, constructing, and installing a United States Flag depository for the American Legion Post 126 to respectively retire worn and serviced U.S. flags.

Barrett is involved in his community in Eastman, GA. His community service record includes participating in Flag Disposal Ceremonies for the American Legion, volunteering with Cub Scout Pack 79, and volunteering for his local FCA and church activities. He is a member of First Baptist Church, Eastman, Georgia, where he participates in his church mission work that includes volunteering with Student Life Camp, Wednesday night small group leader, Youth Choir; Student Worker. He also works with Dodge County Christian Life Center volunteering to help sort donations; the food bank; Meals on Wheels; and holiday soup kitchen. He served as a VBS volunteer for FBC Eastman and Grace UMC. Additionally, he enjoys volunteering for church PowerPoint and sound booths, community service projects, and Operation Christmas Child by Samaritan's Purse.



Barrett looks forward to spending more time with his friends and family in the future. He is forever grateful for the Boy Scouts of America's impact on his life. To quote Barrett, "Scouting has taught me the meaning of brotherhood, helped me grow internally, and given me some of the best opportunities and memories I could ever ask for. It has truly helped me define what it means to be a Godly young man. I would like to thank everyone who has guided and helped me along the way."

Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud to recognize Eagle Barrett Nardi for the hard work he invested to achieve your goal. Congratulations, Eagle Barrett Nardi.