

Winter Edition 2024



ABS Today

A Publication of the Association of Baptists for Scouting



ABS Eagle Scout Corner

Association of Baptists for Scouting would like to recognize the following Scouts for reaching the highest rank, Eagle Scout.



Eagle Scout Jon Courtland Burton, Jr.

The Association of Baptists for Scouting proudly recognizes Eagle Scout Jon Burton, Jr. from Troop 143 in the Atlanta Area Council in Alpharetta, Georgia. Jon is the son of Jennifer and Jon Burton, Sr.

Jon's Eagle Scout Project involved building three raised garden beds with covers, a storage box and a welcome sign for Happyfeat of Suwanee, Georgia. Happyfeat is a nonprofit organization that provides community support for adults with special needs. Jon understands the importance of their mission because his sister, Rebekah, attends Happyfeat. Once Rebekah finished high school, she was able to continue learning new skills and building new friendships through the Day Program at Happyfeat. Jon's project provides new



opportunities for Happyfeat members to learn gardening skills year-round. Jon was also able to provide Happyfeat \$800 from excess funds for gardening tools and supplies. The picture left shows Jon standing with members of Happyfeat. Their big smiles

documents their appreciation for Jon's project.

Jon served in various leadership roles during his scouting years including Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Chaplain's Aide, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader of Outings, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader of Meetings, Service Project Coordinator and Senior Patrol Leader.

His Scouting honors include being a member of the Order of the Arrow, NYLT, Northern Tier High Adventure Canoe Trek (75-Miler award, Canoeing), Philmont Scout Ranch High Adventure 9-day trek in 2022 and 14-day trek in 2023. He also received the 50-Miler and 75-Miler Award in Hiking while at Philmont. He earned the Duty to God Award at Philmont and Northern Tier, Leave No Trace Award, Lake Monitor Award and Trail of Courage Award. He earned 36 merit badges and a Bronze Palm.

Jon graduated from Providence Christian Academy where he was a member of the National Honor Society, The National Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society and ran Varsity Track all four years. He ran Varsity Cross Country 3 years and was a member of the Georgia High School 2AA State Championship Cross Country Team in 2023, while also placing seventh place individually in the State. Jon is an active member of the Student Ministry at First Baptist Church Alpharetta. Today Jon volunteers in the Shine Special Needs Ministry as a Buddy to elementary students, and he coaches kids, and shares devotions through the Upward Basketball ministry.

Jon's family includes four sisters and his parents who have encouraged and supported Jon all along the path to Eagle. His family says, "We are grateful for all the adult volunteers of Troop 143 who enabled Jon to see all the opportunities ahead for him as he completed his Scouting journey. We give all the glory to Jesus and feel very blessed to have had so many positive experiences through Scouting."



Congratulations, Jon Burton, Jr. for reaching your Scouting goal. May God continue to bless you as you serve Him and others.

Eagle Scout Blake Caulkins

The Association of Baptists for Scouting proudly recognizes Blake Caulkins for earning the rank of Eagle Scout on March 11, 2024. Blake is the son of Rocky and Georgia Caulkins. He is a member of Bethal Baptist Boy Scout Troop 4316 in the Illowa Council in Galesburg, Illinois.



Blake joined Scouting as a first grader at Bethal Baptist Church, Cub Scout Pack 3317 and advanced to Troop 4316 where he earned his Eagle Scout.

Blake's Eagle Scout Project involved collecting gently used bicycles and working on them to ensure they were safe. He placed 3 bicycle racks and around 15 bicycles at Little John's Conservation Club, a local nonprofit conservation club, in Victoria, Illinois. Visitors can "borrow" a bike while they are at the club and ride around to enjoy nature. Through the years Blake's family have been frequent campers at Little John and often didn't have room for the children's bicycles. Blake thought having bicycles to loan visitors would enhance their experience at the camping area.



Congratulations, Blake, for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. May God continue to guide you as you serve Him and others in the years ahead.



Eagle Scout Coleman Durant Glasscock

The Association of Baptists for Scouting proudly recognizes Eagle Scout Coleman Glasscock.

Coleman is the son of Ronald and Sherrie Glasscock. Coleman began Scouting as a Cub Scout with Pack 223 and earned his Arrow of Light Award, before entering Troop 223. Coleman earned the rank of Eagle Scout while in BSA Troop 223 and was recognized during his Court of Honor on March 9, 2024.

Troop 223 is chartered by Gateway Baptist Church in Timberlake, North Carolina. Coleman's desire was to do his Eagle Scout Project at his home church, Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, in Rougemont, NC.

Coleman served diligently and cheerfully as the Chaplain's Aide making sure that the Troop had daily devotions and a worship service for all the camping trips. Coleman has also served as Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader leading by example. Along his Trail to Eagle, Coleman earned 36 merit badges and received the BSA National Outdoor Award for Camping. Coleman was elected by his Troop as a member of the Order of the Arrow within the Tsoitsi Tsogall Lodge. Coleman's concern for others led him to complete 57 community service projects totaling 83 hours during his Scouting years. His Eagle Scout Project resulted in an additional 139 hours of community service.

Coleman led his troop, family, and friends to assist him with his Eagle Scout Project, which was to build a Pergola near the playground at his home church, Mt. Harmony Baptist Church. The Pergola gives a place for parents to sit comfortably, in the shade and watch their children play on the nearby playground. It also provides a place for fellowship and for small group Bible study. Mt. Harmony Baptist Church joyfully and faithfully supported Coleman with his project and is enjoying the Pergola.

Coleman is a Senior at Person High School in Roxboro, NC. He will graduate in May 2024. Coleman attends Piedmont Community College where he is working toward his Welding Technology Diploma. Coleman plans to continue at Piedmont to complete his Welding Technology Diploma and to enroll in the Electrical Power Production Associate Degree Program with the desire to become a power plant operator. Coleman has also been working with Thomas Farms since the summer of 2021 learning and loving all aspects of farming.

Congratulations, Coleman, for setting and achieving your goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. May God continue to guide you as you work toward your next goals and use your knowledge to serve Him, your country, and your community in the future.





Eagle Scout Matthew Grogan

The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud to recognize Matthew Grogan for earning the rank of Eagle Scout in October 2023. Matthew is the son of Susan Grogan. He is a member of Troop 201 in the Ozark Trails Council in Sparta, Missouri. Throughout his Scouting career, Matthew participated in multiple community events. He attended summer camps and participated in countless camping trips. He acquired many life skills during his scouting years, including how to be self-efficient while camping and hiking, how to sail, kayak, cook outdoors, give first aid, tie numerous types of knots, that have been useful through the years. His scouting highlight was participating in a high adventure program at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

For his Eagle Project, Matthew worked with the Ozark Junior High School to complete a much-needed cleanup of their parking area. He and his team removed multiple gigantic tires and a large amount of brush.



Congratulations, Matthew. Your determination has helped you to reach the rank of Eagle Scout and make your community a better place. May God continue to guide you as you serve Him, your country and community in the future. The Association is honored to highlight you.

Eagle Scout Oluwatobi David Ibironke

The Association of Baptists for Scouting proudly recognizes Oluwatobi David Ibironke for earning the rank of Eagle Scout on February 24, 2024. Oluwatobi is a member of Troop 450 in Glenn Dale, Maryland. He is the son of Joelle Kabala.



Oluwatobi's Eagle Project consisted of building a bench and mini library for the Beltsville Community Center. The mini library will be filled with books for adults and children to read while they are at the Beltsville Community Center.

Reflecting on his Scouting experience, Oluwatobi shared in a letter how experiences in Scouting have been a journey that has prepared him for life. The journey of earning his Eagle Scout Award has given him essential life skills and brotherhood. The skills learned will help him to make positive decisions in life and be a better person. Scouting has taught Oluwatobi how to commit to a goal, "make a positive impact on community and bond with others. The life skills, the development of discipline, and the nurturing of ambition are things that make the journey remarkable."



Congratulations, Oluwatobi. Setting Eagle Scout as a goal for yourself in Scouting and achieving it is a task few achieve. We are proud of your determination and service in Scouting. May God continue to guide you and bless you as you serve Him, your country, and your community.



Eagle Scout Ryan Jacob Porter

The Association of Baptist for Scouting is proud to recognize Eagle Scout Ryan Jacob Porter. Ryan is a member of Troop 89 in Monroe, North Carolina. He is the son of Fred and Candie Porter.

Ryan's Eagle Scout Project involved planning and refurbishing a tree stump cross and building a flower bed around the cross at Philadelphia Baptist Church in Marshville, NC. Ryan sanded and sealed the cross that had been cut from a tree stump at the church. His work beautified the cross area for the enjoyment of the church members and community.

Ryan's 12 years in Scouting have given him multiple opportunities to learn and grow. He has earned his Arrow of Light, 30 merit badges, and is a member of the Order of the Arrow in the Itibapishe Iti Hollo Lodge. He has camped for 43 nights and given 27.5 service hours through the years.

Ryan has held many positions of leadership in Scouting including Quartermaster, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader.

Ryan comes from a Scouting family. His dad has been a Den Leader, Assistant Scoutmaster and is currently a Cubmaster for Pack 89. His mother is a Committee Member for the Pack.



Ryan follows his older brother, Zack, who has also earned the rank of Eagle Scout. His younger brother, Noah, is following in their footsteps toward becoming an Eagle Scout.

Ryan was selected by the Union Power Cooperative to attend the 2023 Youth Tour to Washington DC. This was an opportunity to take on leadership roles and learn how these roles are valuable as a citizen.

Ryan is a Senior at Forest Hills High School and a member of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Marshville. He currently serves on the Student Superintendent Advisory Committee for Union County Public Schools.

Congratulations, Ryan, for a job well done. May God continue to lead you and help you to serve Him, your country, and your community in all you do. We are proud of your determination to set and reach your goals.



Eagle Scout Paul Lawrence GilScott Robinson



The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud to recognize Paul Lawrence GilScott Robinson for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Paul is a member of Troop 450 in Glenn Dale, Maryland. He is the son of Vickie and Paul Robinson.

Paul's Eagle Scout

Project involved making improvements to wildlife conditions at Maryland's Lake Artemisia. His team of twenty people were able to build and erect wooden houses for endangered wood ducks, above the surface of the water. The project was completed during the month of September 2023.



Through Scouting and family activities Paul has learned the importance of service to the community and family. Paul explains, "... I've helped my grandparents cook for the homeless at their outreach center. Every summer when I go to North Carolina I help them provide

food for kids. I also help collect and donate books and clothing...I have served by participating in the Leadership in Training program at Camp Sonshine in Maryland and as a teen ministry leader (Chaplain) at my church..."

Paul has had multiple achievements throughout his life, including competing nationally and internationally in USA Track as a distance and cross-country runner. For the past four seasons, he has represented St. John's College High School at the conference, state, and national level, from coast to coast.

Paul has also received a Governor's Citation from Maryland Governor Wes Moore, a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Congressman Glenn Ivey, and a letter of recognition from Bill Gates of Microsoft."

Paul believes it is very important to be well-rounded. "I know how to balance my time between being a student, an athlete, and my personal life. Although I work hard to be a great all-around student and athlete, I believe it is even more important to be a good and honest person who gives back, since so much has been given to me... I hope to use everything I have learned, every experience, to give back. My hope is to work in medicine one day, either with youth, athletes, or even perhaps animals...I do not know what the future will bring, but I am thankful for my experiences with Scouting, and my time with true leaders like Scoutmaster Gerry and Scoutmaster Tye that has made me a better person for this world."

Congratulations, Paul, for your insights and determination to do your best in all areas of your life. May God continue to guide you as you serve Him, your country, and your community in the future.





Eagle Scout Cole Jeffery Tanner

The Association of Baptists for Scouting proudly recognizes Cole Jeffery Tanner for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Cole is a member of BSA Troop 43 in Versailles, Kentucky and the son of Jeff and

Laura Tanner.

In Scouting, Cole has served in various roles of leadership, such as Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Chaplain's Aid, and Senior Patrol Leader. He participated in a 12-day high adventure backpacking trip at Philmont Scout Ranch where he hiked over 100 miles during a 10-day period through the mountains of New Mexico.

In addition to his skills, merit badges and leadership, Cole planned, organized, and led an Eagle Scout Service Project that benefited the Jack Jouett Historical Site in Woodford County, Kentucky. Cola worked with the non-profit organization to expand the use of the historic site by establishing a walking trail and building a footbridge over a creek at the beginning of the trail.

Right: Cole on the new trail and footbridge at the Jack Jouett Historic Site, marking the completion of his Eagle Scout



Cole's project involved soliciting donations, recruiting, and leading a group of Scouts and adult volunteers to complete the project. In total, Cole's Eagle Scout Project exhibited over 130 manhours of service to his community.

Cole attends Woodford County High School and has been an active member of the Health Occupation of Students of America-Future Health Professionals chapter and actively participates in health-related community service projects and events.

Cole is a member of the National Honor Society and has been selected and recognized for his leadership with HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth) Leadership Recognition. Cole and his family are active members of Versailles Baptist Church.

Congratulations, Cole, for your determination to set and reach your Scouting goal of Eagle Scout. May God continue to guide and bless you as you serve others in the future.



Left: Eagle Scout Cole Tanner on the left, with his brother, Life Scout Logan Tanner

Eagle Scout

Jason James Walker

The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud to announce that Jason James Walker has earned the rank of Eagle. Jason is the son of Jacob (also an Eagle Scout) and Rebecca Walker.



For his Eagle project, Jason collected and retired over 150 American flags with the help of local troops and repurposed 7500 stars from the flags for Veterans and First Responders. Recognition Stars have been presented to multiple local and state police, as well as dispatch and fire departments.



Jason is an inaugural member of the Pheonix Patrol of Troop 520 where he has been instrumental in rebuilding the troop through implementing programs to keep youth involved. He has served as Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Chaplain's Aid and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He now serves as the Troop Bugler and as Troop Guide for new scouts. Through scouting experiences Jason has learned leadership skills and developed a passion for mentoring younger scouts.

Jason has completed National Young Leadership Training and looks forward to the opportunity to serve as a Troop Guide at NYLT camps.

Jason is a member of the Order of the Arrow in the Mikanakawa Lodge, where he serves as Vice Chief of Takoda Chapter.

Jason completed 120 plus miles at Philmont Scout Ranch where he served as crew medic. His passion for emergency response has been cultured while being a mentoring member of his city's Youth Fire Academy where he has been trained and certified in first aid.

Jason attends Newman International Academy of Cedar Hill in Arlington, Texas where he has earned membership in the Junior National Honor Society and is a Chief Master Sergeant in his school's Civil Air Patrol squadron.

Congratulations, Jason James Walker for persevering and reaching your goal of Eagle Scout. The Association of Baptists for Scouting is proud of your achievements. May God continue to guide you and bless you as you serve Him, your country, and your community in the future.





Eagle Scout Sara Wong

The Association of Baptists for Scouting would like to recognize Sara Wong for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Sara is the daughter of Steve and Kristen Wong. She is a member of Troop 33 the Greater Los Angeles Area Council in Montebello, California.

Sara's Eagle project involved making 16 dog beds, 40 cat beds, 40 dog toys and 132 cat toys for the Emergency Pet Clinic of San Gabriel Valley. This clinic treats pets and surrendered animals. They also work with Los Angeles County Animal Control providing veterinary services. Additionally, the staff takes neonatal kittens home to care for them if foster or rescue services are unavailable. So, Sara's project was very much appreciated by the clinic staff and pets.



While in Scouting, Sara has earned 52 merit badges, the BSA Mile Swim Award, and the God and Life Religious Emblem. She has been honored to serve as Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Quartermaster, Den Chief, Chaplain's Aide, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Sara was chosen to be one of the Eagle Scout banner bearers in the 2024 Rose Parade.



continue to guide you as you use your skills to serve Him and others today and in the future.

Congratulations, Sara Wong! ABS is proud of your determination to reach the goal of Eagle Scout. May God

Eagle Scout Sean Wong

The Association of Baptists for Scouting is honored to recognize Sean Wong for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Sean is the son of Steve and Kristen Wong. He is a member of Troop 33 in the Greater Los Angeles Area Council in Montebello, California.



Sean's Eagle project consisted of restoring an existing weathered bench and building two additional benches. This provided a much-needed place to sit at the basketball court area for The Hills Church in Arcadia, California.



Sean began Scouting with Cub Scouts and earned his Arrow of Light. While in Scouting, Sean has

earned 52 merit badges and the God and Life Religious Emblem. He also completed the BSA Mile Swim Award at summer camp, which he feels has been one of his greatest accomplishments. Sean has held the positions of Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Troop Guide, and Den Chief.

Congratulations, Sean! We are proud of what you have achieved in Scouting. May your service to others continue. May God guide you as you serve Him, your country and community in the future.