



Patrick J. Bedard

EAGLE SCOUT BANQUET

October 23, 2008



Tonight, Patrick Bedard is recognized as Troop 4's 15th Eagle Scout. Patrick was first introduced to Boy Scouts as a toddler, when family friend Jim Rennie took Patrick on visits to his son's troop at Camp Resolute during the summer. Shortly thereafter, Patrick began his own scouting career as a 1st grader in a Tiger Den led by his father and Mr. Steve Eddins. Patrick's den was very active, participating in campouts, hikes, pine wood derbies, and elaborate and entertaining skits. All members of his den stayed together for all 5 Cub Scout years. And after five additional years in Boy Scouts, Patrick and one of his original Tiger den mates, Mike Tusino, remain very active in scouting.

Patrick has had a very successful scouting career, continuously demonstrating leadership, initiative and the scout oath and law. He actively participated in numerous troop campouts and high adventures, including a 50 mile Adirondack canoe trip, High Adventure in Colorado's Indian Peaks Wilderness, Maine rafting trips, and the troop's famous New Hampshire winter sports weekends. Patrick has been a role model for younger scouts, frequently assisting them in lower rank advancement, merit badge instruction, and campout preparations. Patrick is one of a select few Troop 4 scouts that have taught a self designed merit badge course. On his own initiative, Patrick developed the curriculum and materials for an interesting hands-on computer merit badge course. The course was so successful that the troop has asked Patrick to teach a second round this year.

Outside of Scouting, Patrick has been involved in several school activities. He is currently one of the tri-captains on the Milford High School Mock Trial Team. He has also worked with fellow students to create the newly formed MHS Computer Programming Club, and is a member of the school's new debate team. He is currently enrolled in an internship at the high school, performing IT work for the various branches of Milford Public Schools. Recently, the MHS History Department selected Patrick as an Otis Scholar for his accomplishments in history and government studies. In addition to scholastic activities, Patrick is also one of the helpful hardware men at Milford's Ace Hardware Store.

Patrick has been very active in community service. He participated in a variety of Troop 4 Service Projects, and provided support to his fellow scouts on their Eagle Service Projects. Patrick also worked with MHS to donate a set of unused computers, which he then refurbished, and provided to the Worcester Department of Social Services.

For his Eagle Scout Leadership Project, Patrick took on a challenging project to build a 42 foot long multi-use bridge over a stream in Upton's Peppercorn Recreation Area. The bridge was needed to improve safe passage over deep water that crosses the trail during wet seasons. Patrick negotiated the Conservation Commission's permitting process and successfully convinced abutting land owners to donate the required \$800 for bridge materials. He led several work crews to haul the heavy materials a half mile to the bridge site, perform bridge construction, and to perform various other trail improvements. Upon completion, he invited donors and land abutters to a grand opening.

Patrick's advice to younger scouts: "It's a long road to Eagle, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun along the way. Go into each scouting activity with enthusiasm, and try something new and challenging along the way"