



# Brian Zanella

EAGLE SCOUT BANQUET

*June 5, 2008*



Brian Zanella first joined the Boy Scouts as a Cub Scout when he was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade after Brian had moved from New Hampshire to Massachusetts. His father found out about the scouting program from speaking with some neighbors, and thought it would be an excellent opportunity for Brian to meet some new friends. One of his first and best memories of his scouting career is his participation in the Pinewood Derbies. Brian remembers that he had a neighbor assist him with the cutting, but was proud that he completed all the rest himself. Additionally, he was so excited to come in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in only his 2<sup>nd</sup> year participating in the Derby. Brian even still has his cars!

Brian has participated in and enjoyed a whole host of scouting activities. One of his favorite memories is his time spent at summer camp. Brian looked forward to the trek down to the campsite and setting up the beds. Summer camp is where Brian earned most of his patches. At camp, Brian participated in the Apache relay and recalls being excited when he and his team won the swimming leg, and came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall. He loved spending a whole week during the summer with his friends. Another stand out scouting trip for Brian, was the PawSox Campout at McCoy Field. As a baseball fanatic, the campout was a dream come true and an unforgettable memory for Brian. This was also the first time that Brian and his father set up a tent together, and despite finishing last, they were extremely proud of their efforts and adventure.

Outside of scouting, Brian is very active in his academic life. At Milford High School, he is the Secretary of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), as well as a member of the 2008 Student Counsel. Additionally, Brian has been on the Volleyball team for four years and also played three years of soccer at Milford High School. Outside of school and athletics, Brian has spent two years working for Target. At Target he worked in the Sales Department for televisions and video games. Through his employment there, Brian learned sales skills and techniques as well as how to be a team member. Brian will continue his education as he commences his collegiate life at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the fall.

For his Eagle Scout project, Brian chose one that was extremely beneficial to the youth community in Milford. Brian worked very hard to resurface the basketball courts across the street from the Milford Armory that serves as the town's Youth Center. This project was important to the youth community as it provides a safe place for children and teens (and even adults!) to have some recreation and socialization time. Many children and teens spend their afternoons at the Youth Center before parents return from work. Brian's project provided them with an enticing and safe place to expend some of the day's energy and to facilitate new and old friendships.

Throughout his time working on this community project, Brian feels as though he became an adult. He learned leadership skills while having a crew of 2-10 persons, depending on the day, working under him. He learned all important, time management skills through coordinating time donated by companies with the time donated by his crew so that they were able to complete the project most effectively. The most important lesson the Brian learned, however, was that of sole responsibility. This project was his from beginning to end, from sending out the letters requesting fundraising to cutting the final tape off the courts for the children and teens to start playing. He is very proud of all his hard work and final results.

Overall, Brian's advice to younger Scouts would be to "enjoy it." He says to try to get in on as many campouts as you can, even the freezing ones! Just as he does, he believes the younger Scouts will look back on these times as some of their most fun memories with friends