

James Malnati

EAGLE SCOUT BANQUET

October 21, 2010

Tonight, James Malnati will officially become Troop 4's 21st Eagle Scout. James began his scouting career as a 2nd grade Bobcat Cub in 2000 with Milford's Pack 4, sponsored by St. Mary's Parish. His Den Number 3 was led by Karen Nietz and Tim Holtsnider. As he climbed through the Cub Scout ranks, James earned two prestigious scouting awards. He earned Cub Scouting's highest award, the Arrow of Light, and the scouting's Catholic religious award, Parvuli Dei. James' favorite Cub Scout memories are the pack and regional Pine Wood Derbies and the battleship overnight trips. In 2004, James crossed over to Troop 4 along with several members of his Webelos Hawk Patrol.

James' favorite part of Boy Scouts has been the troop's merit badge program. He particularly enjoyed the Citizenship badges, Environmental Science, Personal Management and Communications, all of which he believes contributed to his success in high school, and which have prepared him well for adult life. James also enjoyed teaching younger scouts the same scouting skills that he mastered. His favorite campouts include the Pig Roasts, backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, the 50mile cycling trip to Cape Cod and playing ice hockey during the recent Upton State Forest winter (below zero) campout.

A highlight of James' scouting career was the presentation of the Order of Taunkacoo award for outstanding summer camper at Camp Resolute. James also holds the distinction of being the only Troop 4 scout to earn the challenging Cycling Merit Badge, despite never having ridden a bicycle before starting the badge. James has been very active outside of Scouting, where at Milford High School, he was elected class president all four years. He is also a member of the school's wind ensemble (tenor sax) and orchestra (cello), and is a member of the varsity baseball team and the National Honor Society. After graduating from MHS, James plans to attend college to pursue undergraduate studies, and then graduate studies to obtain a Masters of Business Administration degree. He has worked part time for the Milford Community Use program, in support of a variety of music, camp and sports programs. James has also routinely volunteered as a retreat leader for the Tri-County Youth Ministry.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, James renovated and expanded a garden area at the Milford Geriatrics Authority. His project included the creation of a walkway, a 6 foot engraved granite bench, two wooden benches and a hand-painted birdhouse. His team also performed landscaping and plantings to beautify the area for the long term enjoyment of MGA's residents. During this project, James learned landscaping, gardening and masonry skills, and developed critical project management skills, as he coordinated the activities of a contractor and managed his team of scout and student volunteers.

James's advice to younger scouts: "Get to know the older members of the troop as much as possible. So much can be learned from older scouts and especially troop leaders. These veteran members provide insight and guidance on a multitude of situations and experiences, more so than you might realize. All it takes is a little initiative, which can go a long way during your scouting career and help lead you on the path to Eagle."

