

Michael Tusino IV

EAGLE SCOUT BANQUET

October 22, 2009

Tonight, Michael Tusino will officially become Troop 4's 18th Eagle Scout. Michael began his scouting career as a 2nd grade Tiger Cub in 1998 with Milford's Pack 4, sponsored by St. Mary's Parish. His Den Number 5 was led by Phil Bedard and Steve Eddins. Mike's den meetings were held at the St. Mary's Parish Center and at the homes of his den leaders. Mike's favorite Cub Scout memories are the Pine Wood Derbies and the USS Salem overnight. In 2003, Mike earned Cub Scout's highest honor, the Arrow of Light. Soon after, he crossed over to Troop 4 along with several members of Webelos Eagle Patrol.

Mike's favorite part of Boy Scouts has been the troop's outdoor activities, including troop campouts and hikes. He is a veteran of two high adventure trips; a 50 mile canoe trip in the Adirondacks Wilderness, and a 50 mile backpacking trip to Colorado's Camp Tahosa and Indian Peaks Wilderness. On the Colorado trip, Mike served as the trek's senior patrol leader, as he guided his team up 13,000 foot peaks, across the continental divide, and at times, sliding down glaciers. Mike is also one of select few Troop 4 scouts who have completed the challenging Hiking Merit Badge. The badge required five 10 mile hikes and one single day 20 mile hike.

Prior to passing his Eagle Board of Review, the highlight of Mike's scouting career was when he earned the Troop's Scout Spirit Award, an annual Troop award given to the scout who stands out in his adherence to the Scout Oath and Law. Mike was also elected by his peers into the Order of the Arrow, BSA's honor society. Inspired and trained by the Troop's cooking activities, Mike gained employment at Oliva's, the town's premier Italian market and catering service. Mike is also a talented musician, providing scout instruction for the Troop's Music Merit Badge program, and participating in several ensembles.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Mike made significant improvements to the Milford Town Library's Youth Center, by constructing work tables and much needed storage areas. His improvements have helped to improve the atmosphere and participation in the library's valuable youth programs. In the process, Mike learned valuable carpentry and work crew management skills. He plans to further his education next year by pursuing a college degree in criminal justice.

Mike's advice to younger scouts: "Be yourself and have a good time in Scouting. Attend as many trips as possible and don't be shy. Also, follow the Scout Oath and Law and you'll really get the most out of Scouting."

