

Ashby P. Norris

Eagle Scout – Troop 4 Milford



Ashby joined Scouting as a Pack 67 Tiger Cub in 2009 at Sacred Heart Parish. His den leader, Mr. Jim LaPrad, was very active with many adventures for the boys. As a Cub Scout, Ashby recalls one meeting where the boys made paper airplanes and flew them around. He fondly remembers attending an overnight at Battleship Cove, and to this day he still remembers learning to tie knots on that trip. Ashby's favorite Cub Scout memory was when his den worked on the music requirement. The LaPrad family had their own music studio, and for one meeting the entire den brought musical instruments and they played together in the studio. Ashby earned Cub Scout's highest award, the Arrow of Light, under the mentorship of Mr. Jim LaPrad (who has since passed on), after which he joined Boy Scout Troop 2.

Although he began his Boy Scout career with Troop 2, Ashby transferred to Troop 4 in 2016. Ashby's favorite activities with Troop 4 were attending Camp Resolute, running in the Apache Relay, playing cards in the tents at night, setting up hammocks outside the tents, whitewater rafting, emcee-ing troop campfires, and foil cooking. Ashby thoroughly enjoyed attending Camp Tahosa in Colorado in 2017 and the Pennsylvania/Maryland Trip in the summer of 2018, his trip to Scotland with Troop 2 in 2016, and the bicycling trips to Nickerson State Park. When asked for his most memorable Boy Scout Experience, Ashby cites his Eagle Scout Board of Review. "The whole process of getting Eagle led to that" one night.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Ashby installed a white vinyl, three-panel fence at the Milford Senior Center. The fence spans a walkway and some shrubbery, and helps prevent trespassers from going behind the center where guests enjoy a furnished patio. Ashby admits that he learned some valuable lessons while completing his project. He "learned that leadership was never meant to be easy, but it's completely worth it. I'm proud that I was able to, with the help of everyone who ever showed up, put up a fence that will be of use to the center. I also learned to plan ahead and account for every last possible occurrence, because if you get caught in the middle of something you didn't expect, then you waste valuable time sorting it out."

Ashby is quite active outside of scouts as well. He is currently in his junior year at Holy Name High School, where he is a member of the chorus, jazz band, and advanced band. Ashby is also a member of the Worcester Youth Jazz Ensemble and Combo, and Holy Name's house band Granite Street. Ashby accompanies Jamie Buckley on piano at the 6:00pm mass at St. Mary's on a monthly basis as well. In the summer, Ashby works at the Warren Conference Center in Ashland in the maintenance department. This job has taught him "how to keep working through an eight-hour day regardless of how hot or cold it is, how tired I am, or how tough the job. I learned that mainly after a long week of tearing up and laying bricks on a patio."

After high school, Ashby plans to pursue a career as a music producer and sound recording technologist. He aspires to work with artists in a studio to help make their final tracks.

Ashby's advice to the younger Scouts: "Involving yourself in as many possible events and activities as you can is the best thing you can do for yourself. Don't wait for anyone else to open those doors for you, because they can't do it as well as you can do it for yourself – you know what you want. Surround yourself with trustworthy people and really enjoy everything you take part in."





Congratulations Ashby!