

Get to know an Eagle

Achieving the rank of Eagle is an awesome accomplishment and getting to know those who have obtained this rank is a wonderful experience. To listen to their stories, their memories, their accomplishments, and their failures gives us a glimpse into the past and hope for the future. Put these things together and you get the fun competition Troop 301 recently completed.

Shortly after awarding our 108th Scout the rank of Eagle, we took on a challenge. Many of the Scouts currently in our Troop had never talked to or met many of those that came before them and the leadership decided we had to do something about it.

So, starting in April each Scout was given a small notebook and contact information for some of our past Eagles (and of course the guidelines about contacting them). At an event in April each Eagle, whether from our Troop or not, was given a special sticker so the current Scouts could recognize and approach them. The challenge: talk to as many Eagles as possible by May 19. They had to write down the name, Eagle number (if from our Troop) and a fun fact that they learned. It was neck and neck for quite a while. On the April and May outings the leaders helped the Scouts call many of them.

Here are some of the fun facts they learned: Many of them said their favorite camp was Owasippe or Camp Sullivan. One, who is an aerospace engineer, credited Scouting for teaching him the discipline he needed to do his job. An Eagle who is part of a SWAT team that exploded part of a building to apprehend a suspect caught their attention. Another is an officer who has used his knowledge of first aid to help many. One said he still keeps in touch with many of his Scouting friends who he's known for 50 years and is very grateful to have some of those friends still running the Troop. Two Eagles are firemen and had some great stories about how Scouting has helped them in their professions as well.

The lesson we tried to teach them is that there are MANY who have come before you and helped pave the path you walk, use their knowledge to help you navigate. You will take much more away from Scouting than just some merit badges if you choose to. The things you are learning here are life lessons that may serve you well in the future, even though you don't know it now, so always pay attention and don't be afraid to learn and try everything.

Whether they learned anything or not, they all enjoyed the competition. Our first-place winner, Christ A., spoke to 27 different Eagles. Second place went to Isaac M. who spoke to 19. Christ was awarded "KING OF THE CAMPOUT" and enjoyed a leisurely time at the June outing. Isaac took home a compass to always point him on the right path.

We can't thank the Eagles, both from our Troop and not, for their time and stories. I think even the leaders enjoyed this one. Give it a try at an upcoming event, you may just learn something too.