



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOY SCOUTS TO HONOR AREA'S HIGHEST ACHIEVING YOUTH MEMBERS

(February 8, 2017 - CHICAGO, IL) The Boy Scouts of America Pathway to Adventure Council (BSA) will recognize 470 local Scouts who earned the highest possible rank in their chosen program at this year's Youth Recognition Dinner.

The dinner will be held on Saturday, February 25th at the Museum of Science and Industry. Eagle Scout Colonel Gregory Johnson, who leads the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space, will deliver the event's keynote speech.

"This is always one of the most exciting events of the year for Scouting in the area. Having the opportunity to honor these young men and women has a lasting impact and is the least we can do for this momentous accomplishment," said the event's co-chair Spencer Long.

This group of 500 extraordinary young people represents the top 1 percent of Scouts in Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana. It includes 460 Eagle Scouts, as well as the top youth from the BSA's co-ed Venturing and Sea Scout programs. The dinner will also recognize two extraordinary Scouts for their lifesaving actions:

Nate Coirier, a Lake Zurich High School senior, will receive the National Certificate of Merit for jumping into Class Four whitewater rapids to save his mother who had been thrust into the tumultuous water and laid face down in a hydraulic funnel. Despite suffering from cerebral palsy, Nate grabbed the raft's safety line, swam to his mother, and successfully aided her to a rope that led her safely to shore.

James Walsh, 13, of Oak Lawn, swiftly called 911 after he spotted a fire on his neighbor's porch. He also alerted his neighbor of the fire while his father worked to extinguish it with a garden hose. James will receive the Council Certificate of Merit for his actions.

Additionally, five prominent local Scouting alumni, Jac Charlier, Dr. Thomas Jackson, Joseph Kruzan Jr., Albin J Sporney III, and David Wickland, will be honored with the National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award.

The Youth Recognition Dinner is planned and funded through the efforts of the greater Chicagoland National Eagle Scout Association. Sponsorships and tickets for the event can be purchased at www.pathwaytoadventure.org/youthrecognition or by calling the council office at (312) 421-8800 ext. 204.

NESA PTAC is Chicago's chapter of the National Eagle Scout Association, which is composed of men in the greater Chicagoland area that achieved the rank of Eagle Scout as youth. NESA PTAC's goal is to promote camaraderie and networking among its members while also supporting Scouts and Scouting through NESA sponsored events and mentoring opportunities. All Eagle Scouts are welcome to join. Learn more at: www.pathwaytoadventure.org/NESA.

Boy Scouts of America Pathway to Adventure Council serves more than 23,000 youth and includes over 8,000 adult volunteers in Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. We offer a wide range of programs for young people from 1st grade through high school which provide the knowledge and tools they need to be prepared for life. Visit www.pathwaytoadventure.org.

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