

Scouting the Neighborhood

Andrew and Brandon Walquist receive Eagle Scout Award



Twin brothers, Andrew and Brandon Walquist with Boy Scout Troop 1656, chartered through Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Richmond, Texas both were recently honored in a special Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony held at First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg.

Chase Adams was the Master of Ceremonies. The court opened with a welcome and prayer by Mr. Al Williams. Russell Harrison led the Presentation and Retirement of Colors. The Color Guard consisted of Bradley Cox, Clayton Coyle, Robert Garza and Taran Garza. Mr. Richard Harrison (their former Scoutmaster), led the Scout Law Candle Lighting Ceremony with the help of Christopher Byrd. Asst. Scoutmaster, Mr. Roland Garza followed with "The Trail to Eagle" assisted by Reid Williams. Mrs. Darrin Hammons presented congratulation letters from numerous dignitaries. Mrs. Gus Evans

then spoke of her memories of Andrew and Brandon over the years, beginning with her being their first grade teacher, helping them along in the scouting program and now the honor of seeing them achieve Eagle. Mr. Chris Adams, (current Scoutmaster) then read "I Am the Eagle" and Mr. Curt Johnson (their former Scoutmaster) presented the "Eagle Challenge and Charge".

Andrew and Brandon were then both presented with Eagle Scout Awards and honored their parents with pins. The Ben Carter Jr. Silver Dollar Memorial Coin was presented to them, given to each 1656 Eagle Scout. They were also presented with a Flag Retirement Grommet for patriotism and good fortune.

After the presentation awards Andrew and Brandon thanked their parents, Fran and Mark Walquist, Scout leaders and other adults and fellow scouts for helping them achieve this notable honor.

The Benediction was given by Mr. Al Williams and the color guard retired the colors. A reception followed the ceremony in the Fellowship Hall.

For such a distinguished honor friends and relatives were happy to travel great distances to attend. Relatives included grandparents, Loretta and Bernard Walquist from Upper Michigan, George and Mary Muster from lower Michigan, Stanley and Rena Goldstein from Houston, their Aunt Janis Knorr, cousins Eric and Amanda Knorr from New York, their older brother Eric Walquist from Chicago and sister Kirsten Walquist from Dallas.

To attain the rank of Eagle a scout earns the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The first few ranks focus on first aid and life skills as well as service to the community. The later ranks reinforce these skills and add leadership and additional service with a major Eagle Scout Project to complete at the rank of Life.

Brandon's Eagle Scout Leadership Project supported the Joy Lutheran Church on FM 359 in Richmond. It consisted of coordinating and managing the planting of a unique variety of trees that included of Live Oak, Red Bud, Chinese Fringe, American Elm, Chinese Pistache and Lace Bark Elm. He managed installing an irrigation system for them.

For Andrew's Eagle Scout Leadership Project he managed enhancing the current landscaping and beautifying an area for the Administration Building at First United Methodist Church in Rosenberg. The management of his project included expanding on the current shrubbery and transforming the landscaping into a flowering prayer garden using Red Bud Trees, Ligustrum Trees, Azalea bushes, Chinese Fringe bushes, Foxtail Ferns and colorful Petunias. His work team also installed a prayer bench and stepping stones.

Andrew and Brandon attend William B. Travis High School and both will be seniors this fall.