

## Once an Eagle, always an Eagle



By [Dawn Bailye](#) May 11 at 12:22 a.m.

On April 26, 2012, the Orland Park Boy Scout Troop 318 held their Court of Honor at the Zion Lutheran Church, in Tinley Park, IL. The Court of Honor recognizes the scouts for their successful achievement in rank advancement as well as other various awards. Even greater yet, is the Eagle Court of Honor. Very few achieve Eagle Scout, but Troop 318's Kevin Kenes and Jeremy Gunther are among the elite to hold this honor.

The requirement for Eagle Scout is not a short, quick journey. The scout must earn 21 merit badges, live the Boy Scout Oath and Law, while demonstrating leadership, service, and outdoor skills as he achieves each of the seven advancement ranks. Finally, he must plan, organize, lead, and manage an Eagle Scout Service Project all before his 18th birthday.

Eagle Scout projects take months of planning and preparation. Kevin Kenes's Eagle Scout project was one dear to his heart. Kevin's project was to create a prayer garden at his church that included the tasks of laying down pavers, as well as landscaping. Kevin chose this project to honor his Grandfather Michael Kenes, whom was a Deacon at Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish in Homer Glen, before he passed away 18 months ago.

Jeremy Gunther's Eagle Scout project also was one that brought the human condition into focus. His project was to construct a new trail at the Little Red School House. This trail not only created a pass through to the other trails, but also created handicap accessibility to all the trails. Jeremy has a brother who is disabled, so he understands the need to have trails that are more disability friendly. His Eagle Scout project also included a new fire pit, which the Nature Center uses for its Naturalist Education Program for youth groups.

Amongst the many scouts who were acknowledged for outstanding accomplishments, James Jaeger received the Gold and Silver Eagle Palm's. As rare as Eagle Scout is, Eagle Palm recipients are even rarer. The Eagle Palm is awarded to those scouts who have already achieved Eagle, but are continuing in the scouting program through leadership, and the completion of more merit badges. Jaeger's goal is to complete all available merit badges before his 18th birthday.



Senior Patrol Leader Scott Cleary announced the Presenting of the Colors for the opening ceremony. To Scott's left is Master of Ceremony Evan Murray.



Scoutmaster Tim Murray presented William Karabel with his rank of Star Scout.



Mr. and Mrs. Kenes proudly stand next to their Eagle Scout Kevin for a family picture.



The Gunther family was filled with pride as Jeremy readied himself to become an official Eagle Scout.



James Jaeger and Jeremy Gunther, Eagle's for life.

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