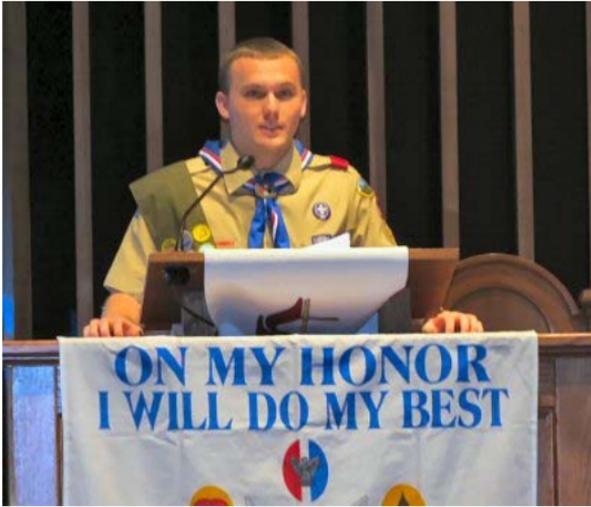




MIDDLETOWN, NJ - On January 7, 2012, BSA Troop 32 leadership, scouts, friends, and family gathered to honor Eagle Scouts Cody Barron and Erik Nordgaard. Both young men joined Troop 32 later in their scouting careers when their former troop disbanded. Erik and Cody remained determined and true to their scouting purpose, and this, in turn, led them to achieve the most distinguished rank of Eagle Scout.



Eagle Scout Cody Barron

Cody Barron is a 2011 graduate of Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft NJ where he ran Varsity Indoor and Outdoor Track for four years, serving as Team Captain his senior year. Cody is a freshman at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, and is majoring in Computer Science. He is also a member of The Knights of Columbus.

For his Eagle Project, Cody planned, designed and supervised the installation of a paving-stone patio and walkway in the Memory Garden at De La Salle Hall on the grounds of Christian Brothers Academy (CBA), making the garden wheelchair and walker accessible for the retired residents. In addition, Cody's work team made improvements to the existing gardens. Part of Cody's purpose included making a difference on the grounds of CBA, where he spent his high school years.

Brother Bud Knight, FSC, Director at De La Salle Hall, stopped by Cody's work site on several occasions and admired the organized division of labor that transformed the space in to a welcoming garden where the retired Brothers could enjoy the outdoors.

"It is refreshing when a young man today is interested in service," Knight said. "I think that same sensitivity also played a part in Cody's project choice, and we are really grateful for his generosity."

During the ceremony, Cody addressed his guests and fellow scouts and described the determination required to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Cody further commented on how scouting will continue to affect his life. "While the significance of reaching the rank of Eagle Scout hasn't yet sunk in, I'm positive that the values that scouting has instilled within me and all of the experience I have gained along the way will allow me to overcome any obstacle I may encounter and help other people to better themselves and the world around us," Cody said.



Eagle Scout Erik Nordgaard

Erik Nordgaard is a 2011 graduate of Christian Brothers Academy in Lincroft New Jersey, where he rowed for the Varsity Crew Team for four years. Erik is currently a Midshipman (plebe) majoring in Mechanical Engineering and studying Mandarin Chinese at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. In addition Erik will continue his crew career as a Naval Academy varsity rower.

Erik teamed up with William J. Berry, Sr., past All-State Post Commander of VFW Post 2179, for his Eagle Project. Erik chose the location for his project in memory of his late grandfather, a World War II Veteran and Post 2179 member. He envisioned his project to be a connection to his grandfather as well as a token of his appreciation to the Post's veterans.

Berry said he was honored to speak on Erik's behalf at the Eagle Court of Honor. He praised Erik's determination and character in completing two separate initiatives for the Post, one being his Eagle Scout Leadership Project. With regard to Erik's contributions to the Post and his subsequent appointment to the United States Naval Academy, Berry said, "I couldn't be more proud of him if he were my own son."

For his leadership project, Erik developed and completed a plan to build six picnic tables from scratch as well as completely renovate a 100 foot garden in the Post's center median. In his Court of Honor speech, Erik recounted fond memories of his scouting years, starting in first grade as a Tiger Cub. He concluded by sharing his profound perspective on leadership with his fellow troop members. "You learn that your job as a leader is not to tell others what to do," Erik said, "but to pool resources and develop a plan so the people you are in command of can do their job to the best of their ability."

The BSA Troop 32 family offers sincere congratulations to Erik Nordgaard and Cody Barron. There is no doubt these fine young men will fulfill the Eagle Scout Charge and continue to serve with honor, loyalty, courage, and cheerfulness.