

Troop 316 Brian Cullip
Receives
Scouting's Highest Award

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on April 17, 2005, over 100 family members, friends and fellow scouters, including one of his former Cub Scout leaders, gathered for Troop 316's Eagle ceremony for Brian Joseph Cullip at Apex United Methodist Church. Eleven Eagle Scouts including Will Shaw, his uncle from Ohio, attended and participated in the event honoring Brian for his achievement, Boy Scout's highest rank of Eagle Scout.

Scoutmaster Rick Bunnell welcomed everyone to this special event, saying, "I am pleased to see so many relatives, friends and scouts here today." Brian Cullip, the son of Linda and Tim Cullip, is graduating from Apex High School this spring and plans to attend college locally. He plans to study automotive engineering. He is the grandson of Willard and Doris Shaw from Florida.

In scouting, Brian earned 22 merit badges and his Eagle project was the construction of a pathway at the Apex United Methodist Church cemetery. The terrain made the cemetery inaccessible so Brian constructed a set of steps and cleared a path to the graves of this historic cemetery.

Brian's scouting days started when he joined Cub Scout Pack 461, Den 1, of Durham in 1993. He earned the distinguished Arrow of Light Cub Scout Award in May 1998. He crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 316 in 1998 beginning his trail to Eagle Scout. Brian's first Scoutmaster, Ed Walsh, recalled that Brian was a determined young scout, eager to make Eagle Scout from his first day in scouting.

Scoutmaster Bunnell presented Brian with one of his first Patrol Flags, appropriately named the Eagles, noting that 4 out of the 5 names listed on the flag had gone on to become Eagle Scouts. Bunnell commented "Brian you have always shown perseverance, from learning to shoot a shotgun to completing your Eagle project, well done!"

Eagle Scout Frank Jackson, Brian's Eagle Scout advisor, told Brian in his Eagle Scout Charge, "Eagle Scout is not a patch, an award or certificate to hang on the wall. It is a way to live your life." Jackson continued, "I charge you to undertake your elevation to the rank of Eagle with a solemn dedication...lead only toward what is good...be an inspiration to others....and welcome to the community of Eagle Scouts."

Retired Air Force Colonel Joe Fitzpatrick presented Brian with an American flag, which was flown over the United States' Capital in honor of Brian earning his Eagle. Brian was reminded about the solemn history of Old Glory and the many sacrifices by those who have gone before us. In addition, the new Eagle Scout received a book of over thirty congratulatory letters from the current and former United States Presidents, United States Senators and Representatives, a Medal of Honor Recipient, Cabinet officials, local university coaches and United States military flag officers.

Brian closed the ceremony by thanking all for coming and making it a special day for him and his family. He said, "I could not have accomplished my Eagle without the support of my parents...thank you very much. I accept the challenge that as an Eagle Scout more will be expected of me." Brian closed by reminding all his fellow scouts to "never say I've got plenty of time to finish my Eagle trail".

A reception was held following the ceremony at Apex United Methodist Church.