

Two scouts blaze the trail together.....and make Eagle!

It was fitting that two long time scouting companions received their Eagle Scout Award together at an evening ceremony at St. Andrew Catholic Church on February 27, 2004. Jeffrey J. Basladynski, son of Stefan and Chris Basladynski of Apex and Brendan D. Siegl, son of Chris and Adelaide Siegl of Apex received this prestigious award in front of over sixty family, friends, teachers and fellow scouts.

Jeff Basladynski began his trail to Eagle in Pack 51, from 1991-1993, while living in Japan before moving to North Carolina and joining Pack 316 where he met Brendan Siegl for the first time. Basladynski crossed over to Boy Scouts and Troop 316 in 1997 and then in 2003 was one of the initial members of Venture Crew 397 when it stood up. Basladynski earned thirty-three merit badges on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout.

Brendan Siegl began his trail to Eagle in Pack 316 in 1993 and crossed over to Boy Scouts in 1997 along with Basladynski. He was also a member of the initial group of scouts who formed Venture Crew 397 in Garner. Siegl earned twenty-one merit badges.

Both scouts were members of Troop 1637 attending the National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia in July 2000. For their eagle project, each scout took an interest in improving the North Carolina Railroad Museum in Bonsal, North Carolina. Basladynski led an effort to build four sets of three piece trestle picnic tables and benches for the picnic grove on the museum grounds. Siegl developed a historically theme representative model of Apex for display at the museum garden. The exhibit setup is in G scale about 50' by 70' in size. The project entailed building models, landscaping and support structures for the 144 square feet layout. Dick Sossoman, xxxxxxxxxx, thanked each scout for their support to the Railroad Museum and the improvements their projects made.

Venture Crew 397 advisor, Stephen Stewart, presented each scout with an eagle bolo tie to wear with their Venture uniform. Susan Long, Crosswinds District Commissioner, presented each scout with an eagle kit. Long, a parent of two Eagle scouts, explained the importance of the mother's pins, which each scout pinned on their mother's lapel. The scouts also presented their father's with an eagle tie tac. The mothers took special pride in doing the honor of pinning the Eagle medal on their son's green Venture uniform shirt. The new Eagle scouts received their Eagle charge from Eagle Scout Michael Stewart. Both parents publicly acknowledged Stephen Stewart for motivating their sons to earn Eagle, it would not have happened if not for his mentorship and guidance.

Each scout received a book of over forty congratulatory letters from current and former United States Presidents, United States Senators and Representatives, a Medal of Honor Recipient, Cabinet officials, local university coaches and Generals.

Basladynski will attend North Carolina State University's School of Textile this fall studying Textile Engineering and Chemistry. Siegl will attend Western Carolina University studying Art and Chemistry. Basladynski and Siegl thanked everyone for coming to this special event and made personal presentations to several people who gave him guidance and leadership during their trail to Eagle. A reception was held following the ceremony at St. Andrew Catholic Church.