

Point Loma boy achieves Eagle Scout while helping the community

By Claire Lewis – The Peninsula Beacon – April 15, 2004

Last month, Graydon David Rose from Point Loma Boy Scouts was commemorated at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for achieving the honorable position of Eagle rank, the highest rank offered in scouting.

Approximately less than 4 percent of Boy Scouts achieve this rank, and those who do typically range in age from 16 to 18 years old Graydon is only 13.

"Apparently it's really rare, we're so proud," said Leslie Rose, Graydon's mother of her son's reaching the rank at the youngest possible age.

The requirements for such standing are demanding. Twenty-one merit badges are needed to advance to a new rank, and once achieved, there is at least a six-month period before another advancement can occur (and only if the new requirements have been fulfilled).

"He was really lucky to have some really great teachers at school that could help and encourage him to get badges" Leslie said.

Each badge demands substantial effort and focus. The Citizenship in the Community badge, for example, demands a knowledgeable insight and study of a community, including its history; employment and ethnic group figures, detailed maps and charts. Furthermore, a substantial background into the politics and governmental activities are expected through participation at local organization events, such as city council or parish board meetings.

"Scouts is really beneficial for everyday life and it looks great on resume," Graydon said "I first got into scouting because my teacher told me to find something to focus on. I was a really rowdy kid."

Since achieving the honorable standing, Graydon has had to cope with a great deal of responsibility. Each week he plans and runs meetings, and organizes a calendar of events that includes camping and outdoor trips every weekend, as well as long distance and more challenging adventures.

"The Boy Scouts have been really good," Leslie said. "He's really mature and can lead people and speak in front of them."

The longer adventures tend to be more ambitious and require a great deal of organization and planning. Past trips have included kayaking and canoe trips to the Colorado River, hikes to the base of the Grand Canyon, summer camps at Catalina Island and Mataguay and other fishing, hiking and camping events

"He's extremely active, he just loves the outdoors and camping," Leslie added.

The Scouts also endorse a variety of service projects and emphasize giving back to the community. These projects include park repair and restoration, tree planting and assisting the community in a range of local activities.

For Graydon's project to advance to Eagle Scout, he completed a fence that had been left unfinished for a long time around Westminster Presbyterian Church Park, located on Canon and Ullman streets. Graydon and his father, Gary Rose, spent at least two weeks getting ready for the fence construction by preparing materials and measuring them for the other boys to work on as well. The 200-foot fence included a pedestrian and vehicle gate.

"It was a great project. Now it looks really nice and the kids are safe from the road," Leslie said.

Both Leslie and Gary believe that the Scouts has been extremely beneficial for their son and emphasize the family focus that the Scouts encourage.

"It's a family troop," Leslie said. "Scouting represents a nice group of kids and a nice group of families. You always see the same parents volunteering at school events."

The Roses have both been active and Supportive parents with Scout events and even Leslie's late father contributed to groundwork for the fence completion. Sadly; he died of a heart attack after working on the project.

"My father loved to get involved and it was nice that he died doing something he loved" Leslie said

Aside from being a Scout, Graydon is an active eighth-grader at Correia Junior High School, playing a variety of sports and participating in numerous events and societies. He hopes to get into veterinary science like his father and believes that his scouting experiences will keep him in good standing for the future.

