

John Weeks On the Trail To Eagle

John Weeks, like many Eagle Scouts, is a multi-talented young man. Many of his interests and skills have been developed through Scouting. John has performed in theater with leading roles, sings in choir, takes voice lessons at Washington University, plays the piano, and is a First Honor student at DeSmet Jesuit High School.

John has progressed through all of the Scouting ranks to Life Scout since he became a Cub Scout. He received his Arrow of Light in 1995 and became a Boy Scout. He completed Junior Leader Training Camp at S-F Ranch in June 1997. He went to Philmont in 1998 and the Northern Tier in 1999. He will have completed 27 merit badges by the time he earns his Eagle rank later this summer. His Eagle Scout project, the construction of two movable storage bookcases for the Early Childhood Development Center at the Ellisville United Methodist Church, will be completed in the next two weeks. John was elected to the Order of the Arrow in 1998 and achieved Brotherhood in 1999. John has served in leadership roles as a Quartermaster, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Patrol Leader. John estimates he has completed 97 nights of camping as a Boy Scout including summer camps for five years.

At DeSmet Jesuit High School, John is a Junior and member of the Liturgical Choir, the DeSmet Student Government, the Pastoral Committee, a member of the National Honor Society, the DeSmet Advanced Glee Club and "Friars" (a group of the 8 best singers), the DeSmet Quartet (the 4 best singers), and achieved All District Choir for the last two years. His DeSmet Junior Project is to work with special needs children one afternoon a week. He was one of three Junior boys out of 298 selected for the "In Service" Award, an award to recognize extra curricular involvement at school and community service outside school.

John has been a First Honors student every semester at DeSmet and has a 3.91 GPA.

In recognition of his outstanding academic and high school accomplishments, John was selected as one of three boys (out of 12 candidates nominated by the faculty) from DeSmet to attend Boys State this summer. He will join other outstanding student leaders from across the state as they setup and run a mock state and local government.

John's talents as a singer and in theater have landed him some notable roles. He just completed the lead role as Nathan Detroit in "Guys and Dolls." He was one of four lead roles (as El Gallo) in the musical "The Fantasticks." He has competed in voice solo and ensemble competition and achieved a No. 2 rating for two years. He sings the National Anthem at basketball games for DeSmet.

For two years he has performed in "Senior Directed One Act Plays." He has performed in "Carousel", "Stalag 17", and "Front Page" musicals and plays.

At the Ascension Church, John is a member of the Youth Choir, the Youth Group, has attended the Steubenville Retreat for two years, is a Lector at Ascension Youth Masses, and for the last three years has been a Luke 18 Retreat Youth Leader. In the summer of 2000, he went to Rome, Italy with the Church Youth Group for World Youth Day and Jubilee 2000 Celebration with the Pope.

John has studied piano for nine years, and takes weekly voice lessons from Dr. John Stewart, Dean of Music at Washington University. He is participating in the week long Opera Theatre of St. Louis training program this summer. He is applying for "Artists in Training" with the St. Louis Opera Theatre this fall.

This past spring, he went to Paris, France with his mother, to see "what I have learned and to practice my French." He will be completing his fourth year in French as a senior at DeSmet this coming year.

On top of all these activities, John works at the Forest Hills Dining Room as a Server. He has been working at Forest Hills since 1997.

Soon, John will be flying with the Eagles.

John is one of 31 boys in the current junior class recently identified by the DeSmet Teaching Staff as a "Senior Leader". John will serve as a Senior Leader next year. Senior Leaders exemplify the character, academic achievement, community and extracurricular involvement qualities the DeSmet Staff wants to formally establish as a role model DeSmet student. Senior Leaders will staff open houses at DeSmet and represent the school at several functions next year.

The Teaching Staff also identified John as a Big Brother. In this role, he will work with the new freshmen next year to provide them with guidance and advice.