

Ryan Bichteman On the Trail to Eagle

Ryan Bichteman is another example of the outstanding young men who have been active in Troop 677. Ryan has already set his sight on his adult career. He plans to work in local church ministries.

Ryan is just a few small steps away from earning the rank of Eagle. Ryan has finished his Eagle Project, the construction of wolf dens for the Wolf Sanctuary. He has completed the summary of his Eagle project and is polishing his final application for the Eagle rank. He will appear before the New Horizons District Eagle Board of Review within the next few months. Following successful completed of the Board of Review, Ryan will be an Eagle Scout.

Ryan is a currently the Leader of the Life to Eagle group that meets during weekly Scout meetings. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow, and has served as Assistant Patrol Leader and Chaplain Aide in Troop 677. In Troop 122 in Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania, he served as Senior Patrol Leader. He has three honor chords for serving as a Den Chief. He has twice been to Philmont, in 1998 and 2000, and once to the Northern Tier in 1999.

Like many Scouts in Troop 677, Ryan is very active in his home, school, and church. He has a lot of interests that make his life exciting.

At home, Ryan has a brother, Tyler who is a Freshman at Lafayette High School. Ryan also has a three year old sister, Kristin. Ryan spends a lot of his time at home caring for his sister. Both parents work, so the Bichteman home is very busy with few moments to spare.

Ryan is a Senior at Lafayette High school where is involved in the Teenage Health Consultant Group. This group visits schools to talk with peers about dangers of alcohol and drugs. He is also involved in the Community Service Club of Lafayette, a group which volunteers time to help other groups like St. Louis Carolers Association. Ryan is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is a cadet teacher for one hour each day in Mrs. Elliot's Ecology class.

Ryan is a member of the Ellisville United Methodist Church where he is active in Praise and Worship Band for the Youth. The band is called the "Origins." Ryan plays lead and acoustic guitar and sings lead vocals. He is also in a second band that provides the background for the Great Awakening Youth Choir. He will often teach a Sunday school lesson.

Ryan likes to write stories and poetry, play the guitar, sing in groups and as solo, and listens to a wide variety of music from the real “old” to the “new”, from hip hop to gospel, Christian, and light country.

In the fall, Ryan will be attending the Central Christian College of Kansas. He has earned a \$5000 annual renewable Dean’s Scholarship based on his academic performance. He plans to major in local church ministry. He is planning a career in ministry. When asked what resulted in this calling to be the ministry, Ryan said it came during a life turning event called “chrysalis” (after the change cycle that results in a butterfly). Chrysalis was a very spiritual weekend in which he examined his life, his future, his career interests, and concluded he wanted to go “24-7 with God.” While at Central Christian, he plans to study guitar with some of the world class guitar players teaching and visiting the College.

When asked why he wants to become an Eagle Scout, Ryan said “.... Because of what the Eagle rank stands for, the ideals behind the rank and Scouting, the accomplishment of goals that the Eagle represents, what each person has to do to attain it, and the fact that it is a rare event with only two out of every one hundred Scouts reaching the highest rank in Scouting.”