

Eagle Scout Ryan Turk Trail to Eagle

Ryan Turk has followed a unique trail to earn his Eagle Rank. He is dual registered with Troop 677 and Troop 309 in Peachtree City, Georgia (near Atlanta). Many in Troop 677 remember Ryan as the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) from November 2000 to April 2001. When his family transferred to Peachtree City in 2001, Ryan was a Life Scout and made plans to earn his Eagle through both Troops.

Ryan's Eagle project was the construction of a six foot high by four foot deep by eight foot wide equipment/wood storage shed for The Bedford School in Fairburn, Georgia. The Bedford School is a school that specializes in teaching children with learning disabilities and learning differences. The school has a low ropes confidence course on the grounds. The storage shed will store the ropes course equipment and allow for storage of firewood for use at the fire ring located nearby. Ryan's youngest brother, Ben, attends Bedford. The New Horizons District Eagle Board of Review approved the project. With friends and Scouts from Troop 309, Ryan completed his project. The New Horizons District Eagle Board of Review reviewed the completed project, and on May 12, 2004 approved Ryan as an Eagle Scout.

Ryan joined Scouting as a Tiger Cub and earned his Webelos rank and the Arrow of Light in Paris, Texas. In Troop 677 he served as SPL, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Bugler, and most recently as Historian. Ryan wrote a number of articles for this newsletter over the past year.

Ryan attended four summer camps, both in Missouri and Georgia, and is a member of the Order of the Arrow. Ryan received the Sakima Camper of the Week from Troop 677 for his Patrol leadership at Summer Camp 1999. He and his father went to Philmont in Summer 2002 with Troop 677 where they enjoyed an experience to last a lifetime. In 2001, Ryan attended the National Jamboree near Washington, D. C. with St. Louis Troop 1228 under Scoutmaster Barry Bingham.

When asked why Ryan pursued his Eagle rank, he said, "The Eagle is the capstone to a great Scouting experience. It brings together all that I have learned and had fun doing. It's something I'm very proud of."

Ryan is a junior at Starrs Mill High School where he is very active in theatre and is an honor bar member of the International Thespian Society. He has had lead roles in a number of plays including "The Rimers of Eldritch", "Lil Abner", "Little Shop of Horrors", and "All In The Timing", among others. He begins rehearsal soon for the part of Barry in "The Boys Next Door" presented this summer by the local community theatre.

Ryan has, as a member of a professional acting troupe, presented educational/literature based theater productions to preschool/elementary children to promote literacy and appreciation for the arts. When cuts to the fine arts program in Georgia eliminated the in-school drama program at the local middle school, Ryan and a fellow Thespian, spearheaded the formation of an after-school drama club. Although Ryan's schedule does not permit his active involvement, the club continues under new leadership.

During the summer of 2003, Ryan was selected to participate in the Georgia Governor's Honors Program at Valdosta State University. This six-week program simulated college level studies in theatre where Ryan studied abstract and modern theatre and theatre as art rather than entertainment. Only 32 theatre students from Georgia are selected to participate each summer.

Ryan also participates in the Beta Club and German Club. Ryan is a high honor roll student and enjoys History and English in school. Ryan is a lector at St. Matthews Catholic Church in Peachtree City where he is active in his faith.

Ryan is planning to study theatre in college. He will be applying to the Julliard School in New York City where only 12 out of a thousand applications are accepted. Carnegie Mellon University's theatre program in Pittsburgh, PA is also on his list.

Ryan's special interests and hobbies include not only theatre but also restoring a 1966 Volkswagen Beetle. He plays the trumpet and is studying acoustic guitar.

Ryan has been blessed with very supportive parents for his Scouting, school, and theatre interests. His father, Chris, and mother, Tammy, are still involved in Scouting along with Ryan's brother, David (currently a Life Scout).

Now Ryan can fly with the rest of the Eagle Scouts.