



# Troop 52 Gazette



## David McClendon Earns Eagle

On July 25, 2018, Troop 52 welcomed their most recent Eagle Scout, David McClendon, at a ceremony held in the Caroline Shaw Fellowship Hall of the Union Congregation Church. Family, friends, scout leaders, and Boy Scouts were on hand for the special occasion. Former Scoutmaster LeClair addressed the guests and spoke glowingly of David's integrity and strength of character. John Thompson, pastor of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, impressed upon everyone David's strong faith and described his Eagle Community Service Project which benefitted his church.

In March, David and his team of Boy Scouts, adult leaders, friends, and family transformed a storage room located in the basement of the church into a prayer and meeting room. The church, which was short on space, was in need of an area where ministry teams could meet. David's Eagle Community Service project gave them the space they needed.

During his time as a Boy Scout, David hiked for 10 days in the mountains of Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, explored Acadia National Park for a week, and sailed in the Bahamas. The son of Gary and Jennifer McClendon was graduated from Watertown High School in June and is studying oceanography at the University of Maine.

The Eagle Scout Charge was delivered by Assistant Scoutmaster and Troop 52 Eagle Scout Marc Acri. David's Eagle Court of Honor was sponsored by Advancement Chairman, Bob Beres.

*(McClendon Earns Eagle continued on Page 2)*

## Troop 52 Starts the New Scout Year with Family Picnic

On September 5, 2018 Troop 52 started the new scout year with a huge family picnic and Court of Honor held at the Union Congregational Church. Nearly 200 Boy Scouts, adult leaders, and families enjoyed the festivities. Although the weather was warm and the church hall even warmer, everyone had terrific time. Each family contributed food to the dinner and Hamburgers and Hot Dogs were provided by the Mothers' Auxiliary and grilled by adult leaders.

At the Court of Honor, all the Boy Scouts who advanced in rank since May were recognized and nearly 100 Merit Badges were distributed. Most of them were earned by the scouts during summer camp. In total, Troop 52 Boy Scouts earned 75 Merit Badges, one more than last year.

The highlight of the evening was the highly anticipated slide presentation prepared by Scoutmaster Dodge. Spectators were treated to photographs of summer camp and the 2018 High Adventure bike trek from New Hampshire to the Canadian border.



## The 2018 Christmas Ornament

Troop 52 recently unveiled their pewter Christmas ornament for 2018. It is the fifth in a series of Watertown and Oakville historical landmarks designed by the troop. The new ornament, crafted by Woodbury Pewter, features the Gazebo in Watertown. The ornaments are \$10.00 each and help to support the troop and help Boy Scouts pay for summer camp. The 2018 Christmas ornament will be sold by our Boy Scouts and will also be available at the following locations:

November 24 - Saturday - Labonnes  
December 1 - Saturday - Union  
Congregational Church Christmas Bazaar 9-3 pm

So come on down and buy a Christmas ornament and support the troop!

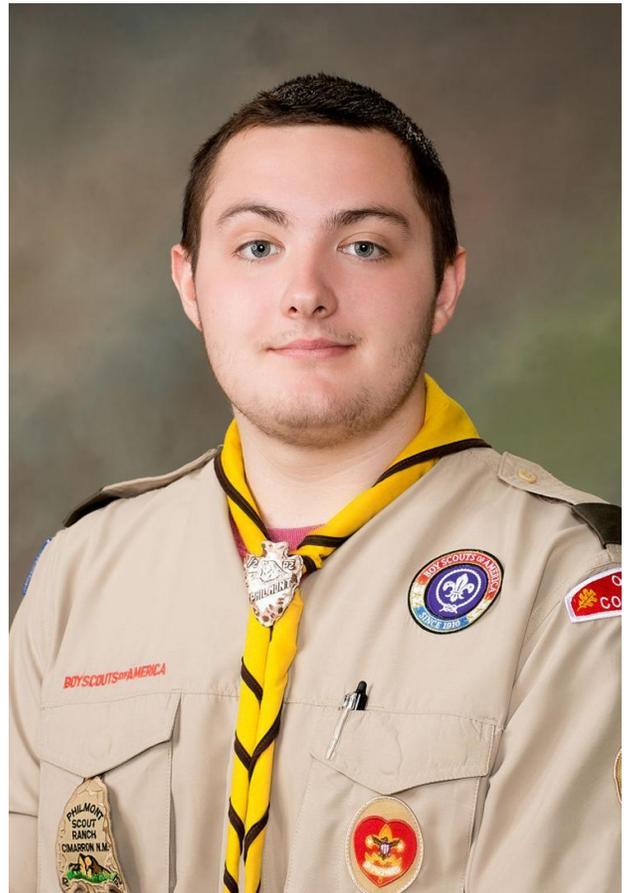
\*\*\*\*\*

## Advancement

Troop 52 is proud to announce the following Boy Scouts recently advanced in rank:

Cole Wenis	Tenderfoot	06/20/18
Nathan Oun	Scout	06/20/18
Xavier Moreno-Martell	Scout	06/20/18
Wil Daddario	Star Scout	07/05/18
Sebastian Creter	Scout	09/19/18
Kyle Robinson	Life Scout	09/26/18
Elijah Molinari	Scout	09/26/18
Kjan Oquendo	Scout	10/17/18
Keith Acuna	Star Scout	10/17/18
Jesse Kaye	Star Scout	10/17/18
Joshua Garceau	Star Scout	10/17/18
Joshua Scalo	Star Scout	10/17/18
Quinn Turner	Star Scout	10/17/18
Nathan Oun	Scout	10/17/18
Giovanni Massicotte	Scout	10/17/18

\*\*\*\*\*



*David L. McClendon  
Troop 52 Oakville's most recent Eagle Scout.*

## Scoutmaster's Corner

Allan Dodge, Scoutmaster

Troop 52 had a busy summer. Once again, Troop 52 has maintained a respectable number of staff members at Camp Mattatuck, which is a testament to how engaging the program at Camp is. The Troop, led by Assistant Scoutmaster Justin Martin, brought 41 scouts, including two provisional scouts, and six adult leaders to Camp Mattatuck this past summer.

In June, Charlie Doback and I led a group of six scouts on a 150+ mile cycle trip from Waterville Valley, NH across the U.S. border crossing at Beecher Falls, VT. We biked through the heart of the White Mountains, stopping along the way to experience the many sites, including the Flume Gorge. The weather could not have been any better for us.

At the end of August, the Philmont crew continued to prepare for our July 2019 trip out west by hiking the Appalachian Trail from Jug's End to Bear Mountain. This was a trip that everyone will remember. As I look back in my 15 years as a scout, I cannot remember a trip as challenging as this one was. Heavy rain made for a trip that involved traversing swollen streams that were up to waist on some scouts. Most of our equipment was soaked through, including sleeping bags, but at the end of the day, the scouts were somehow still smiling. This was a true shakedown trip.

The Troop is currently at a great size. We are nearing the 60-scout mark, which is backed up by 40 adult leaders, and another 20 mothers in our Mothers' Auxiliary. A lot of our success is from our active outdoor program, but another key factor is the success of our Cub Pack 52, led by Mike Hanis and Ozzie Bartlett. Without their leadership in the Cub Pack, we would not have the Troop that we currently have.

This is going to be a year of many Eagle Scout Court of Honors. It seems like the current culture amongst the high school-aged scouts in the Troop is that obtaining the Eagle Rank is not an option, it's a must. A lot of these scouts make up our very active Leadership Corps, led by our Senior Patrol Leader, Michael Hanis.

Our Troop is bursting at the seams, which is a great problem to have. If you are a Troop parent or alumni, and are looking for a way to give back to the Troop in some form, please reach out to me ([scoutmaster@tr52.com](mailto:scoutmaster@tr52.com)). We can always use more Merit Badge Counselors, used and new equipment, and donations to help each and every scout attend our Scouting trips throughout the year. Thank you for everyone's continued support of the Troop!

---

## Summer Camp 2018

From July 29 to August 4, 39 Boy Scouts and 6 adult leaders enjoyed a week at Camp Mattatuck. The troop's summer camp crew worked hard and earned a large number of merit badges, 75 in total. Besides Merit Badges, many of the scouts worked on rank requirements. Former Waterfront Director Justin Martin served as the camp Scoutmaster. Mike Hanis left the camp staff for the week to lead the troop as Senior Patrol Leader. Of special note, Matthew Beres was awarded the 2018 Thomas F. Horan Memorial Scholarship for "living and displaying the ideals and work ethic embodied in *Tom's Way*".

A successful summer camp would not be possible without the tremendous support of the troop's adult leaders. Brad Hanover, Nik Oun, Justin Martin, Tim Martin, Erich Wenis, and Mike Wohlhieter spent a week at camp and taught the scouts merit badges, rank requirements and provided leadership. Assistant Scoutmaster Brian Shannon worked hard to ensure the camp operated smoothly for all troops. The troop is grateful for their dedication.

Eight of our scouts worked as Camp Mattatuck Staff. These included: Andrew Beres (STEM Director), Matthew Beres (Nature Co-Director), Wil Daddario (Nature), Joshua Garceau (Waterfront), Sam Goetz (STEM), Michael Hanis (Resident Cub Scout), Alex Pillis (Resident Cub Scout), Quinn Turner (Ranger Assistant) and John Vito (STEM).



CAMP MATTATUCK  
2018 WEEK 5 TROOP 52

Rockwell®

## Service Projects

### Spencer Dodge and Crew Refurbish Hiking Trail

On the weekend of September 29<sup>th</sup>, Life Scout Spencer Dodge and his crew refurbished an overgrown trail which runs alongside Merriman Pond near Crestbrook Golf Course. Dodge's crew, which consisted of fellow Boy Scouts and adult leaders, raked, cut brush, removed fallen trees that blocked the trail, and even installed two benches.



*(l to r) Keith Acuna, Robert Rizk, Jaiden Carter, Wil Daddario, Kyle Robinson, Spenser Dodge, Joshua Garceau, and Assistant Scoutmaster Ray Zawislak.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Troop Performs Service Project for Watertown Land Trust

On Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 Boy Scouts and 5 adult leaders performed a service project at Watertown Land Trust's Fleisher Property. Boy Scouts cleared the trail and reset nails in the trail's two bridges, and adults rebuilt a dilapidated roof that covered a very old well house.

The troop would like to thank Jaiden Carter, Sebastian and Mattingly Creter, Jason Beverly, Shawn Bigby, Mican Green, Kyle Robinson, Nathan Oun, Nick Oun, Robert Rizk, Bob Beres, Mike Wohlhieter, and Allan Dodge for their service.

## Outdoor Program

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, a group of Boy Scouts and adult leaders spent the afternoon tubing down the Farmington River. The trip was organized by Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Wohlhieter. Even though the weather, and the water, was cold, it did not dampen their spirits.

Two crews hiked on the Appalachian Trail on the weekend of August 18<sup>th</sup>. The event was in preparation for next year's High Adventure trip. The troop is sending 28 Boy Scouts in three crews to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico for nearly two weeks of hiking in the Rock Mountains.

On the week end of September 22<sup>nd</sup> the troop returned to their home away from home, Camp Mattatuck for a weekend campout. Fortunately, the weather could not have been better and a good time was had by all.

On the weekend of October 12<sup>th</sup> the troop participated in the district's Fall Camporee at Hop Brook State Park in Naugatuck. Even though the weather was not as dry as the previous campout it was still enjoyable.



*Assistant Scoutmasters Jim Doback and Jason Beverly lead a hiking crew on the Appalachian Trail in August in preparation for the 2019 High Adventure trip.*

## Scouting for Food

On Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the troop distributed shopping bags for the 2018 *Scouting for Food* drive. Boy Scouts, armed with rolled bags and a street map, delivered one bag to every residence in Watertown and Oakville. Next Saturday the scouts will return and collect the bags filled with food for the Watertown Food Bank. The importance of the event cannot be overstated! This is the largest drive for the food bank; without it, their shelves would be nearly empty. The food collected will sustain the bank, and the needy, for months.

\*\*\*\*\*



*Troop 52's newest Order of the Arrow members (l to r) Robert Rizk, Keith Acuna, and Joshua Scalo.*

## Order of the Arrow

On weekend of September 8<sup>th</sup>, three Troop 52 Boy Scouts, Robert Rizk, Keith Acuna, and Joshua Scalo, completed their ordeal to earn membership in the Order of the Arrow, Tschitani Lodge, at a ceremony held at Camp Mattatuck. To earn membership, the three scouts endured an ordeal which they passed with distinction.

Alex Pillis was recently selected to take over as the Lodge Chief. The lodge contains all eight OA chapters in the Connecticut Rivers Council. Alex is the first Troop 52 Boy Scout to hold that position in our current council. In addition, Alex was elected Section Vice Chief of Section NE-2A in June. NE-2A is composed of six lodges (3 from CT, 2 from NY, and 1 from MA). Alex is in charge of training at the Section-level.

On the weekend of September 29<sup>th</sup>, Matthew Beres earned his Vigil Honor at a ceremony held at Camp J.N. Webster in Ashford. Matthew joins a very select group of Troop 52 alumni that have earned the Order of the Arrow's highest rank.



*Matthew Beres, right, shakes hands with his OA Sponsor, Jeromy Nelson, after completing his ordeal.*

## Special Events Committee to Pay 1/2 of Scouts' Annual Dues

To keep scouting affordable and to decrease the financial burden on scouting families, the Special Events Committee has voted to subsidize the Troop 52 Boy Scout annual dues. Boy Scouts will only be required to pay \$45.00 per year, half of the total.

The Special Events Committee is committed to keeping scouting affordable and supporting the troop through their one fundraising event - the Troop 52 Golf Classic Tournament. The SEC is grateful for the support it has received but their goal of a 'dues-free' troop can only be realized with more support from parents, alumni, and friends. The more support we get, the better it is for the Boy Scouts and their families.

## Congratulations to our High School Graduates

**Matthew Beres** is attending Unity College in Maine and is majoring in Parks & Forest Resources and minoring in Environmental Interpretation & Education.

**Finn Lindstrom** is studying Engineering at the University of Connecticut.

**Sam Goetz** plans to work in computer drafting and design before starting school.

**David McClendon** is attending the University of Maine and studying Marine Biology.

**John Vito** is attending Hofstra University and is studying Finance.

**Ian Wohlhieter** is attending the University of Vermont and studying Mathematics. Ian will pursue a career in teaching.

## 2018 High Adventure Trip

From July 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, six Boy Scouts and two adult leaders biked nearly 180 miles through New Hampshire's famed White Mountains. The trek, which was organized by Assistant Scoutmaster Charlie Doback, kicked off in Waterville Valley, NH and ended on the Canadian Border. Additional adult leadership was provided Scoutmaster Dodge.

The group took advantage of the great weather and stopped along the way to enjoy the scenic vistas for which the region is known and visited several attractions and state parks. It was a very enjoyable High Adventure trip for both the scouts and the adult leaders.



*(l to r) Assistant Scoutmaster Doback, Jesse Kaye, Zachary Holt, Quinn Turner, Keith Acuna, Joshua Scalo, Connor Fahy, and Scoutmaster Dodge.*



## Four High School Graduates Awarded Scholarships

Four deserving high school graduates were recently awarded Joseph and Yvonne LeClair scholarships for service to their community and Boy Scout troops.

Matthew Beres was a member of Watertown High School's Robotics team and Tennis Team. He served as Troop 52's Senior Patrol Leader, was Chapter Chief of the OA, and is a Troop 52 Eagle Scout.

Noah Felice was Watertown High School's Outstanding Senior Scholar-Athlete and Captain of the Swim Team. Noah is a Troop 140 Eagle Scout.

Finn Lindstrom was a Watertown High School three-sport athlete, and active with the school's music program. Finn is a Troop 52 Eagle Scout.

Ian Wohlhieter was member of Taft School's Lacrosse Team and tutored disadvantaged children in Mathematics. Ian was a Patrol Leader and served as Troop 52's OA Representative.

The Joseph and Yvonne LeClair Scholarship Fund was established in 2007 to help Boy Scouts defray the costs of college and to honor the couple that devoted their lives to the troop and to scouting. Each year scholarships are distributed to deserving high schools graduates who are active in their troops. Scholarships are not limited Troop 52; Boy Scouts from all three Watertown and Oakville troops are eligible. The scholarship is funded by Troop 52's Mothers' Auxiliary, troop families, and friends of the troop. If you would like to make a donation to this worthy cause, please contact Vin Pillis, [vpillis@tr52.com](mailto:vpillis@tr52.com).



*Troop leaders repairing a roof during the troop service project for the Watertown Land Trust.*



*A group of scouts await their turn at the STEM RC Track during Summer Camp.*



*The Troop 52 Honor Guard performed a Flag Retirement Ceremony at MacDermid, Inc. in Waterbury on August 17<sup>th</sup>. The event was organized and led by Troop Committee member Don Cullen.*