

SCOUTS-L

16 EAGLES

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 1997 07:46:40 -0500
From: Dave Rogers <DA6ver6@AOL.COM>
Subject: Whew! 16 Eagles, one COH one for the history books!
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Well, guys, it's over. Sorry I didn't write immediately after, but I was a bit winded, and I was trying to make sure all the newspapers and TVs had the info they needed. I hope that you will see the results of my work in your area soon. But here's a copy of the last release I did.

Hard to say in there just how moving it was. My first ECOH since my own in 1973. About 20 of our Troop's 40 living Eagles were on hand to welcome the 16 new Eagles, and when they called all Eagles forward for the Eagle charge, that 20 doubled when you counted in the dads and relatives who were Eagles from other Troops and Councils, etc.

All three Beaumont papers (one daily, two weekly) and all three network affiliates covered us, and I think I even convinced an Associated Press editor to get excited, saying 16 Eagles from one Troop at one time was at least as rare as quadruplets and they get all kind of attention and diapers. Our guys are past that stage.

Thanks for all your help -- the Scouts wore only MB sashes, BTW. Here's that press release:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (March 9, 1997)
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Eagles soar in Beaumont ceremony

BEAUMONT -- Boy Scouting's highest individual youth honor was presented in a group setting Sunday, a very large group, as Beaumont's Troop 85 welcomed 16 new Eagle Scouts in one of the largest Eagle Scout Courts of Honor ever held in the United States.

Never before in Southeast Texas had so many Scouts from one Troop received the Eagle Scout Award at one time.

National Boy Scouts of America officials don't keep track of such statistics, but one survey of 800 Scouting adults around the world failed to yield a single instance of a bigger Eagle Court of Honor involving a single Troop.

BSA does offer the statistic that only two of every 100 youths who join Boy Scouting follow through to complete the requirements for Eagle Scout.

Troop 85, with 58 registered Scouts, is sponsored by St. Anne's Tri-Parish Home and School Association. An overflow crowd of more than 800 family members and friends gathered at St. Anne Catholic Church for Sunday's 90-minute ceremony.

The new Eagles include Danny Burke, Blair Burnside, Brandon East, Matt

Frederick, Britt Henley, Josh Homann, Michael Jenkins and Kotte LeBlanc.

Also, Mark McKenney, Patrick McGown, Chris Meter, Joseph Ramey, Trent Tatum, Fred Ussery, Peter Wells and Brian Winegar.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Earl S. Hines, in his keynote address, stressed the individual effort required of the boys and the strong bond their common goals had melded.

"While we are celebrating a group ceremony," Hines, a Troop 85 Assistant Scoutmaster, told the new Eagles, "it is possible only because of your individual effort ... You alone worked your way up through the Scouting ranks; earned the required and optional merit badges; assumed the leadership roles expected of an Eagle Scout.

"You each deserve your own, private Eagle Court of Honor. Instead, you've demonstrated Scout Spirit once again by sharing this special moment in your life with your brother Scouts."

The 16 boys, all students at Beaumont's Kelly and West Brook High Schools, have combined for nearly 3,000 miles of hiking, more than 2,000

days and nights of camping and 6,600 hours of community service in their Scouting careers.

In addition to earning 21 merit badges and serving in positions of Troop leadership, Scouts must complete three service projects en route to the rank of Eagle.

"That's 48 separate service projects," Hines pointed out. "Even at your very young age, this community is already noticeably and demonstrably better because of your contributions. The potential good you can do your adult lives is staggering."

Hines compared Scouting to magic.

"There's a magic about this Scouting business that doesn't need to be explained," he said. "It just works and everybody knows it."

"How else to explain the fact that while these various religions and denominations have fundamental theological disagreements, and while countries will actually go to war over political differences, they all can agree readily on the principles of Scouting as the right way to develop young men?"

Troop 85 was originally chartered in 1959 and 69 of its members have risen to Eagle Scout rank. Sunday's recipients have enjoyed backpacking trips in New Mexico, sailing trips in Florida and have been part of their local council's contingent to National and World Jamborees.