



# the Arrow



Volume XXXIV, Issue 1 - March 2010

## Winter Fellowship 2010

by Kyle Roberts, Lodge Secretary

Winter Fellowship was held January 8-10, 2010. It was a great weekend and a huge success. The activities that happened during the weekend included sledding, snowball fights, brotherhood ceremonies, and more sledding.



Along with those activities there was also a business meeting. During Winter Fellowship we had a LEC meeting that helped plan out events that are coming up such as: spring conclaves, scouting at the capital, and Indian winter. Those are a few events to keep an eye open for. In addition to having meetings, we also had celebrations and awards handed out at the camp out. During the camp out the new Lodge Officers were sworn into office.

We also celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the BSA. These are all of the fun and exciting activities that went on during Winter Fellowship. Hope to see you at all OA events coming up including the next Winter Fellowship.

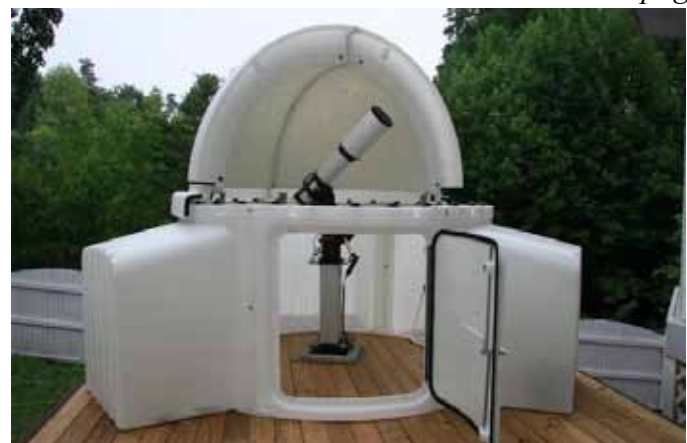
## The 2010 Lodge Observatory Project

by Brandon Van Den Eykel, Lodge Vice-Chief, Committees

This is an exciting year for many scouters all across the country. And the members of Pa-Hin Lodge are no exception. The Lodge has been planning/assisting in the planning of many fun activities along with designing new centennial patches and of course, the 2010 Lodge Service Project!

Some of you may have heard a little about the project, and other maybe have not. To give a little background information, the project will take place out at Camp Wilderness, our main council camp. This has been the last service project since the lodge built the Bog Walk near the Nature area back in 1995. This year, we will be building a Mini Astronomy Observatory Dome! We will be using the SkyShed POD (more info available at [www.skyshedpod.com](http://www.skyshedpod.com)).

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**Chiefly Speaking** w/ Ryan Ziegler, Pa-Hin Lodge Chief

Brothers, I would first like to thank Jack Golden and Dale Sandstrom for their hard work and dedication for the past two years as our Lodge Chief and Advisor. For those of you who do not know our new Lodge Advisor is Steve Shark -- thank you Steve for stepping up to the role. Our Lodge as been doing well thus far this year; we had a successful Winter Fellowship, had members at the Council Banquet and have helped with Webelos Crossovers. And believe me there are many more events for you to join in the fun. One goal I know all of us want to strive for is getting Quality Lodge for the third year in row, let's make that happen and we need everyone to help to do so.

I am very pleased that the Lodge received the Lodge Service Grant worth \$2,850 from National. Only eleven Lodges received the Grant so we are very lucky. See Brandon's article for more information on this great project.

I would like to also this year see all of our chapters striving. We will be closely looking at our chapters that we have deemed "struggling". Getting chapter chiefs in place, regular meetings, etc. While on the subject of chapters starting in April we would like to see every other month chapter reports sent to Kyle Roberts our Lodge Secretary.

The Council has asked us to help out and have a part in the 2010 100th Anniversary Capital event in Bismarck on June 4-6. We are looking for around 60 people to come to the event as OA staff. Even if you already signed up with your troop sign up with us. The Cost is the same but you will also help with the event. Don't worry you will also be able to enjoy the activities as well so you won't be doing work the whole time. Please help out the more the better.

With the help of Vice-Chief of Committees (Brandon Van Den Eykel), Vice- Chief of Chapters (Mathias Staricka), Treasurer (James Kerzman) and Secretary (Kyle Roberts), I know that we will make this a very successful year for the Pa-Hin Lodge. I hope to see all of you at the Spring Conclaves.

**Order of the Arrow -- Centennial Celebration at the Capital - Staff Sign Up**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I have not signed up for the event but would like to be on OA staff (Please include check for registration)  
Fees: \$36 if registered by March 30th, \$45 after March 30, 2010

I have signed up with my Troop but would like to be on OA staff (Fees submitting with my Troop)

Please indicate a first and a second choice for the area you would like to work in

- Event Set-up: Assist in set-up for the event on Thursday, erecting canopies and other misc tasks (10-15 members)
- Registration: Directing units to campsites on Friday evening; check-out on Sunday (40-45 members)
- Ushers during the Evening Show (Saturday) and Religious Service (Sunday) (20-25 members)
- Indian Village: we will have 3 teepees set up 1 with artifacts, games, and OA history (shifts 1-2 hours 3 people per shift- 25 members)
- Information booth: (1-2 hour shifts of telling where things are at the event)

## Lodge Observatory Project

*(continued from pg 1)*

We will lay out a concrete slab, install the POD on the pad, and then we will outfit the POD with a nice updated telescope along with other equipment. This will not only benefit the expanding Astronomy program at camp, but we will also be decorating the POD with adornments such as a large decal and signs that talk



about Order of the Arrow and Pa-Hin Lodge specifically to hopefully increase some interest in the OA. In addition to building and outfitting the dome, we are hoping too that within the next year or so to also install benches and whatnot to create a new and exciting outdoor classroom to teach merit badges and also to offer places to sit while scouts wait to use the POD.

To assist in funding this project, we applied for a service grant. I was lucky enough to get to be one of the people who assisted in writing it and long story short: there were many of us quite excited to find out that we were awarded the Service grant, which totaled \$2,850! The construction of the project will begin at Spring Conclave and will be completed at Fall Conclave.



I look forward to seeing you all at some point this year and I encourage all of you to do your best to make it out to either Spring or Fall Conclave to help leave a mark on Scouting for many generations to come!

## Unit Elections

*Mathias Staricka, Lodge Vice-Chief Chapters*

It is once again that time of year when we hold unit elections to choose new members. We decided at the Lodge Leadership Retreat that unit elections would begin in December this year. All chapters must have their unit elections completed and their election forms turned in to the Fargo scout office by **April 1**. Each chapter should contact every unit in their chapter to hold an election.

When completing election forms, be sure to include the name, address, date of birth, and phone number for each candidate. The form must be signed by both the unit leader and election team representatives. There are four copies of the form: one which is kept by the troop, one which is kept by the chapter, and two which are sent to the Fargo scout office.

Unit elections are very important because they are the only way we can get new members, so step up and help your chapter get elections done on time.

## Have you been missing the OA?

Fall Conclave is a ton of fun, but it only happens once a year. Luckily, there's an OA Chapter having a meeting every month in your area. Get together and have fun with guys in your area.

Check out below for when and where your Chapter is meeting next!

**Chapter 1 (Jamestown / Valley City):** Look for more details soon!

**Chapter 3 (Fergus Falls / Wahpeton):** Regular meetings at 7pm on the first Thursday every month at Augustana Lutheran Church Fergus Falls, MN

**Chapter 4 (Alexandria):** Regularly meets at 7:30 1st Monday of the month at Calvary Luther Church in Alexandria

**Chapter 5 (Fargo / Detroit Lakes):** Regularly meets at 7pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Holy Spirit Church in Fargo ND.

**Chapter 8 (Grand Forks):** Regularly meets at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Holy Family in Grand Forks, ND

**Chapter 10 (Dickinson):** Look for more details soon!

**Chapter 11 (Minot):** Look for more details soon!

**Chapter 12 (Thief River Falls):** Regularly meets at 7pm on the 1st Thursday of the month at Trinity Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, MN.

**Chapter 13 (Bismarck):** Regularly meets on last Thursday of the month at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bismarck

**Chapter 14 (Williston):** Regularly meets the third Thursday of every month at Faith United Methodist Church, Williston ND.



## OA High Adventure Opportunity

Want to go to one of BSA's national High-Adventure bases? Have an experience of a lifetime? Make new friends from across the nation?

Then the OA High Adventure program may be for you!!

**OA Wilderness Voyage** - Repair centuries old portage trails. Live for two weeks among the moose, eagles and wolves of the wild Boundary Waters, between Northern Minnesota and Ontario.

**OA Trail Crew** - Breathe the fresh crisp mountain air, Blaze new trails, spend two weeks experiencing Philmont like never before.

**OA Ocean Adventure** - Swim in coral reefs, bask in the beauty of the Florida keythat is the ultimate Underwater adventure!

Arrowmen must be age 16 by the first day of their program, but not 21 by its conclusion

Visit: [adventure.oa-bsa.org](http://adventure.oa-bsa.org) for more details



## Pa-Hin Lodge Flap Design

Make your mark on History! Announcing the contest to design the next Pa-Hin Lodge Flap. The Lodge Executive Committee approved the a new patch for the Standard Issue.

You don't need to be the best artist to design a patch -- you just need a good idea and a rough sketch of what the patch will look like (the patch design company will clean it up).

Submit your ideas, by emailing a file or scan of your idea to [Pahin.editor@gmail.com](mailto:Pahin.editor@gmail.com).

# Pa-Hin Lodge Ceremonies Weekend INDIAN WINTER

## Friday & Saturday, March 26-27



**Location:** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
(4916 N. Washington St. Bismarck, ND 58503)

What is Indian Winter? Well Indian Winter is a program that the lodge's ceremony committee is putting together to train all chapter ceremony teams and Pa-Hin members the correct and best ways to hold ceremonies (including regalia).

Here are some of the main points that are planned for the event:

- Regalia, what each character should wear during a ceremony
- Memorizing vs. Script Reading
- How a team should be set-up and run
- Making of Leggings and Breechcloth

Currently we have a snack trading post and Native American trading posts set-up to attend our event. Five Nations Arts from Bismarck and The Blanket Trader will all be available at Indian Winter.

Included in the \$15 fee for the weekend are meals on Saturday, Ceremony materials, informational DVDs, and an event patch.

Even though this is only a two-day event we are already planning another event, we will try to make different regalia for your ceremony teams to use. We encourage all chapter ceremony teams and chapter ceremony chairs to attend along with all interested OA members.

Mail this form, and your check for pre-registration to:  
Northern Lights Council, 301 South 7th St, Fargo, ND 58103 Attn: OA Indian Winter

Cost: \$15 - Make checks payable to Northern Lights Council

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] If you are interested in created leggings at the event, please check (*additional charge at the door*)

## Upcoming Events at Pa-Hin Lodge

**Now - April 1, 2010**

**Unit Elections conducted by Chapters**

Begin your Unit Elections. Each Troop should be contacted by the Chapter to hold a Unit Election. Unit Election team training should be done by each chapter.

**March 26-27, 2010**

**Indian Winter @ Bismarck, ND**

Indian Winter is a program that the lodge's ceremony committee is putting together to train all chapter ceremony teams and Pa-Hin members the correct and best ways to hold ceremonies (including regalia).

**March 28th @ 8pm**

**Lodge Executive Committee Meeting Conference Call**

All Chapter Officers and Advisors should plan on attending this conference call  
Conference Call # 218-862-7200, passcode 659924

**April 23 - 25, 2010**

**National Leadership Seminar, High Ridge, MO**

The National Leadership Seminar (NLS) is the premiere training course in Boy Scouts. It is a weekend training program focusing on leadership development.

*Contact the Lodge Chief or Lodge Advisor for more information.*

**May 7 - 9, 2010**

**Chapter 5, 8, 12, 1, 3 & 4 Spring Conclave @ Camp Wilderness**

All members of the eastern portion of the Lodge (Fargo, Jamestown, Grand Forks, Thief River Falls, Alexandria, Fergus Falls, Wahpeton) should plan on attending this Spring Conclave

**May 14 - 16, 2010**

**Chapter 10 Spring Conclave @ Heart Butte Scout Reservation**

Members from Chapter 10 (Dickinson) should plan attending this Spring Conclave.

**May 14 - 16, 2010**

**Chapter 11, 13 & 14 Spring Conclave @ Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park**

Members of the western portion of the Lodge (Bismarck, Minot, Williston) should plan on attending this Spring Conclave

**June 4 - 6, 2010**

**Centennial Celebration at the Capital**

Learn more about the events at <http://www.dabet.com/NLC2/index.html>

**June 27th @ 8pm**

**Lodge Executive Committee Meeting Conference Call**

All Chapter Officers and Advisors should plan on attending this conference call  
Conference Call # 218-862-7200, passcode 659924

**August 13 - 15, 2010**

**Lodge Fall Conclave @ Camp Wilderness**

Conclave runs Friday Night (registration opens at 7pm) through Sunday Morning (Lodge Annual Business Meeting/Officer Elections held Sunday Morning)

**September 10 - 12, 2010**

**Section C1-A Conclave @ Camp Phillippo, Cannon Falls, MN**

Section Conclave is a fun event - members from across 5 states join together for fun and fellowship

**October 8 - 10, 2010**

**Lodge Leadership Retreat @ Valley City, ND**

All Chapter and Lodge Officer should plan on attending this leadership event. All Pa-Hin Members are invited to attend the weekend training event. There'll be fun activities that get the officers to know each other to details on how to run Chapter events.

## Pa-Hin Lodge -- 2010 Quality Lodge Goals

The National Order of the Arrow committee has developed the Quality Lodge program (similar to Quality Unit) to aid lodges in program development. It provides a guide for good lodge administration and recognizes a level of excellence in lodge program and operation. Quality Lodge is national recognition of a successful Lodge Program. Pa-Hin was recognized as a Quality Lodge in 2008 and in 2009.

Achieving Quality Lodge status is required to apply for all national lodge awards and recognitions - such as the National Service Grant (which provides matching funds for service projects) and the E. Urner Goodman Camping Award.

### Pa-Hin Lodge 2010 Quality Lodge Goals

1. The lodge complies with all requirements in the current printings of the OA Handbook, Guide for Officers and Advisers, Field Operations Guide, Guide to Inductions, and ceremony books.
2. The lodge experienced positive growth in its membership.
3. The lodge inducted a minimum of 30% of its eligible Ordeal members into the Brotherhood.
4. The lodge conducted one or more Lodge Leadership Development (LLD) courses with qualified instructors and used the current LLD materials (available at [www.oa-bsa.org](http://www.oa-bsa.org)) to train lodge and chapter officers, lodge and chapter committee chairmen, and their advisers. Collectively, the LLD courses were attended by a minimum of 75% of all members eligible to attend.
5. The lodge completed service projects for the council camp or service center, and a council-approved community service project. A written report for each project was included in the lodge annual report. During the year, lodge members contributed an average of three hours of service per person.
6. After contacting each troop and team in the council, the lodge conducted elections in every unit desiring an election. The election teams were trained and all team members were in proper uniform during each unit election.
7. Following a review of the Order of the Arrow 2008 – 2012 Strategic Plan, the lodge Key 3 met with the council Scout executive to identify ways for the lodge to be more effective in cooperating and coordinating with council programs and events.
8. The lodge leadership actively participated in the development and implementation of the council's plan for the promotion of the council camping, high adventure, and other outdoor programs. Working closely with district and council leadership, the lodge camping promotion committee helped establish and conduct promotional contacts to a minimum of 75% of the troops and teams in the council as of June 30, 2010.
9. The lodge contributed cash, materials, or both, to the council in an amount equal to at least \$2.00 per lodge member.
10. The lodge submitted a written annual report of accomplishments to the council executive board.
11. In addition to contributions made in item 9, the lodge made a minimum contribution of \$1000 to the council's endowment fund.
12. The lodge Key 3 met at least six times during the year to discuss the progress of the lodge. An agenda and meeting minutes must be printed and shared with the Scout Executive.
13. The lodge produced and distributed (by hardcopy, email, or lodge website) a minimum of four newsletters to its members and contributed articles to the council's newsletter or website.
14. All Chapters will prepare and send in the reports from Chapter meetings
15. Pa-Hin Lodge will complete and submit the petition for the 2010 E. Urner Goodman Camping Award Petition. The Camping Award Petition includes publication of the *Where to Go Camping* cd, pamphlet or website.



# PA-HIN LODGE VIGIL NOMINATION

The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can present its members. It dates to E. Uner Goodman, the founder of the Order of the Arrow, became the first Vigil Honor member. Since then, thousands of members have been given this honor.

## **What is considered for Vigil Honor nomination:**

The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who have given exceptional service, helping others beyond the call of duty, involving personal effort and unselfish interest. They have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position of office to the Lodge, the Order of the Arrow and/or the Scouting Community/Scout Camp.

Just as when entering the Order of the Arrow, the Vigil Honor is given not for what has been done, but for what is expected in the future.

Membership cannot be won by a person's conscious endeavors.

Under NO circumstances should tenure in Scouting or the Order of the Arrow be considered as reason enough for a Vigil Honor recommendation.

## **Requirements for Consideration:**

Any member of the Order registered in Scouting and in good standing with the Pa-Hin Lodge and has been a Brotherhood Member for 2 or more years is eligible for nomination to the Vigil Honor.

## **Who can nominate:**

Anyone may nominate another OA member for consideration for the Vigil Honor. Selection and final approval of all candidates rests with the Vigil Nomination Committee and the National Order of the Arrow Committee. To avoid possible disappointment, please do not inform the member that you have nominated him/her.

## **The Nomination Process (due by May 1st):**

The National Office establishes the total number of members that a Lodge may submit. The Lodge Vigil Honor Committee will meet to review all nominations and select those nominations to forward to the National Office for approval. At least one-half of those nominations must be youth members. No weight is given to multiple submissions. Nominations missing information, or illegible, will not be considered. You may attach additional pages as needed.

Completed forms should be sent to:

Pa-Hin Vigil Nominations  
Northern Lights Council  
301 S 7th St  
Fargo, ND 58103

## Pa-Hin Lodge Vigil Nomination Form

Please Place \_\_\_\_\_ in Nomination for the Vigil Honor.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Registered BSA Position \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordeal Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Brotherhood Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### LODGE RECORD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Service in Chapter/Lodge Office or Committees

Nominees Distinguished Service to the Order of the Arrow

Nominees Distinguished Service to Scouting and Scout Camps:

Please provide your thoughts on how the Nominee will serve the Order in the future:

Nominator may suggest a Vigil Name for the Nominee or provide characteristics that fit the nominee. The Vigil Name may be provided in both English and Native American languages. *For suggestions on Vigil names, the OA Handbook contains the Lenni Lenape language on pages 95 - 104.*

Contact Information of Nominator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To be considered, please return this form to the Fargo Scout Office, 301 7th St S, Fargo, ND 58103 **no later than May 1, 2010.**

Northern Lights Council #429

Office Use for Verification:

Scout Registration \_\_\_\_\_ OA 2010 Dues Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Brotherhood Eligible \_\_\_\_\_ Youth/Adult

## My Scout Uniform *by James Kerzman, Lodge Treasurer & Ch 8 Chapter Chief*

My Boy Scout uniform is the single most significant item I have in my possession. It serves many purposes of importance to me—it reminds me of the many adventures I've had in my scouting career, provides a solid link between me and the many friends I have made in the program, and stands as the central pillar and backbone of my character and system of beliefs. In other words, my scouting uniform has shaped who I am today.

On the right arm sleeve, two patches lie—the American flag and the Jack Pine patrol emblem. The American flag is the constant reminder of a scout's duty to country and is one of two patches that come standard on a uniform fresh from the store. This is symbolic of how important it is to be patriotic and have pride in your country. The patrol emblem is a reminder of my time on staff for my council's National Youth Leadership Training, a four year commitment that has taught me the values of responsibility, hard work, and servant leadership.

While the right sleeve reminds one of his duty to the nation, the left sleeve brings the goal back home, representative of the scout's role in his community. The top patch is the council patch, which localizes the scout's specific region. The second patch is the troop patch, where most of the scout's work and personal growth will take place; therefore, that is where he will be able to give back the most, through service and experience. The third patch has been the most changing—the position emblem, which shows a scout's current area of responsibility in the troop. I've held positions as an historian, a scribe, and even the senior patrol leader, whose guidance leads the troop. The Den Chief braid around the left shoulder, however, is probably the most special addition to this part of the uniform, for it symbolizes the year I gave helping a young bear cub scout to advance to the Webelos rank.

On the right side of the uniform, the scout is able to show off his individual adventures and camp experiences. The top patch shows that I attended the 2005 National Jamboree, one of the single most defining experiences of my life. It was a two and a half week excursion away from home, one where I actually entered into my teen years on my thirteenth birthday. It was the opportunity of a lifetime to learn some valuable life lessons—how to rely on a team of people you hardly know; how to live by oneself in a global setting; and how to make friends in different cultures, regions, or even tents.

The pocket patch and hanging accessory are representations of my participation in Scouting's National Honor Society—the Order of the Arrow. Whether it was the flash flood storm weather that I had to sleep through, the backbreaking service projects for a whole day that I had to endure to go through my Ordeal, or the leadership skills I acquired by assisting younger scouts in those very challenges as an Elangomat, I was able to experience the effectiveness of servant leadership in action. The Order of the Arrow is also known as the Brotherhood of Cheerful Service, and I learned quickly that work and service can be fun. As I provided more and more service and made more and more friends, I discovered tasks and responsibilities go smoother and more efficiently when you live life with a positive attitude.

The final patch on the right side of my uniform is my participant patch from when I first completed the National Youth Leadership Training course in 2006. The design of the patch itself is a shield on which the moral compass of scouting is centered, a compass that always points true when one follows the points of the Scout Oath and Law. The compass lays over three green bars, which represent another central idea of the course's program—the concept of Be-Know-Do. What this means is you want to be yourself and get to know your strengths and weaknesses, your likes and dislikes, and then use those to do what you want in life, using various goals along the way to achieve your ultimate vision.

This patch is particularly important to me, because the concepts of Be-Know-Do and goals and visions actually allowed me to determine my life goals. I was able to determine that one of my biggest strengths is my ability to play trumpet, and since this is one of the joys I love to do most in my life, I have been able to adapt my goals to one day accomplish my vision of becoming a professional trumpet player. The tools I acquired at this one week course have allowed me to plot a course of success for my entire life.

The left side of the scout uniform is the symbolization of a boy's personal growth. The purple emblem near the shoulder is the second patch that comes standard on the uniform. It represents the world brotherhood of scouting, an international scouting movement that shows there are people all over the world who believe in and uphold the same ideals day to day.

The left pocket is the pocket of rank, a picture of the skills and maturity a scout has developed so far. It is the catalog of how every scout goes on the same journey, first striving for the tenderfoot rank, working to become a first class scout, and then gaining personal growth by understanding the ideals to which they must commit themselves before they can finally reach the peak of the scouting, the acme of their career, the pinnacle of all scouting achievements: the Eagle Scout rank.

My Eagle Scout award is the accomplishment I am most proud of in my life so far. To achieve it, I had to, among other things, lead and complete a service project to an organization in the community. I decided to lead a landscaping project at Wesley United Methodist Church, which involved: putting a shrub and rock garden in front of the east side of the church; placing three lawn circles into the yard in front of the garden; constructing three crosses to be erected within the circle closest to the sidewalk; and moving three large boulders into the furthest circle from the sidewalk.

The project was difficult to accomplish. I learned compromise is necessary to move forward in any situation, because many changes had to be amended to the original plan before the project would even be approved by the numerous committees who had to review it. However, even the most careful planning will have to be adjusted when unforeseen challenges arise. I think the biggest challenges to the success of the project were barriers that we encountered during execution of the plans, including running out of landscaping rock, a lack of helpers on certain scheduled work times, and weather. In spite of these challenges, the project was completed in approximately 250 man hours, and the final result has been very well received by the community and the church congregation.

The final patch on the uniform is the Arrow of Light award, located right underneath the rank emblem. This award is the only award that carries over from the Cub Scout uniform to the Boy Scout uniform, and it represents the first step a boy must take in his journey to the Eagle rank. I find it quite interesting that these two awards are so close to each other, but there are so many experiences and so much time that separate them. I think this is a true representation of scouting, which aims to prepare a boy for his transition to manhood, providing him tools he will need for the rest of his life.

In addition to the shirt, the full uniform includes the merit badge sash, a chronicle of the various skills that a scout learns throughout his career. To attain the Eagle Scout rank, a scout must earn 21 merit badges, which includes 12 required merit badges—including 3 citizenship badges, hiking, personal fitness, and family life—in addition to 9 elective merit badges, which can range in focus from archery to oceanography. My merit badge sash has 37 badges, which show my particular interests and still has space left open for more to earn.

However, the most significant thing about the uniform is that as a scout, you never really take it off. Physically, you might remove the cloth from your body, but you never remove the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law. The morals that I learned in scouting have become entrenched in my everyday life.

Through the ideals of trustworthiness, loyalty, and friendliness, I have been able to make many lifelong friends from all over the world. Through the ideals of helpfulness, courtesy, and kindness, I have been able to attain an ability to brighten people's days, a knack for saying or doing the right thing to make a positive difference in a person's life. Through the ideals of obedience and bravery, I have been able to participate in many different school activities, including sports, speech, drama, student council, and music, and I have been able to learn who I truly am.

My experiences in scouting have truly become the story of my life. The morals of the Scout Oath and Law have become embodied in my very being, and I strive to live these values everyday. The Order of the Arrow has taught me that to be a good leader, one must be a good follower. By doing my good turn daily, I have learned that sometimes the best way to cheer yourself up is to bring a smile to somebody's face. All these lessons I learned while wearing my scout uniform, and that is why it is the single most significant item I own.