



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA THREE FIRES COUNCIL

For Immediate Release
January 18, 2019

Contact: Maria Feitlich
(630) 797-4621
Maria.Feitlich@scouting.org

A Family of Three Eagles *The Schramek Family Eagle Scout Story*



ST. CHARLES, IL – The achievement of attaining Eagle Scout is a feat many Boy Scouts only dream of, with a fraction of Scouts who attempt it—and even fewer of those Scouts who successfully complete it. While it is a great honor for a family to vaunt a single member with the rank of Eagle Scout, one Aurora family can proudly boast this achievement threefold, with all three children having achieved the rank of Eagle.

The Schramek family's scouting story began decades ago, when Kevin Schramek was just a young boy participating in a northern Illinois Boy Scouts program. Kevin participated in scouting camps and events, gathering fond memories of the program. Kevin did not know it then, but his experiences and memories in and of Boy Scouts as a child would help guide he and his wife, Janet, in raising their three sons years later.

Joseph, the eldest Schramek son, joined Boy Scouts in the fourth grade. After his first experience with Boy Scouts, Joseph now admits he became “hooked” on participating in his pack's outdoor and other activities. Joseph's involvement in Scouts also paved the way for Thomas, the middle Schramek son, to involve himself in scouting a few years later.

When Thomas joined Boy Scouts, he was following in the footsteps of his older brother and father, while also learning from others in his scouting pack. It was around this time that Janet transitioned into the role of an active scouting mother who found joy in helping run the annual popcorn fundraiser and other important events. As Janet's involvement in her sons' units grew, Kevin knew from his childhood experiences in Scouts that if his sons were to be successful in, and out, of Scouts, they needed great leaders; it was this realization that prompted Kevin to become Thomas' Assistant Den Leader, and to subsequently rise through the leadership ranks as his sons rose through the ranks of Boy Scouts. In fact, while each of the Schramek sons worked higher through the ranks of Boy Scouts, Kevin became a Crew Advisor and Committee Chairman, and Janet became a Scoutmaster—all in their sons' units.

Timothy, the youngest Schramek son, watched his two brothers participate in Scouts and could not wait to be old enough to finally join a pack himself. When that time finally came, Timothy became an eager Cub Scout, eventually becoming a Boy Scout, and then progressing further—to the highest rank of Eagle Scout—with both of his older brothers several years later.



Today, each of the Schramek sons looks back on his journey to becoming an Eagle Scout fondly, but each with different key takeaways from his individual experience. Joseph, who is now 21 years old and studying Industrial Technology at Mississippi State University, feels that his journey to Eagle Scout, and the years that have followed since, have helped him to become the well-rounded man he is today.

“I feel like I cannot say anything that wouldn’t sound like one of the Eagle Scout clichés,” Joseph joked when asked about what being an Eagle Scout means to him. “But it’s a very interesting thing—it doesn’t come up in regular conversation and I don’t often think about all the hard work I did to earn it, but my Eagle Scout qualities certainly come out when I’m put in a position where I need to take charge or lead others.”

Joseph’s Eagle Scout project was one that required great dedication and time commitments: a youth fishing seminar hosted with the help of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This project went above and beyond its requirements by including many different interactive stations that not only engaged those who participated in them, but also actively invoked learning about different species of fish, conservation issues and boat safety.

Similarly, Thomas, who is now 20 years old and studying Finance at Arizona State University, feels that his experiences surrounding becoming an Eagle Scout have helped positively differentiate him from his peers.



“When people know you’re an Eagle Scout, they know what skills you have and all that you have done,” Thomas said when asked what being an Eagle Scout means to him. “People expect more from you than the average person, whether you’re at work or school, and there’s a certain standard you must uphold.”

Thomas’ Eagle Scout project helped improve and beautify a community landmark in a nearby town, adding to the community’s value. As he worked to paint, update and re-landscape the Oswego Knights of Columbus Hall, he learned a great deal about how to work methodically through smaller tasks in effort to complete a much larger, and more challenging, feat. Not only did Thomas’ project help fortify the Knights of Columbus Hall, but it also helped to strengthen his self-reliance.

Timothy, who is 17 years old and actively involved in sports, music and government at his local high school, feels that his recent journey to becoming an Eagle Scout last year has helped him to become a strong leader and source of inspiration to his peers.

“To be an Eagle Scout is to help people when they need it. Every day, I try to let my experiences inspire me to strive for more, be more, and do more with my life,” Timothy said of his Eagle Scout journey.

Timothy’s recent Eagle Scout project was one that will continue to improve the ecosystem of the Red Oak Nature Center in Batavia for decades to come. As he worked hard to remove an invasive species of plant from the Nature Center, he also learned how to successfully motivate and lead a team. Additionally, Timothy’s Eagle Court of Honor will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20 at the Plano American Legion Hall, for those who wish to attend and help Timothy honor those who have helped him reach this great achievement.

The knowledge, skills, leadership traits and life lessons the sons have all learned will

continue to be held near and dear to their, and their parents' hearts.

When looking back on her family's exciting and impressive experience with Boy Scouts, Janet said, "Kevin, our boys and I have made a lot of great friends in Scouting that hopefully will last a lifetime." And, if the Schramek family is anything like many other Three Fires Council Eagle Scout families, they will.

About Three Fires Council

Three Fires Council is headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois, and was formed in 1925. It serves more than 14,000 youth throughout Kane, DuPage, Kendall, DeKalb, and parts of Will and Cook Counties. Local communities are divided into 10 volunteer-led districts. Approximately 6,000 adult volunteers serve local youth. Last year, more than 142,000 community service hours were accumulated in Eagle Scout projects and other service opportunities. Three Fires Council also boasts two camps: Camp Big Timber (Elgin, Illinois) and Camp Freeland Leslie (Oxford, Wisconsin).

Website: www.threefirescouncil.org

###

[Download Feature Story](#)

