



THE JOURNEY TO EAGLE
60 Years of Eagle Scout Stories



How Montana Scouting Changed My Life

AWARD YEARS 1954 - 2016

INTERVIEWS WITH EAGLE SCOUT ALUMNI

“Life presents a long series of stepping stones that cross a cold and perilous water. Scouting is the first series of stepping stones that are needed to begin the journey.”

– JIM DRUMMOND

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 1969
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

MONTANA COUNCIL BRIEF HISTORY

Scouting Under the Big Sky

It is the value of being prepared. It was there when man first walked on the moon. And when a president struck a blow to an iron curtain with a single speech. It was there when Scouts across the country rallied to provide relief in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. For more than 100 years, it has been in the heart of every Scout who ever overcame one of life's challenges.

The Montana Council was formed in 1973 as the result of a merger of four councils: Western Montana, Yellowstone Valley, North Central Montana and Vigilante Council. Our mission is to help young people make ethical and moral decisions over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Since its inception, the Montana Council has graduated more than 3,000 Eagle Scouts, the highest rank a young person can achieve in Scouting. For this packet, we've asked our list of Montana Eagle Scouts to reflect on their time in Scouting and how it has affected the course of their lives.

We hope you find some laughter, inspiration and maybe some motivation from the responses that follow.

Sincerely,

Jory Dellinger

DEPUTY SCOUT EXECUTIVE / COO

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 1994

MISSOULA, MONTANA

THE JOURNEY

Cub Scout to Eagle Scout

It's been said that it's not the destination, it's the journey along the way.

While there are milestones to meet and merit badges to earn, the path to Eagle Scout is anything but paved (especially in Montana!).

Below is a visual representation of the path from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA.





What It Means to Be Eagle

Becoming an Eagle Scout is truly a lifetime achievement.

Eagle Scout is a designation that resonates with individuals around the globe. To achieve the rank of Eagle, individuals must demonstrate they live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law everyday. In addition to earning merit badges, Scouts discover their individual passions and have the opportunity to pursue them wholeheartedly. Scouts must lead other Scouts, but also gain an understanding of when it is best to follow — because of this, Eagle Scouts are some of the world's finest leaders.





“Even today, 60 years after earning my Eagle, I still show it on my resume and often receive positive comments from my clients about it.”

– HOMER STAVES

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 1954
POLSON, MONTANA

Outdoor Exploration

Montana is a special place. The Montana Council recognizes just how fortunate we are to be located in Big Sky Country. Mountains, rivers, wildlife and endless recreation opportunities can literally be found out our back door. And even with unmatched access to wilderness activities, life gets busy. We find ourselves inside a big box store on a Saturday afternoon, towing the kids around town to cross routine items off a never-ending to-do list.

When you involve your child in Scouting, they get out of the car, off the screen and into nature. And when that happens, the results can be pretty remarkable.

Kids benefit from a natural, diverse environment. According to the National Wildlife Federation, children who spend at least an hour a day playing freely outside experience increased attention spans, better performance in school, higher levels of fitness and improved moods. Turns out, unstructured play outside is instrumental to healthy development.



Scouts Become Great Leaders.

HOW WE DO IT

The structure of BSA encourages Scouts to take turns practicing leadership and teamwork. Scouts learn to understand when it's best to manage the group, but also when it's best to listen and follow instructions. Merit badge requirements demand

Scouts get comfortable sharing knowledge and opinions both with integrity and courtesy to others, working together to achieve team and personal goals.



“Scouts taught me order, discipline and planning. The time spent in the outdoors led to greater challenges in backpacking, photography, hiking and running.”

– DOUGLAS TOULOUSE

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 1966
HAVRE, MONTANA

“My time in Scouts gave me valuable experience navigating in the woods, which is helpful when you’re going to school to be a land surveyor. Scouts also taught me First Aid and how to be prepared for any scenario.”

– MITCH EDGAR

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 2013
STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA

“The Scout Oath and the Laws of Scouting helped me live with healthy boundaries. The challenge to learn the skills embodied in qualifying for the merit badges guided me in a broad range of life.”

– HARVEY A. RUEGSEGER

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 1954
KALISPELL, MONTANA

“Joining Scouts BSA enables young people to engage in outdoor activities with people their own age. An activity they can continue doing for the rest of their lives.”

– JOE RAIBLE

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 1962
CONDON, MONTANA

On Leadership

COREY LONGBOTTOM

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 2010
LAUREL, MONTANA

In what positive ways did your experience in Scouts BSA impact your career?

I have been compelled by the Western lifestyle my entire life. The folklore, work ethic, unspoken rules and codes of right and wrong have long been a source of inspiration and guidance for me, during and after my formative years in Scouting.

I endeavor daily to put forth the best version of myself to benefit the people and livestock in my care and to complete tasks and projects in a manner consistent with the twelve points of the Scout Law, and find no trouble applying them practically.

In what positive ways did your experience in Scouts BSA impact your life?

Leadership and practical life skills learned in Scouting are irreplaceable in a society like ours which depends upon diverse and unique individuals forming groups with the aim of collective success. Although it was not and is not always readily apparent, everything I do in life can be connected in parallel to an experience or teachable moment I had as a Scout.

If you were talking to a room full of parents undecided if Scouts BSA is right for their kids, what would you say?

Scouting gives young people a framework to grow and build upon for the rest of their lives. Scouting provides structure in a safe, dependable environment and exposes young people to values, ethics, skills and ideas that they may have otherwise missed but will undoubtedly never expire.

What would you say to a young man or woman considering leaving Scouts because life is getting too busy?

My answer to this is simple. If you enjoy Scouting, and all that is holding you back from achieving Eagle is life becoming too busy, you will regret forever not completing the journey to Eagle. It's an issue I struggled with as well, but I am so proud that I remained dedicated to the journey and finished at the top. The skills learned and memories made will never do you wrong.

They say to prepare your child for the path but not the path for the child. Preparation is something Montana Scouts BSA takes seriously. Here are some testimonials demonstrating how Scouts prepared these Eagle Scout alumni for the path ahead.

On Being Prepared

SCOTT MERRICK CAMPBELL

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 1982
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

“Scouting is about being prepared for life, all its challenges and the many twists and turns of the long road. While a Scout, I became very good friends with other Scouts, including some with opposite interests and hobbies. Being a part of Scouts and learning to communicate with my patrol members helped me to be a great leader. Moments when “planned” outings went a different direction than expected helped provide me with skills in adapting to change.”

In what positive ways did your experience in Scouts BSA impact your life?

Each of the turns in my life were enhanced by my desire to make a difference in the community. In my younger years in Scouting, the simple “Leave No Trace” and trash sweep we did after every campout provided the necessary experience. Many opportunities were given to me because of my ability to work with others no matter what age, race or faith.

This was especially prevalent in my opportunity to attend the 12th National Scout Jamboree. Many times I have come across a situation where I am able to open the

eyes of another individual simply due to the experiences I had as a Scout — whether it was hiking 50 miles on a forest trail, swimming a mile in glacial water or just planning the next month’s Scout meetings. Knowing that I took the Scout Oath and lived by the Scout Law provided and continues to provide a “center of strength” for guidance.

If you were talking to a room full of parents undecided if Scouts BSA is right for their kids, what would you say to them?

Scouts is not for everyone, but Scouts is available for everyone who has a desire to learn. If your son or daughter joins Scouts, it will provide

them with many, many moments that will enrich their lives. They will experience the outdoors and learn first-hand why being prepared is the Scout Motto. When they or one of their fellow Scouts forgets an extra pair of socks or batteries for their flashlight, it will create a lasting impression so they will not only be prepared for their own encampment, but understand the importance of communicating to ensure the safest experience.



Lifelong Friendship

Likes, shares, snaps, tweets. The digital friendships we've formed happen on an illuminated device instead of face to face. Scouts is hoping to reverse that trend. Our troops build character, skills and real friendships.

"Scouts BSA is the greatest investment that you can put your kids through. The morals and values that your kids will get out of the program will benefit them for the rest of their lives. They will develop friendships throughout the world and have once-in-a-lifetime experiences."

— DREW BURKENPAS

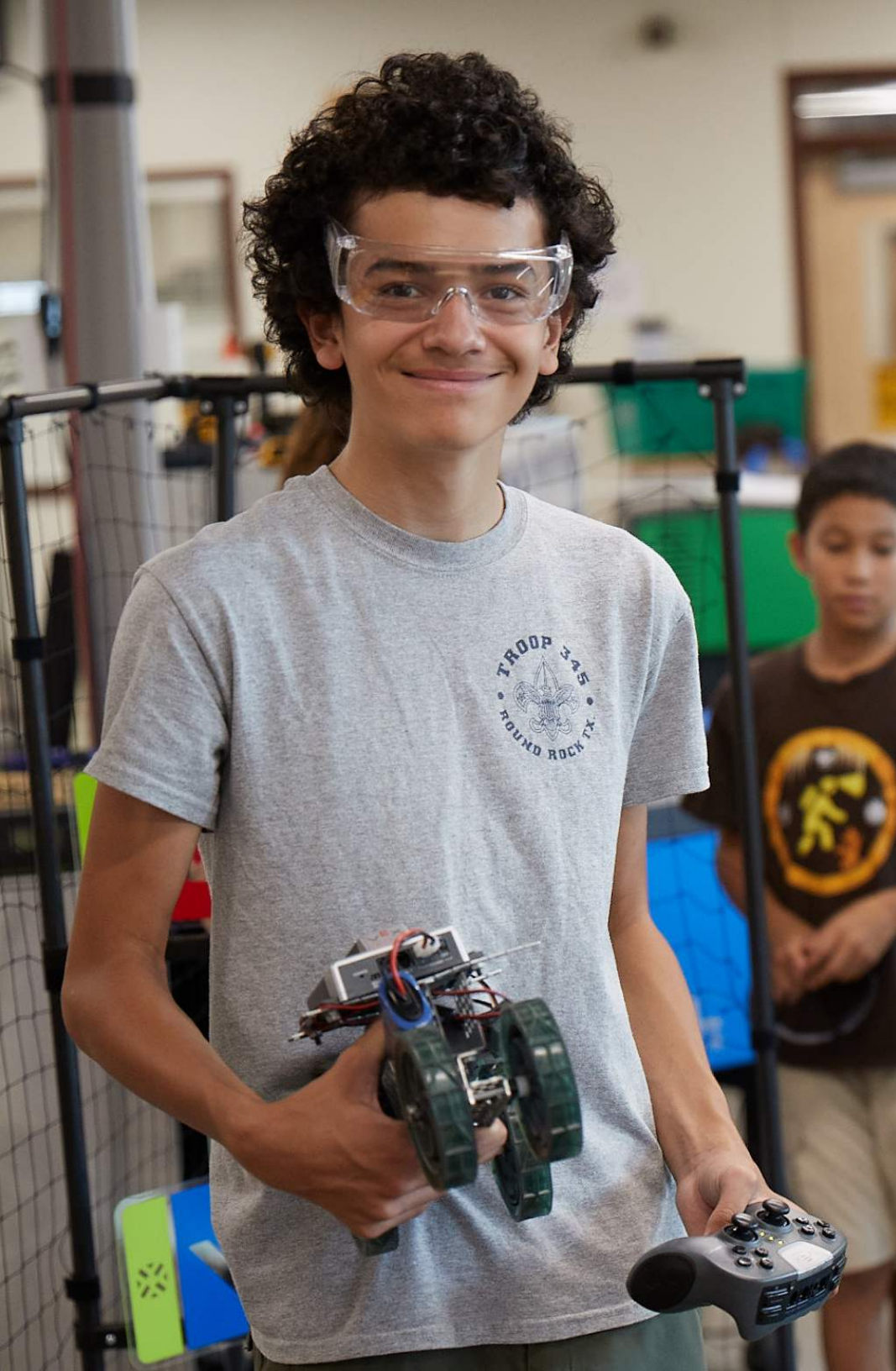
EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 2009
BELGRADE, MONTANA

"Want to learn to sail? There's not an app for that. Want to learn to ski? There's not an app for that either. Want to spend a weekend camping with your friends in a snow cave? There's definitely not an app for that."

— BRIAN VINCENT

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 1992
BOZEMAN, MONTANA





“The program is not just one type of youth or clique, there is room and a place in Scouts for everyone, and you might make some surprising friends.”

– JOHN KELLY

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 2008
CHESTER, MONTANA

“I met my wife, Emily, while working at K-M Scout Ranch. She worked with me as a Venture Scout, and I can’t imagine my life without her.”

– ALEX HENNING

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 2016
BILLINGS, MONTANA

Montana Council Membership

GETTING INVOLVED

“My challenge to you is this: try to think of any other activity that’s year-round, for boys and girls, and supplies the breadth of opportunities offered by Scouts BSA. Join us, learn with us, have fun with us and let us show you what Scouts BSA can do for you.”

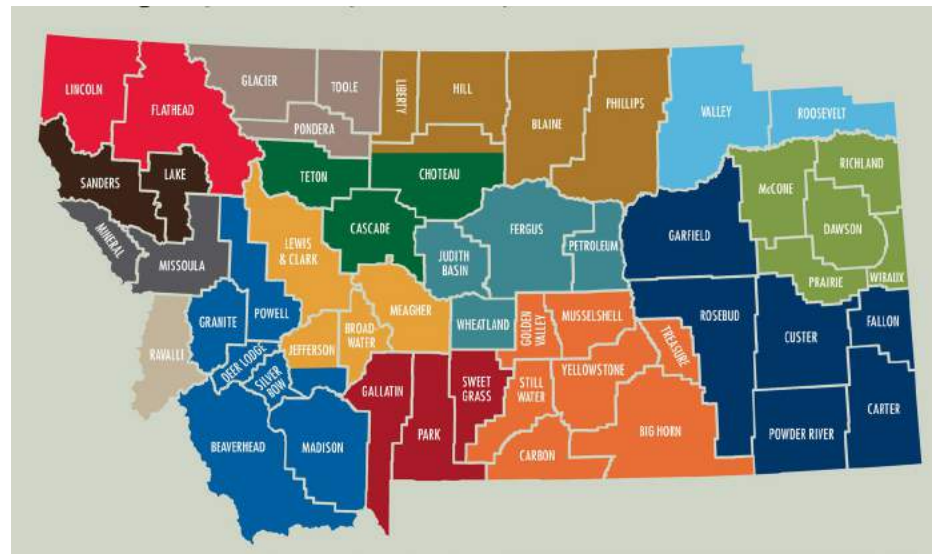
– DALE OLINGER

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 2000
MISSOULA, MONTANA



Where to Start

Online at MontanaBSA.org or by contacting the field office nearest to you



**Montana Council Service Center
& Scout Store**
Phone: (406) 761-6000
820 17th Avenue South
Great Falls, Montana 59405-5939

Billings Field Office & Scout Store
Phone: (406) 259-4513
1310 24th Street West
Billings, Montana 59102-3885

Bozeman Field Office & Scout Store
Phone: (406) 585-0272
1902 West Dickerson, Suite 104
Bozeman, Montana 59718-2812

Missoula Field Office & Scout Store
Phone: (406) 926-1810
805 West Spruce Street, Suite A
Missoula, Montana 59802



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