

# Charles E. Croke



As a Cub Scout



2013

Charlie Croke, currently a junior at Simsbury High School, was born in 1996 in Hartford, CT. He has lived his whole life in Simsbury. His family has moved once in town and the family who moved into his previous home just happened to be the Gatmaitans; a family Charlie has come to know well since joining Boy Scout Troop 174!

Charlie began his scouting career as a first grader in Pack 175. The pack met at Saint Mary's Church and Mr. and Mrs. Tourtillotte were his den leaders all the way through Webelos 2 when he and Henry both crossed over and joined Troop 174.

After joining the troop in 2007 Charlie took Mr. Burrows' advice and began to get one or two requirements signed off at each weekly meeting. He was aided in getting these requirements by the Assistant Scout Masters and the other older scouts. Along his way to Eagle Scout, Charlie observed a large number of scouts in the troop achieve Eagle Scout including Henry Tourtillotte who got his Eagle after a little more than two years of being in the troop. Seeing so many scouts attain this achievement motivated him to continue to pursue the award.

Charlie's first campout was the Patrol Challenge. It was a great first experience in Boy Scouts and over time it became his favorite annual outing. Charlie's Patrol Leader on the trip was Andy Fayerweather, another recent Eagle Scout, and his patrol cooked steak in tinfoil for dinner. Charlie really enjoyed the experience and continued to regularly attend campouts, West Point football games, hikes, rock climbing trips and community service activities with the troop...and he sold a few Christmas trees and raked a few yards along the way too! One of Charlie's most memorable trips was the 15 day trek through the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico where he and a group of six other scouts and three Scout Masters journeyed over 100 miles and lived off of only what they could carry. There were months of training, practice hikes and planning meetings and in the end it was a life changing experience he will never forget.

Charlie has also held many different leadership positions in the troop, including Troop Guide, Patrol Leader, Troop Librarian, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Each position gave him the opportunity to grow personally and learn to be a good role model for the new and younger scouts in the troop. The friendships he has made through his scouting experience, with scouts, parents and Scout Masters have been one of the most rewarding parts of his scouting experience.

Charlie would like to send special thanks to the following individuals whose support and assistance along the way helped make this day possible: Diane Whittemore, Gail Korten, Magdalen Dowden, Linn Taylor, Patrick Turley, Andrew Mylander, Piers Lucker, Sean Turley, Aidan Turley, Bryce Turley, Ieke Scully, Barbara Strong, Ed Morrison, Bob Kalogeros, Hal Collins, John Burrows, his parents and all the generous donors who made contributions toward his fundraising.

## Rank Advancement

Scout	03/12/2008	Star	03/12/2010
Tenderfoot	03/11/2009	Life	03/25/2011
Second Class	06/03/2009	Eagle	06/26/2013
First Class	09/23/2009		

## Merit Badges Earned

Archery	First Aid*
Athletics	Fingerprinting
Backpacking	Leatherwork
Camping*	Metalwork
Citizenship In The Community*	Orienteering
Citizenship In The Nation*	Personal Fitness*
Citizenship In The World*	Personal Management*
Climbing	Pioneering
Communication*	Scholarship
Emergency Preparedness*	Swimming*
Environmental Science*	Wood Carving
Family Life*	

\* Eagle requirement

# Eagle Project

After searching for an Eagle project for several months, working with Ieke Scully, Charlie identified a project with the Simsbury Historical Society. The project involved creating a set of smaller, transportable benches modeled after existing long benches. The new benches would be used throughout the property for any events or tours the Historical Society hosted. Given the narrow stairwells and hallways throughout the house, the smaller benches would be much easier for the staff to move and they could be used for outside events as well.

Mr. Collins guided Charlie in designing the benches to match the historic period and he did this by using cut nails and two different shades of milk paint.

Charlie used his grandfather's workshop tools to construct eight benches. Mr. Turley offered significant help with the template designs and gave many pointers on ways to assemble the benches consistently and efficiently. Once the plans were in place, there were many late nights of cutting, sanding, assembling and staining each bench. Many scouts from the troop helped Charlie along the way on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and the project was completed in late April.

In addition to the benches, Charlie was able to make a donation of \$688.00 to the Simsbury Historical Society, thanks to the generosity of all of his donors.

