

Michael R. Johnson



Born in Hartford, CT, Michael has lived in Simsbury all his life since and is an honors student in his Freshman year at Simsbury High School. Following a family history in Scouting, from his grandfather a Scoutmaster, to the six Eagle Scouts already in his family (Michael's brother Carl, his father, two uncles and two cousins), Michael began Scouting as a Tiger Cub with Pack 276 at Tootin' Hills School where he was also a student. Den Leader Mr. Burrows (who also crossed over to Troop 174) instilled a desire for the Cubs to continue in Scouting. These good times were part of the inspiration for Michael's Eagle project completed at Tootin' Hills School. As a Cub Scout, Michael earned every Webelos activity pin possible and earned the Arrow of Light, Cub Scouting's highest award.

Upon joining Troop 174, Michael's drive and desire to attend every outdoor event resulted in Jan Boonvanostade giving Michael his first leadership position as Assistant Patrol Leader. This was the year that Michael was awarded the Kevin Hanley Memorial Award for Scouting Spirit. When Jan moved to Senior Patrol Leader the next year, Michael took the reins as Patrol Leader. After leading the patrol to Patrol of the Year, Michael accepted the position of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader first supporting Dana Reichler, then Alex Boonvanostade this year.

The highlight of Michael's outdoor Scouting experience to date has been his trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico in 2010 with 7 friends from the Troop. Although, the week-long Scuba trip to Honduras is a pretty close second place! Michael also has great memories of all his weeks at Camp Workcoeman Summer Camp. Successfully backpacking the Grand Canyon with his brother and father remains one of Michael's greatest personal accomplishments. .

Beyond scouting, Michael spends much of his time playing baseball, earned a Varsity Letter in SHS Badminton, is currently working on community service for Confirmation at St. Catherine's Church, is an Open Water Scuba Diver, enjoys snow skiing, snow boarding, wake boarding, and spends time fishing during summers at Breezy Point, NY.

Rank Advancement

Scout	03/07/07	Star	09/24/08
Tenderfoot	05/30/07	Life	06/30/09
Second Class	12/19/07	Eagle	06/01/11
First Class	12/20/07	Order of the Arrow	06/06/09

Merit Badges Earned

Art	Athletics	Camping
Canoeing	Cit. in the Community	Cit. in the Nation
Cit. in the World	Communications	Cooking
Emergency Prepared	Environmental Science	Family Life
Fishing	First Aid	Leatherwork
Personal Fitness	Personal Management	Public Health
Scuba Diving	Sports	Swimming

Eagle Project



Remembering all the good times from his first seven years of school, including his entire Cub Scout career, Michael contacted Mr. Ron Perrault, Tootin' Hills School Principal, to inquire if there was something he could do to "give back" to the school. Mr. Perrault asked Michael to help revitalize the school garden by clearing out an overgrown side yard, and designing and installing permanent benches where children could sit during recess. In addition to numerous meetings with the Principal, the project included presentations and discussions with the Parent Teacher Organization who provided funding to purchase the necessary materials, the Board of Education, and Mr. Twitchell from the Town of Simsbury.

Michael would like to thank all who made this achievement possible. Special thanks go to Mr. Burrows, Mr. Civitillo, Mr. Collins, Mr. Perrault, the Tootin' Hills PTO, Mr. Twitchell, and to the Scouts of Troop 174, current and past, who have helped Michael, and also given him the opportunity to lead – without his fellow Scouts, none of this would have been possible. And of course, all of his Merit Badge counselors!