

## Nicky DePolo Biography

Nicky began his scouting journey as a Tiger Cub Scout in Pack 81. He soon discovered Scouting's many exciting opportunities, from campouts and fun with friends to earning belt loops. Nicky developed a passion for leadership and personal achievement, inspired by earning belt loops and Webelo palms. His favorite Pack 81 memories include winning the Pinewood Derby and firing a cannon aboard the Battleship New Jersey.

In 2019, Nicky bridged into Scouts BSA and joined Troop Devon 50. After learning about merit badges in a *Boys Life* article, he was determined to earn them all. With guidance from his former advancement chair Mr. Tobias and support from others, he created a plan to achieve this ambitious goal en route to becoming an Eagle Scout. In the end, he earned a total of 139 merit badges, one more than the current total of 138 badges available.

During his time in Devon 50, Nicky took on many leadership roles, including Den Chief, Bugler, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, ASPL for First Aid, ASPL of Patrols, and Senior Patrol Leader. As SPL, he embraced the challenge of leading the troop, overhauling the youth leadership training presentation, and implementing strategies to keep younger Scouts active in the program to much success. Recently, he and the ASPL's transformed the troop's first aid meet, creating interactive first aid scenarios at Camp Jarvis to promote participation and interest in the topic of First Aid.

Nicky has thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of being a part of Troop Devon 50, including city, mystery, and Winter Chill trips. These outings kept him enthusiastic about Scouting, even during difficult times including COVID-19, countless hours spent earning merit badges, and all of the other activities competing for his time and energy. In addition, he went on high-adventure trips to Philmont, the National Jamboree, and the National Order of the Arrow Conference in Colorado in which he remains an active Brotherhood member.

Nicky has also earned many awards during his time in Scouts including the J. Barton Rettew Jr. Award for best advancement record 3 times, the J. B. Retew III trophy for Outstanding Patrol Leader, The Silver Buckle for Leadership at Camp Horseshoe as voted on by Scouts, The Golden Eagle Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service at school, The Messenger of Peace Award, The Standard Troop Award, all National Outdoor Award segments and four silver devices for them, The Complete Angler recognition, The World Conservation Award, seven National Honor Patrol Awards, The

Ad Altarei Dei Award for Catholic Scouting, and the Dan Kilcullen award voted on by scouts for extraordinary leadership.

As a junior at Malvern Preparatory School, Nicky is involved in many activities, including the Malvern Students Like Me Association Leadership Team, varsity Speech and Debate, team manager for Malvern Prep's literary magazine *Impressions*, FIRST Robotics, Mock Trial, Model UN, and as president of the Historical Debate Club. He also participates in school liturgies as a Eucharistic minister. After high school, Nicky hopes to study game design and theology in college.

Nicky plans to finish his remaining months as an active Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. After aging out, he plans to continue participating in Scouting as a Junior ASM, and to encourage leadership to not only honor and continue traditional troop practices and traditions, but to expand on them and inspire others to remain active and make the most of their precious time in Scouting.