

Scouts honored, Grimes receives special award

by Kim Adams

Scouts from across Southeast Texas gathered at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica, Beaumont, Feb. 8 for the annual Scout Sunday Mass. And for one, it was an extra special day.

Boy Scout Matthew Grimes, who is working on his Eagle project, was recognized for completion of requirements for all 140 patches that a Boy Scout can earn, a rare honor in Scouting.

On Scout Sunday, Scouts are recognized for their reverence with awards that encourage a better relationship with Jesus. Scouts complete age appropriate programs with the assistance of parents and Scout leaders.

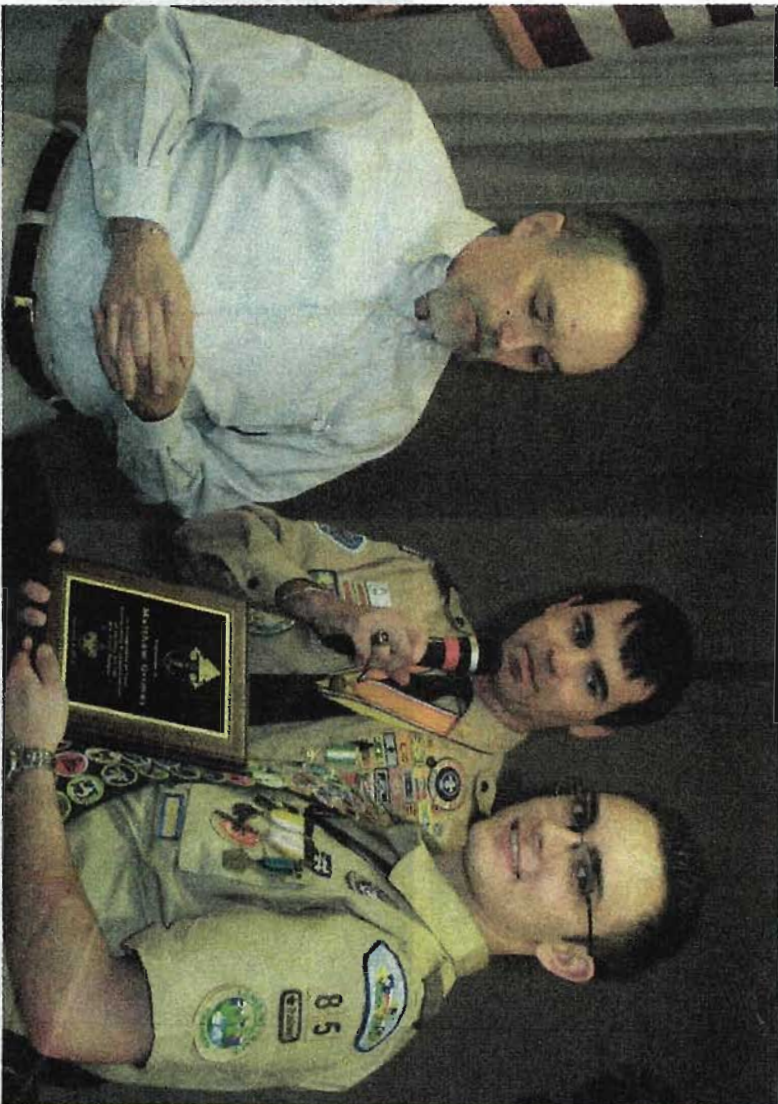
Mesgr. Jerry McGrath praised the Scouts for continuing the tradition of scouting that was first introduced in the United States in 1910 by W. D. Boyce. Those traditions in-

Basilica Center.

The Ad Altare Dei Award for Boy Scouts ages 13-14 is based on the seven sacraments and helps Scouts relate their faith knowledge from the experiences of their lives for spiritual growth. This year the recipients are Joey Bernard, Troop 194; Luke de la Cruz, Matthew Haynie, Troop 232; Calvin Hullum, Cesar Morales, Troop 105; Daniel Maggio, Troop 239; Anthony Reyes, and Joseph Reyes, Troop 88.

The Pope Pius XII Award, for Scouts as they seek to achieve an awareness of their current and future calls from God in the areas of inner self, secular community and church community, was presented to Christopher de la Cruz and Wesley Suite of Troop 232.

The Light of Christ Award to Tiger and Wolf Cubs for developing a personal relation-



Deacon Wood and David Pecora present Scout Matthew Grimes with a special award for completion of all 140 Boy Scout patches.

lory, Xavier Johnson, Robin Anthony Gambruh Jr., Christopher Lawrence, Ehan Ruth, Award. a diocesan award in

On my honor, I will do my best Southeast Texas Scout goes above and beyond

by Kim Adams

Participating in all activities required to earn merit badges as a Boy Scout brought an exceptional Scout a recognition that not many have earned in the more than 100 years of Scouting in the United States.

Matthew Grimes, a parishioner of Infant Jesus, Lumberton, and a senior at Lumberton High School, began working on merit badges in June 2008 and on Dec. 23, 2014 completed the requirements for his 140th merit badge, the most badges a Boy Scout can earn.

Grimes is the only Scout in the Three Rivers Council to earn all 140 merit badges. Three Rivers serves Polk, Liberty, San Jacinto, Tyler, Hardin, Newton, Jasper, Chambers, Jefferson and Orange counties.

"I learned a lot with each badge," Grimes said. "For instance, from rock climbing I learned I am afraid of heights." Grimes said the most challenging and hardest of the merit badges was for snow sports. To complete the requirements he traveled to Buck Hill Ski Resort in Burnsville, Minn.

"Skiing was the most challenging to do because we do

not have enough snow here on the Gulf Coast," said Bruce Grimes, Matthew's father. "The owner and staff of the resort in Minnesota helped him tremendously. Without them working within our schedule it would have been difficult at best to complete the snow portion of the merit badge."

In total for all merit badges, Grimes logged more than 23,000 miles in travel across Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, New Mexico and Minnesota.

As part of those 140 badges, Grimes completed the National Outdoor Medal. This is a five-part badge that requires a demonstrated knowledge in camping, hiking, aquatics, riding and adventure. He became the 67th nationwide recipient since its inception in 2010 and only the ninth recipient in Texas.

As part of the outdoor medal, Grimes attended a three-day wilderness first-aid camping trip in the Dallas area and a leave-no-trace camp near Houston. The camping nights were completed over a six-year period.

Grimes also achieved the Ad Altare Dei medal, based on the seven sacraments of the Catho-



Merit badges cover the sash on Matthew Grimes' uniform.

lic Church, and the Pope Pius XI award for Scouts who seek to achieve an awareness of their current and future calls from God in the areas of inner self, secular community and church community. The awards were given by the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting on

Scout Sunday, Feb. 8. Grimes is currently completing the paperwork to be reviewed for him to become an Eagle Scout. For his service project, Grimes installed smoke detectors in the homes of elderly, handicapped and other folks who needed them.

With numerous volunteers Grimes completed 502 service hours installing 162 smoke detectors. He and his helpers also serviced 416 smoke detectors, replacing batteries and making sure there was no dust keeping them from functioning properly.

badges was for snow sports. To complete the requirements he travelled to Buck Hill Ski Resort in Burnsville, Minn.

"Skiing was the most challenging to do because we do

leave-uo-trace camp near Houston. The camping nights were completed over a six-year period.

Grimes also achieved the Ad Altare Dei medal, based on the seven sacraments of the Catho-

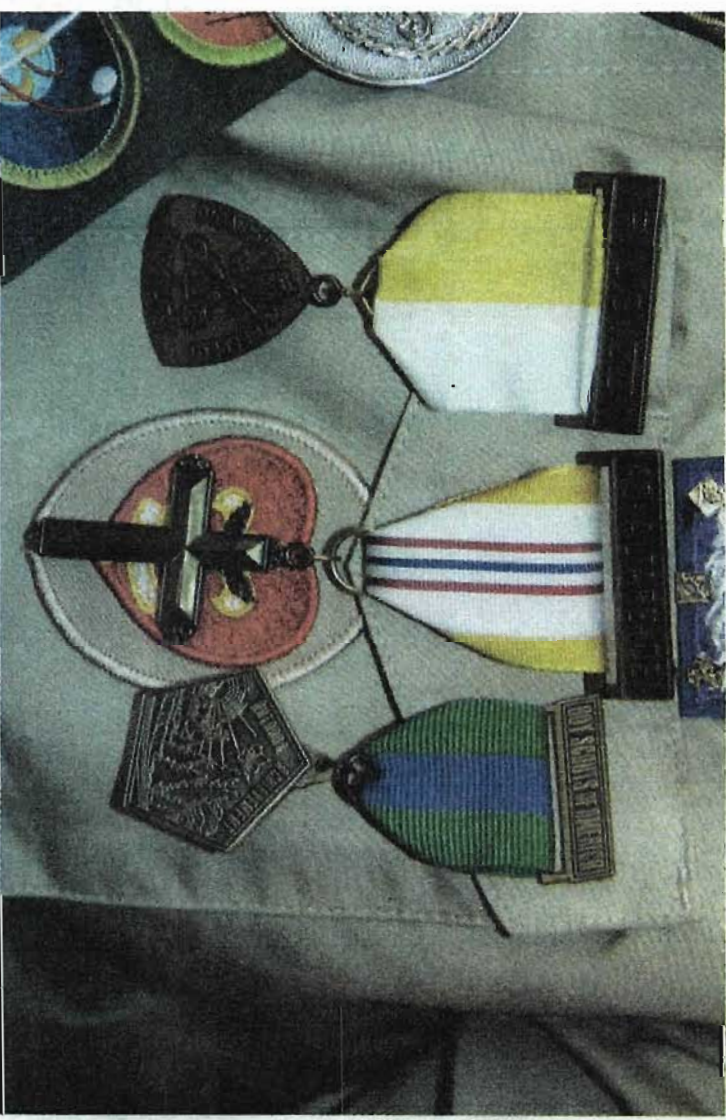


Grimes installs a smoke detector as part of his Eagle Scout project.

to achieve an awareness of their current and future calls from God in the areas of inner self, secular community and church community. The awards were given by the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting on

pleting the paperwork to be reviewed for him to become an Eagle Scout. For his service project, Grimes installed smoke detectors in the homes of elderly, handicapped and other folks who needed them.

hours installing 162 smoke detectors. He and his helpers also serviced 416 smoke detectors, replacing batteries and making sure there was no dust keeping them from functioning properly.



The Pope Pius XII and Ad Altare Dei awards Grimes received on Scout Sunday, and the National Outdoor Badge.