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## Indian Hills senior achieves Eagle Scout rank

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Oakland — William Nedds, 18, a senior at Indian Hill High School, received his Eagle Scout Award during Court of Honor Ceremonies Feb. 5.



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Scout Master Paul Zakrzewski chaired the proceedings. Magistrate Judge Douglas Arpert administered the Scout Oath. Former Scoutmaster and current Eagle Guide Martin Treich gave the Eagle Charge. Bishop Prince Singh gave the benediction

Presentations were made by Scout Executive

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Douglas Dillow, [Bergen County](#) Executive  
 Kathleen Donovan, Bergen County  
 Freeholder Maura DeNicola of [Franklin Lakes](#),  
 Indian Hills High School Principal Albert  
 Evangelista, [Oakland](#) Mayor Linda Schwager,  
 Oakland Council President Chris Visconti,  
 and Oakland Councilman Timothy Jensen.

Assisting in the ceremony were Senior Patrol  
 Leader Nicholas Bonini and fellow Eagle  
 Scouts Adam Frank, Nicholas Mendolia,  
 Adam Dishian, PJ Bellardino, Wesley Roth and  
 Thomas Halloran.

At the end of the ceremony, all eight  
 graduating seniors from Indian Hills and  
 Ramapo high schools who have earned the  
 Eagle Scout rank in Troop 49 were presented  
 with educational scholarships from the  
 Lisbeth Linley Foundation, named after Will's  
 late mother. This is the fourth year that the  
 foundation has honored graduating Eagle  
 Scouts from Troop 49.

Over 200 people attended the ceremony,  
 which coincided with Scout Sunday and the  
 Super Bowl. The ceremony incorporated a  
 "Scouting for Soup" event, collecting over  
 2,000 cans of soup to benefit the Center for  
 Food Action in [Mahwah](#).

Will's Scouting career began under the  
 leadership of Lorraine Knox, Janet Favaro



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and Maria Frank as a Cub Scout with Pack  
 307. He joined Boy Scout Troop 49 in 2005.  
 He has served as Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol  
 Leader, Den Chief and Troop Bugler. In 2008  
 Will was elected to the Order of the Arrow, S  
 couting's National Honor Society, and in  
 2010 was promoted to the Brotherhood  
 Rank. In 2009 Will graduated from the  
 National Youth Leadership Training Center in  
 Rochester, N.Y.

Will's outdoor Scouting experiences include  
 four summers at Camp Turrell, an  
 Adirondack canoe trek at Floodwood  
 Mountain Scout Reservation, three high  
 adventure visits to Sea Base in Florida — one  
 with [Mahwah](#) Troop 259 on a fishing  
 expedition at the Britton Environmental  
 Center, the second with Troop 49 for coral  
 reef sailing and a third with Troop 79 out of  
 Minneapolis for scuba diving in the Florida  
 Keys.

Will has attended two New Jersey State Police  
 Camporees where he met with Chief Scout  
 Executive Robert Mazzuca. He helped Scouts  
 from Troop 49 host a table for the Gold Star

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Mothers Dinner honoring mothers who have lost their sons in combat. Will attended the 100th Anniversary Boy Scout National Jamboree in 2009 at Fort Hill Military Base in Virginia. This past summer, Will joined the Washington, D.C., Boy Scout Council on a trip to Rinkaby, Sweden, to attend the 2011 World Scout Jamboree.

His Eagle service project was designing and constructing a youth area at the [Oakland Public Library](#). Working with the Library Board and the Friends of the Oakland Public Library, Will organized the construction of a multi-purpose youth space. This included replacing all the furniture, installing a multimedia station, new audio-visual equipment and a custom art display system. A special paint scheme was used representing Valley Middle School, Ramapo High School and Indian Hills High School. In excess of 270 hours were spent by Scouts completing the project.

Prior to the ceremony, Will was honored by St. Alban's Episcopal Church for his years of service by renaming one of their outreach programs "WILLing a Difference in Our Community."

Will earned all 131 Boy Scout Merit Badges in the course of his Scouting career, although only 21 are needed to achieve the rank of



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Eagle Scout. He also earned his Bronze, Gold and Silver Eagle Palms, which are steps above Eagle. In addition, he earned the 50 Mile Trail Patch, the Historical Trail Patch for hiking over 300 Miles of historic trails in the New Jersey section of the Appalachian Trail, the World Conservation Award, Kayaking BSA Award, Scuba BSA Award, Snorkeling BSA Award, and the International Scout Award.

Will earned the National Outdoor Award including Camping Award with Gold Device, Aquatics Award with Gold and Silver Devices, Riding Award with Gold Device, and Adventure Award with Gold Device. He is a member of the National Eagle Society.

Will recently won the Arthur M. & Brenda King Eagle Scout Scholarship Award for the State of New Jersey and has advanced to the national competition.

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