

NEWS FROM BOY SCOUT TROOP 113
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For immediate release

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BUTTERFLY GARDEN EARNS RICKY TRENT HIS EAGLE SCOUT “WINGS”

Richard J. (“Ricky”) Trent of Boy Scout Troop 113, Franklin Township (Somerset County), received the prestigious Eagle rank badge at a special court of honor held Saturday, April 10, 2010. He is the 51st young man to achieve Eagle rank in the troop’s 44-year history. The troop is sponsored by Somerset Presbyterian Church.

Only 4 percent of all Boy Scouts soar to Eagle, the highest rank in Scouting. To qualify, a Scout must advance through five other ranks, earn at least 21 merit badges and serve in troop leadership roles.

Before reaching his 18th birthday, an Eagle candidate also must plan and execute a service project, which is carried out with the assistance of other Scouts from the troop working under his leadership.

Trent’s Eagle project was the planning and construction of a butterfly garden in Marconi Park, which is located at the intersection of Easton Avenue and Kennedy Boulevard in Somerset. The park, which is maintained by the local Marconi Foundation, honors the memory of Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of the wireless telegraph. Marconi sent messages across the ocean from a base station that was situated near the park.

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Fifteen other Scouts helped Trent last summer to plant two types of bushes that are known to attract butterflies. The soil was very rocky, and Trent recalls having to dig down 12 inches and then fill in around the plants. Together the Scouts logged close to 180 service hours. When Trent checked the plants this past November, they were very large and in bloom, he reported.

Ricky is the son of Richard and Nancy Trent of Somerset. On Ricky's accomplishment, Richard Trent remarked: "This was his mission . . . his journey. We left it up to him to decide whether to pursue it." The elder Trent added that a boy does not achieve something like this alone. It takes a lot of support from the troop and the community.

Nancy Trent stated that she was very proud of her son. She also wanted to thank all the Scouts and other people who had helped Ricky since he was a Tiger Cub (starting at age 6). "Scouting has been a positive influence, and I'm very glad that he finished (as an Eagle Scout)," she said.

Ricky served Troop 113 as an assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and troop guide and as the troop's representative to the Order of the Arrow (a Scout honor society).

The highlight of his Scouting days, he said, was the high-adventure hiking experience at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. "It was an experience that I would not get anywhere else. It was fun of the highest intensity," he said.

Ricky is a senior at Franklin High School, where he belongs to the National Honor Society and is an Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar. He plans to study the sciences at college next year.

Troop 113 meets Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at Somerset Presbyterian Church, 100 Kennedy Boulevard, Somerset. More information can be obtained from the troop's Web site at www.Troop113.com.

[PHOTO CAPTION]

Ricky Trent (center) is flanked by two other new Eagle Scouts, Tyler Bowman and Brian Golden, from Troop 113, Somerset. Trent received his Eagle badge at a court of honor held Saturday, April 10, and the other two young men are expected to receive their badges at courts of honor to be held later in the year. The troop is sponsored by Somerset Presbyterian Church.