



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Troop 139  
Chester, NJ

**Contact: Annette Jeffers**  
(908) 209-6334

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Email: [annette.jeffers@comcast.net](mailto:annette.jeffers@comcast.net)

### **Chester Boy Scout Troop 139 Court of Honor recognizes the achievements of its scouts**

[Chester, NJ](#) - Boy Scout Troop 139 held its annual fall Court of Honor to recognize the achievements of its scouts. Scouts along with their families gathered for this event which began with a dinner that was prepared by the scout families followed by the ceremony itself. Each scout who had earned merit badges and who had advanced to their next rank in scouting was recognized.

“The fall Court of Honor is an award ceremony which recognizes achievements the scouts have made over the past 6 months,” stated Spencer Keiser, the troop’s Senior Patrol Leader. The troop comes together to give recognition for their achievements. Each achievement is a step on the rung of a ladder, toward bigger things in life,” stated Keiser.

Every troop meeting is run by “Patrol Leaders” and the Court of Honor is no exception. The Senior Patrol Leaders ran the ceremony by calling up each scout individually who had earned merit badges and who had advanced in scout rank. The merit badges that were earned and advancement in rank were announced for each scout. “When the scout is called up, he is asked to explain something he learned while working on his badges,” stated Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Eric Stiner. “The support the scout receives from the troop encourages the scout and motivates him to do more in life,” added Keiser. After the scout is recognized, the scout shakes hands with each of the Senior Patrol Leaders. The scout handshake uses the left hand as it symbolizes the hand closest to the heart.

Scouts develop the necessary skills and knowledge to earn merit badges throughout the year and at summer camp. They meet with badge counselors to authorize that they completed the requirements of the badge and when all requirements are fulfilled, the badge is then signed off as completed.

In addition to completing merit badges, advancement workshops are held by the troop throughout the scout year to help the younger scouts complete other requirements necessary to advance in scout rank. “Older scouts sign up to be instructors. They learn leadership skills and help the younger scouts understand what they need to work on and what they need to know to progress to their next rank,” stated Stiner.

Merit badges for swimming, leatherwork, finger printing, and space exploration, as well as Eagle Scout required badges for first aid, emergency preparedness and

environmental science are just a few of the merit badges that were awarded at the Court of Honor. The troop's scouts advanced in rank to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, and to Star and Life Scout rank. In addition to the scouts that were recognized during the fall Court of Honor, Troop 139 is also proud of its scouts who recently achieved the highest award in scouting, namely the rank of Eagle Scout. Separate Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremonies were held this year for each of these Troop 139 scouts. The troop awarded the rank of Eagle Scout this year to Jacob Aloia, Philip DeCastro, Jared Pelech, and Wally McNaught.

*"Every boy deserves a trainer and every leader deserves to be trained"*



Photo caption: Pictured from left to right: Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL) Michael Persau, ASPL Eric Stiner, Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) Spencer Keiser, and ASPL Jeff Houston. Photo by Annette Jeffers