

Local Boy Scouts Help Others

The Soaring Eagles Boy Scout Patrol of Troop 6 is performing a service to the more seasoned citizens of our community who reside at Whispering Pines Nursing Center. This service began with a goal to become the first scout patrol in years to earn the coveted National Honor Patrol Award. The patrol members chose this facility as their service project. Hours of preparation went into the project. First, they got approval from the scout leadership, next contacted the facility for approval of their idea, and then organized transportation to and from the facility. They plan general activities which are appropriate. This involves approval from the facility, soliciting donations for the events, planning each event, and actually holding the events at the center. Bear in mind, these are 11 and 12 year old boys deciding and conducting this project of their own accord (with adult approval).



To date, the Soaring Eagle Patrol has conducted bingo games and visited with those residents unable to attend the recreation/social rooms for whatever reason. They visited in the rooms with the people and engaged not only in conversation but sometimes even a hug.

Lea Igo, who is involved in the activities and recreation at Whispering Pines, said of the Soaring Eagles' project, *its great! Residents love visitors, especially children. The very best is personal visits to these residents. They are so happy when people visit them.*

Through the month of January the Soaring Eagles Patrol will be collecting donations of hygiene products in the small travel sized containers or hotel/motel sized products. Soaps, shampoos, dental products, etc., are appreciated. The boys have made small decorated boxes to be placed at the church to be used as depositories for these items. The visits to Whispering Pines involve social games like bingo in which most of these items will be given as prizes. The residents unable to attend such events will have these items delivered to their room by the scouts.

The members of the Soaring Eagles participating so far:

Whit Badgett – Patrol Leader

Ford Debenport- Assistant Patrol Leader

Brian Penrod

Hunter Williams

Devin Bailey

Stephen Gorski

Although they are few in numbers, the Soaring Eagles Patrol is actively seeking new members to join their ranks. Their enthusiasm more than compensates for their small sized patrol. If you know of a boy in this age group looking for a productive and growing experience, please contact the Boy Scouts to schedule a visit to one of their meetings.

David Williams, dad of Hunter, one of the Scouts, had this to say: *I am so impressed with the way the boys have chosen a patrol leader who is so focused on this. These boys have grown so much over the past year emotionally and socially. Their compassion and caring displays the spokes on their wheels.* Williams made this reference because his father had explained to him as a boy how growth to adulthood was like a wagon wheel with each spoke being an integral component – love, honesty, compassion, loyalty, etc. This analogy seems not only appropriate but extremely insightful.

Following are the perspectives of other parents.

It is rewarding to have my son recount his experiences as he learns from this group of older citizens not related to him. These are complete strangers yet Ford interacts so well and learns so much. This is such a wonderful thing for these boys as they move through life; being able to gain knowledge from older people sharing their life experiences. Debbie Debenport.

I am so happy with Whit and the way he is taking charge of his patrol – leading the way. His Grandfather Whitlock was a resident at Whispering Pines for a while which makes this project special to me, said Elizabeth Badgett

I am extremely impressed with how gentle the boys were. They exhibited responsibility and maturity. I would not have thought a group of youngsters this age could behave in such an adult manner. I am so very proud, said scout mother Amy Williams.

These boys plan to have a reading of stories, another bingo game, singing of carols, and presentation of gifts. They have spent time at the Gorski's home making candy cane reindeer to give to the residents. Angela Gorski was gracious in allowing this group of children to use paste/glue, scissors, candy canes, and have drinks on her dining room table.

Angela Gorski said, Scouting has helped them mature. I have watched this process from the very first meeting with Cub Scouts. It takes maturity to give to the community through their efforts at Whispering Pines. I am so very proud to be involved with my son's part in this.

I am so proud of the job they did and the caring the boys displayed toward the folks was just so compassionate that my heart was warmed. Gina Penrod

Debbie Pevler of St. Andrews expressed how scouting is just one of the many ministries supported by the church and how she is always excited to hear of ministry activities.