Recognize Excellence in Scouting

Are you ready to recognize the exceptional adult leaders in your Scouting community? We're excited to announce that nominations are now open for various prestigious Scouting America recognition awards. These awards honor individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievements, leadership, and commitment to the values of Scouting. Whether it's a dedicated Scouter who has gone above and beyond or a volunteer who has made a significant impact on their troop or community, there's an award to celebrate their accomplishments.

Time is running out! Nominations for the Scouting America awards close on **December 31, 2026**. Submit your nomination now and ensure your favorite Scout or leader is considered for this special honor.



Silver Beaver Award

The role of adult leaders in Scouting America has been a cornerstone of the organization since its inception. From the early days of its founding to the present, adult volunteers have provided invaluable guidance, support, and mentorship to countless young people. Without the leadership of caring

adults, Scouting ceases to exist and therefore, it is important that we take time to recognize those in our community who have volunteered their time and mentorship to our youth.

One way we honor these leaders is through nominating a Scouter for the Silver Beaver Award, the highest adult recognition a council can bestow. We invite you to think about those in your unit or district who have left a lasting impact on the youth of your community and consider nominating them for the Silver Beaver Award.

Nomination Form



North Star

It is not just Scouters and adult volunteers who impact the youth of our community. In 2011 The North Star Award was established to acknowledge the invaluable support of non-Scouters who have contributed to the success of Scouting programs. This includes individuals who have donated time, money, or other resources to Scouting initiatives, as well as those who have provided guidance and leadership. We encourage you to nominate any non-scouters who have left a lasting impact on our Scouting community to be honored at this year’s recognition dinner.

Nomination Form



Elbert K. Fretwell Award

The Elbert K. Fretwell Award is a prestigious honor in Scouting that recognizes teachers, educational support staff, and school administrators who have made significant contributions to the lives of young people by instilling Scouting values in their students. The award is named after Dr. Elbert K. Fretwell, a professor of education at Columbia University, an early thinker in the Scouting movement, and the second Chief Scout Executive of Scouting America.

Nomination Form



Alumnus Award

The Alumnus Award is a valuable opportunity for former Scouts to stay connected to the organization and continue making a positive impact on their communities. It is a recognition

designed to encourage participation and involvement in Scouting America's alumni relations programs, including NESA activities. It is awarded to Scouting alumni who promote continued engagement with Scouting America.

Nomination Form



George Meany Award

The George Meany Award is a national recognition approved by the AFL-CIO Executive Council. It may be presented to any adult union member who has made a significant contribution to the youth of their community through Scouting. Each AFL-CIO city central labor council and each AFL- CIO state federation is permitted to give one award annually. The emphasis of this award is on the importance of being selective. There is no rule that the quota must be used every year. No honorary recognitions should be made. The purpose of this award is to recognize the recipient's outstanding service to youth through the programs of Scouting America.

Nomination Form



Council Duty to God Award

In Scouting America, the Council Duty to God Award is a prestigious recognition bestowed upon registered Scouters who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting at the local Council level. Overall, the Council Duty to God Award is a testament to the importance of spiritual growth and leadership within Scouting America. It highlights the organization’s commitment to nurturing the character and values of its members through a strong spiritual foundation.

Nomination Form



Veteran Award

Honor the dedicated adults who have served Scouting America for five or more years with the Veteran’s Award. This

prestigious recognition celebrates those who have consistently contributed to the organization, embodying the values of Scouting and making a lasting impact on the lives of young people. If you or someone you know meets these criteria, we encourage you to nominate them for this well-deserved honor. Please email completed form here.

Nomination Form



Nominate Your Unit's Leaders! We Need Your Help to Recognize Our District's Best Volunteers

The **Mayflower Council Annual Awards and Recognition Dinner** in April is fast approaching, and we need your help to ensure our most deserving volunteers receive the recognition they have earned!

This special event is dedicated to honoring the selfless leaders and Scouters who have gone above and beyond to deliver an outstanding Scouting program this year. We can't do it without your nominations!

Key Awards Seeking Nominations

We are actively seeking nominations for top district awards. Please consider nominating the dedicated Scouters in your unit, neighborhood, or district for the following:

- **The District Award of Merit:** The highest volunteer recognition a district can bestow. Nominate an individual who has rendered noteworthy service of an exceptional character to youth beyond their unit responsibilities.
- **Unit Leaders of the Year:** Recognizes outstanding unit leaders (Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Venturing Advisors) who meet high standards of training, tenure, and performance.
- **Spark Plug Awards:** Nominate your unit leader that has gone above and beyond to run your unit's Popcorn sale, Best Campout, Pinewood Derby and more.

How to Nominate

It is quick and easy to honor someone's service! Please visit the link below to access the nomination forms. We encourage everyone—parents, unit leaders, and fellow Scouters—to take a few minutes to complete a nomination. Your time is the greatest gift you can give to recognize a volunteer.

- **Nomination Deadline:** December 31, 2026

Don't wait! Help us shine a spotlight on the volunteers who make Scouting great in our district.

District Award of Merit Nomination Form
District Awards Nomination Form

2026 Westborough Good Scout Award Dinner

About The Good Scout Award

The Good Scout Award is bestowed upon individuals who have demonstrated integrity and genuine concern for others in both their professional and personal lives.

The recipients need not have been Scouts but must carry the “Spirit of Scouting” into their adult lives. They are people who have been unselfish in their service to others on an individual and community basis. They seek no return for their service other than the satisfaction of aiding their fellow citizens, their community, and their nation.

The Good Scouts are people who truly capture the respect and imagination of our youth.

Westborough Good Scout Dinner

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

5400 Computer Drive, Westborough, MA

Reception 6:00 pm – Dinner & Program 7:00 pm

2024 Honoree

James N. Ball



As founder and president of EverRise, Jim leads his team with proficiency, confidence, and diligence. Jim grew up in Westborough, Massachusetts, watching his father run his own financial advising business out of their family's basement. Inspired by his father's success, Jim went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Massachusetts, setting out to plant his own roots and begin a career. In 1984, he established his own firm in Westborough, specializing in investment advice, insurance, business, tax, and estate planning. Today, he prides himself in having created a thriving business, working with hundreds of families in more than 30 states. The firm features an innovative team approach offering sound and informed wealth management while striving to always provide the utmost in customer service.

Jim is a director on the board of Avidia Bank, located in Hudson, Massachusetts; committee chairman of the Risk Committee; member of Executive Governance Committee; member of the Westborough Community Preservation Committee. In his (little)

spare time, he enjoys traveling
the world with his family, as well as reading, exercising, and listening to music.

The Mayflower Council is honored to recognize Jim with the 2024 Good Scout Award for his integrity and genuine concern for others in the Westborough community and beyond.

You may register and pay online or fill out the mail-in registration form.
Registration and program book ad's must be received by October 25, 2024.

If you have any questions, please email: Westborough Good Scout Committee

Sponsorship & Ad Specifications
Save the date
Invitation

More Options for Your Next Stay!

Exciting News: Elevate Your Outdoor Experience with Our New Premium Campsites!

We are thrilled to introduce a brand-new option for your upcoming camp stays! To give your unit more flexibility and

enhanced comfort, we are rolling out Premium Tent Sites across our camps, providing prime locations and upgraded amenities for your next weekend adventure.

Whether you prefer our classic outdoor experience or a few extra perks, we have the perfect spot ready for you.

What's Changing? Standard vs. Premium Sites

To ensure every group has the exact camping experience they need, our tent sites are now organized into two tiers:

- **Standard Tent Sites – Still 100% Free**

  Our commitment to accessible outdoor adventures remains as strong as ever. A minimum of 25% of tent sites at every camp will remain designated as Standard, continuing to be *completely free* for In-Council units.

- **New Premium Tent Sites – $50 / Weekend (In-Council)**

  Looking for a top-tier site? Upgrade your stay to a Premium site! For **$50 per weekend**, your group can enjoy choice campsite locations paired with upgraded amenities and added conveniences.

> ***Note on Out-of-Council Reservations:*** *Out-of-Council pricing remains unchanged and continues at the rates established.*
>
> *Head over to our online portal today to explore the new tiers and lock in the perfect campsite for your next weekend trip!*

Joint Statement Mayflower & HNE Scouting Boards

Joint Statement from the Boards of Directors of Scouting America Heart of New England Council and Mayflower Council

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Check Out Our New Health & Safety Landing Page!

At Mayflower Council, nothing is more important to us than the well-being, growth, and safety of our youth. Whether our members are heading out for a weekend camping trip, learning new skills at a weekly meeting, or giving back to our community, ensuring a safe and secure environment is always our top priority.

To help keep everyone informed and prepared, we are absolutely thrilled to announce the official launch of our brand-new, centralized **Health & Safety Landing Page!**

Explore the New Page Here: 251sa.org/healthandsafety

We have designed this dedicated space to serve as your ultimate resource for all things safety. It is packed with up-to-date guidelines, essential health forms, and crucial safety protocols to ensure that our adventures remain both incredibly fun and completely secure.

An Important Step for Our Entire Community

To make sure we are all aligned and prepared, **we highly encourage all of our volunteers, families, and youth leaders to take a few moments to thoroughly review the important information on this landing page.**

- **For Families:** Get peace of mind by understanding our emergency protocols, safety standards, and finding quick links to necessary forms before our next big event.
- **For Volunteers & Leaders:** Access vital safety checklists, training resources, and standard operating procedures to help you lead confidently and keep our scouts safe in the field.

By staying informed, we work together to build a culture of safety that allows our Scouts to push their boundaries, learn resilience, and explore the great outdoors with confidence.

Thank you to our amazing community of families and leaders for your continuous support, dedication, and commitment to making our Mayflower Council a safe, welcoming, and vibrant space for everyone.

Head over to **251sa.org/healthandsafety** today, check out the new resources, and let’s get ready for another safe and unforgettable season of Scouting!

Eagle Scout Ari M.: A Life

Without Limits

When Ari M. first walked into a Troop 65 Sudbury meeting in the 5th grade, she hadn't so much as pitched a tent. She was there for the simplest of reasons: a friend, Katelyn, and the promise of cake. Today, Ari stands as a confident Eagle Scout—a transformation defined not by a career path, but by the grit to weather literal storms, the resilience to hike through illness, and the wisdom to know that you don't have to be "ready" to start something great.

The Myth of Being "Ready"

Looking back at her 11-year-old self, Ari describes a version of herself that was completely new to the outdoors. Her early Scouting experience was a mix of easy wins—like a 30-minute Fingerprinting merit badge—and the daunting realization of how much there was to learn.

Her biggest takeaway from the trail to Eagle is a rejection of perfectionism. "Just jump in," she advises. "You don't have to be ready for everything". This philosophy allowed her to transition from a quiet 5th grader to a leader who is now "more confident" and spends her time "camping full time"

Resilience in the Face of the Unexpected



Troop 65 at Philmont Trip

Scouting is famous for "productive failure," and Ari's journey provided the ultimate testing ground at Philmont Scout Ranch. On just the second day of her trek, Ari contracted COVID-19. Despite being exhausted and sick, she pushed through four grueling miles on Day 3 before entering a quarantine camp. Proving her mental toughness, she returned to finish the trek in the sweltering heat while wearing an N95

mask.

The hardships were often balanced by the kind of humor that only comes from a shared disaster. During a winter “Freeze Out,” Ari and some of her fellow Scouts skipped the warmth of a cabin to sleep in a tent, but deserted the tent at some point to sleep under the pavilion. In the middle of a windy night, they woke up at 3:00 AM to find they hadn’t staked the tent down—only to find it in the morning in the trees.

Leading Through Service

Ari’s Eagle Scout project was born from a deep desire to help the migrant and immigrant populations in the Bedford areas. Having seen firsthand the impact of families navigating the journey from ESL classes to finding jobs, she wanted to provide a resource for connection.



Ari dropping off needed items to the

- **The Multi-Lingual Book Drive:** Aridonation center organized a drive to collect booksafter running that reflected a mixture of Americandonation drives. and Haitian culture
- **Needed Items:** In addition to the books, she collected other necessities to help families
- **The Connection:** Her goal was to help children connect with American culture while ensuring they did not forget their own heritage.

The project pushed Ari out of her comfort zone as a leader. “I struggled with telling people what to do, especially older people,” she admits. But she learned that effective leadership means providing specific tasks and delegating with clarity.

The Responsibility of the Badge



Ari with her family at her Court of Honor

As a female Eagle Scout, Ari recognizes that she is part of a pioneering generation. “It’s a unique responsibility because… we might be the only image [of female Eagle Scouts] they know,” she says. For Ari, the rank means being the person others look to when a problem needs solving.

If she had to describe her entire journey in three words, she chooses: “Anybody Not Ready”. For Ari, this phrase is a reminder of the collective nature of a troop; it reflects the Eagle Court of Honor philosophy that you are only as strong as your weakest link. It is a call to look back and help those who are struggling, ensuring that everyone moves forward together, regardless of where they started.

Amelia C.: Cultivating Confidence & Community

When Amelia C. first stepped into a Scout meeting, she was a 17-year-old who admittedly “didn’t know what she was doing”. Like many trailblazing young women in the program, she began as a “follow along” to her brother, but she quickly realized she wanted the rank for herself. Today, Amelia is one of only two female Eagle Scouts working in the Milford Council office—a leader whose journey was defined by rapid growth, environmental stewardship, and the grit to overcome the “Eagle

Slump”.

Finding Her Voice

Amelia’s early days were a crash course in moving through failures. She recalls a first winter campout—perhaps at Camp Resolute—where the troop was far from “outdoorsy”. From the infamous mistake of packing ten pairs of cotton socks to realizing she hadn’t adequately prepared the full troop, these early hurdles were the catalyst for her transformation.

The version of Amelia standing today bears little resemblance to that unsure beginner. Through the program, she traded uncertainty for polished leadership and a mastery of delegation—a skill she insists she will still be using when she is 30, whether in a group project or her professional life.

Memories in the Making

Scouting wasn’t just about the hardships; it was about the humor found in the chaos. Amelia laughs about a “geocaching nightmare” at Base Camp that was supposed to take 45 minutes but stretched into two hours before the team finally gave up and spent the time talking with staff instead.

The physical challenges were just as memorable. While she wasn’t a fan of lake swimming for her Swimming Merit Badge, those grueling laps were balanced by moments of pure beauty. Her most cherished memory remains a 4th of July hike up Mt. Monadnock with her crew, where they watched the fireworks from the summit—a perspective few get to experience

The Eagle Project: A Natural Legacy

Amelia’s Eagle project was a labor of love for her local environment. Inspired by her own hobbies, she installed pollinator gardens at “Bumblebee Park,” a local space she wanted to revitalize. Her mission was clear: encourage native

plants and animals to return to the community without the use of harmful pesticides.

The path to the project was its own mountain to climb. Amelia faced:

- **Bureaucratic Headaches:** Constant back-and-forth with the town to secure approvals.
- **Supply Chain Struggles:** Sourcing and securing materials in the middle of a global pandemic.
- **Operational Chaos:** On project day, she managed the chaos by creating social distancing between three garden sites and pairing experienced volunteers with novices.

The reward was instantaneous. Watching "empty Earth" transform into a budding habitat was the exact second she realized the impact of her work. Today, her project has sparked a movement, with the town planting even more pollinator gardens in the area

Resilience and the "Eagle Slump"

Amelia is upfront and honest about the "Eagle Slump"—that period of distraction that hits many Scouts during the transition to college and graduation. She hit that wall hard, but she stayed motivated by looking back at the young girl who once followed her brother and decided she wanted to reach the top of the ladder herself.

She completed her trail to Eagle in a staggering 24 months—a "lofty" pace that required immense drive. To Amelia, the responsibility of an Eagle Scout is about more than a rank; it's about "shining an example" and helping those further down the ladder reach the top.

Now pursuing a career as a paralegal, Amelia carries that same drive with her. If she had to sum up her entire Scouting journey in just three words, she chooses: "**Memorable. Chaotic. Driven.**".

Eagle Scout Paige B.: Leading Through Chaos

When Paige B. first joined Troop 424 as an 11-year-old in the 6th grade, she was entering a world that was about to change. Navigating her Scouting path through the "pre-COVID" and "post-COVID" eras, Paige transformed from a young newcomer into a confident leader who understands that growth isn't about being perfect—it's about showing up when things get messy. Today, she stands as an Eagle Scout who views the program not just as a series of requirements, but as a vital training ground for life.

Finding Her Voice



Ella S. and Alyssa B inside a Trojan Horse used for theme night at Camp Squanto.

For Paige, the heart of the Scouting experience is its safety as a learning environment. "Scouting is a place where it's okay to mess up and figure out how to be a person," she reflects. This philosophy was put to the test early on when she stepped into the role of Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). Inspired by her predecessor, Alyssa B.—who was one of the few older Scouts Paige could look up to at the time—Paige learned to navigate the "meaningful errors" that defined the trail to Eagle.

She candidly recalls the steep learning curve of her first time as SPL, facing those chaotic moments of realization: "I don't know what you want?!" Yet, it was through this trial-by-

fire that she emerged as a leader who is quick to address challenges and possesses the confidence to speak her mind.

Resilience in the "In-Between"

If leadership was the mental hurdle, the elements provided the physical one. Paige remembers the sweltering heat of summer campouts as her toughest challenge, noting how the rising heat and humidity made everyone irritable and tested the troop's cohesion. But in true Scout fashion, the hardships were balanced by humor found in the "in-between" moments.

Whether it was a 14-day National Jamboree or a rainy weekend at her favorite nostalgic spot, Squanto, Paige found that the best memories often came when things didn't go according to plan. During those long days, she found comfort in the simplest things: monkey bread, oatmeal, and the steady companionship of the friends she's had since the beginning.

The Eagle Project: A Family Legacy

Paige's Eagle Scout project was a unique "co-op" effort with her twin brother, both serving JPH at Ferry Hill. While her brother focused on a farming plot, Paige took on the construction and painting of a farm stand.



Paige standing next to the farm stand after it was built for her project

The project was a masterclass in management and the reality of volunteer leadership. On project day, she managed the chaos of leading both peers and adults by assigning specific, actionable roles, such as painting base coats. Despite the physical success, she faced a common "headache": the paperwork. Having not tracked everything actively during the project, she had to painstakingly piece together reports and

volunteer lists after the fact. Her advice to her younger self? “Just do the paperwork. Make sure you record everything”.

Beyond the Rank



Paige and her twin broth after both achieved Eagle

Like many high-achieving Scouts, Paige faced the “Eagle Slump” during high school. She pushed through with a mix of troop support, parental motivation, and a healthy dose of sibling competition with her brother.

Today, Paige is a leader who carries the skills of conflict resolution and “divide and conquer” delegation into her daily life. When asked to describe her journey in three words, she chooses a phrase that every Scout knows by heart: “You’re being Voluntold”.

It’s a humorous nod to the service-oriented nature of the program, but underneath the wit is a deep commitment to the Eagle responsibility: “Just give back to the community and follow the values and ideals”.

The Transformation: From Shy to Scouting Leader



Katelyn with members of her family with the shed she built for her Eagle Scout project.

Katelyn's story began in the **5th grade**. Looking back, she remembers a version of herself that was incredibly **shy**. Her first step into the world of merit badges was **Fingerprinting**, earned during only her second meeting. As she moved through the ranks, the "Scout-related" challenges she faced began to transform her, providing the **confidence to be outgoing** and step into the light.

Finding Joy in the Struggle

The path to Eagle is rarely a straight line, and Katelyn's was paved with failures and successes! Her resilience was tested in high-stakes environments, such as:

- **The Physical Grind:** Earning her **Lifesaving merit badge**, which required the physical strength to pull heavy people out of the



Members of Troop 65 coming back from their Philmont Trek.

  water. Katelyn says that this was the hardest physical challenge she pushed through.

- **High Adventure:** Navigating the grueling physical

challenges of **Philmont**.

- **The Beautiful Moments:** Finding peace at the **Top of Baldy**, gazing at the Philmont stars, or enjoying local gems like **Belle Isle Marsh Reservation.**

Even in the most difficult moments—like being in a quarantine camp at Philmont—Katelyn found humor. She recalls Scouts attaching themselves to the bear line for the trees, belt-singing **"Chandelier"** to keep spirits high. Through it all, her "comfort" was found in simple camp staples like **Ramen** and **Walking Tacos**—meals she notes you simply "can't mess up".

The Eagle Project: Leading Through Chaos



Katelyn with part of the shed completed.

For her Eagle Project, Katelyn chose to give back to the community that hosted her troop's meetings by **building a storage shed**. The project became an ultimate test of leadership when the **wrong kit** was delivered with **no instructions** and **missing pieces**.

Katelyn admits she initially felt **intimidated** by the Eagle Scouts who came to help, struggling at first to direct them. However, she emerged with a vital realization: **it is okay to say "I don't know"**. By leaning on her team, she saw the project through to completion. Today, the most rewarding part for her is seeing the community actually **using the shed** she built.

A Future Built on Service

If Katelyn could speak to her **5th grade self** today, her advice would be simple: **“You know more than you think you know”**.

Katelyn summarizes her entire Scouting experience in three powerful words: **Service Before Self**. This philosophy is guiding her next chapter as she applies to **Nursing School**. Drawing on the skills from her **First Aid merit badge** and her experience **working in teams**, she is ready to bring her Eagle Scout leadership into the healthcare field.

From Timid Beginnings to Engineering the Future

When Megan G. first stepped into a Troop 355 Newton meeting in the 10th grade, she was one of only three girls in the room. Nervous and admittedly timid, she was following in her brother’s footsteps but uncertain of her own. Today, Megan stands as an Eagle Scout and a robotics engineering student at Purdue University—a transformation fueled by mountain peaks, productive failures, and the relentless pursuit of self-advocacy.

Finding Her Footing

Megan’s Scouting journey didn’t start with grand ambitions of the Eagle rank; it started with the simple joy of a **Reading** merit badge and the inspiration of a peer. She watched her friend, Brianna M., successfully navigate summer camp and earn an astounding 14 merit badges in a single week.

“She was a good role model to see succeed,” Megan recalls. That inspiration helped Megan transition from a quiet observer to a leader who understood that growth requires stepping into the unknown. This shift was put to the ultimate test during a troop meeting where a shortage of leaders forced Megan, as Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), to delegate on the fly and teach stations herself. It was her first real taste of the “productive failure” that Scouting uses to forge leaders.

The Trials of the Trail


Megan at Shaffer’s Peak during sunrise

If leadership was the mental hurdle, **Philmont Scout Ranch** provided the physical one. Standing at 5’2″, Megan faced treks that would intimidate seasoned hikers. She remembers the grueling climb over Trail Peak—a path most crews detour to see, placing their packs at the bottom, hiking and coming back down all to see a 1940s plane crash. Megan’s crew went straight up and over.

However, the hardships were balanced by humor and breathtaking beauty. “We ended up finding everything Funny,” she laughs, recalling a moment when a friend fell out of a camping chair, or when her height became a unit of measurement: “You’re one Megan off the ground!” during a spar climbing activity the crew began encouraging a scout afraid of heights (a nod to her 5’2″ stature). The reward for the climb was a sunrise breakfast at **Shaffer’s Peak** —a moment of serenity that remains her most beautiful Scouting memory.

The Eagle Project: A Welcoming

Transformation

Megan's Eagle Scout project was a labor of love for her charter organization and church. The project was two-fold:



A More Welcoming Room: Transforming a small, drab space between the handicap entrance and the elevator by cleaning carpets, patching walls, painting, and building a custom bench.

The "after" picture of the welcoming room that church-goers through the handicap entrance use

The Nativity Restoration: Color-matching and repainting the church's life-sized nativity creche—a project that hit home since her troop handles the figures every year.



Painting the Nativity Figures during the project work day.

Even a rainy project day and getting locked out of the church couldn't stop her. "It was rewarding to see the immediate difference in the space," Megan says, recalling the moment she finished the final carpet cleaning at 10:00 PM on a Friday.

Reflection & The "Eagle Slump"

Megan is candid about the "Eagle Slump" that hit her at the end of 11th grade. Balancing five AP classes, sports, and college applications made the finish line feel miles away. Her secret? **Self-advocacy.**

"It's all about self-advocacy," Megan advises. "You need to make sure you're on the path you want to be on and hold yourself accountable."

Engineering the Future

Today, Megan is an **Engineering Major at Purdue University** focusing on robotics. She's already applying her Scouting skills in the lab—keeping her peers on task and knowing exactly when to lead and when to delegate.

If she had to describe her journey in three words, she chooses a Philmont tradition: **"Roses, Buds, Thorns."**

- **Roses:** The great memories and friendships.
- **Buds:** The constant learning and improvement.
- **Thorns:** The rainy campouts and moments when motivation dipped.

As she prepares to head back to Philmont this summer, Megan has one final message for anyone on the fence about joining: **"Give it a try. Even for a little bit… I couldn't imagine what I would have done instead."**