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 donation center after running donation drives.

- **The Multi-Lingual Book Drive:** Ari organized a drive to collect books that reflected a mixture of American 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.