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.