



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured is Eagle Scout Louis "Louie" Suess Harris.

Harris honored as Troop 50's 14th Eagle Scout

Special to the News

On Saturday, Jan. 20, Troop 50 bestowed Boy Scouts of America's highest rank during a ceremony honoring new Eagle Scout Louis "Louie" Suess Harris. He is the son of Robert and Diane Harris of Auburn and the brother of Eagle Scout John Robert Harris.

SCOUTING PARTICIPATION

A founding member of Troop 50, Harris joined Boy Scouts in 2013 after earning Cub Scouting's Arrow of Light. As a member of the troop, he has served in leadership positions that have included patrol leader and assistant patrol leader, troop guide, instructor, senior patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader and his current role as junior assistant scoutmaster.

Through his Scouting participation, he has earned 26 merit badges to date, qualifying him for a bronze Eagle palm at the time of his ceremony. He also has accrued 81 nights of camping, 130 hours of community service and 81 hiking and backpacking miles.

He received the troop's 2016 James J. Baird Jr. Honor Scout Award, earned the BSA Mile Swim

Award and was inducted into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's national honor society.

In addition, he completed the Boy Scouts' National Youth Leadership Training, a six-day course equipping Scouts with leadership skills and experience applicable to both Scouting and personal situations. Among his other Scouting activities is participating in a 12-day backpacking expedition at Philmont Scout Ranch, the Boy Scouts' largest national high-adventure base located in Cimarron, New Mexico, in June 2017.

SERVICE PROJECT

For his Eagle Scout leadership service project, Harris constructed three arbor swings for the nature playground at the Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve in Auburn. These swings provide a place for parents and visitors to sit while watching their children play.

His project accrued 353 volunteer hours from planning to completion, including the 84 hours he spent personally planning, leading and supervising the various stages of the project.

After completing the Eagle Scout rank requirements, which included planning and executing

his service project, Harris appeared before the Saugahatchee District's Eagle Scout Board on Aug. 15, 2017. He is among the four Troop 50 Scouts to earn the Eagle Scout rank in 2017.

Since the first Eagle Scout was awarded in 1912, more than 2.4 million Boy Scouts have completed the Eagle Scout's performance-based rank requirements, which currently include serving in progressive leadership positions, demonstrating outdoor and Scouting skill competencies, earning at least 21 merit badges and planning and executing a seminal Eagle Scout leadership service project. During 2016 alone, 55,186 Boy Scouts earned Scouting's highest rank.

Harris is a 10th grader at Auburn High School, where he plays trombone in the symphonic band and is a member of the Junior Honor Society. He and his family attend Opelika United Methodist Church.

Troop 50 is chartered by the Auburn Rotary Club and meets Monday evenings at First Presbyterian Church in Auburn. For more information about the troop, visit boyscout50.org.