Pictured is Eagle Scout Ian Melkerson.

MELKERSON HONORED AS TROOP 50'S 12TH EAGLE SCOUT

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

This month, Boy Scout Troop 50 bestowed the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank during a ceremony honoring new Eagle Scout Ian Melkerson. He is the son of John and Nancy Melkerson of Auburn.

Melkerson joined the Boy Scouts in 2011, and as a member first of Troop 29 and currently Troop 50, he has served in troop leadership positions that included webmaster and instructor. Through his Scouting participation, he earned 42 merit badges; accrued 49 nights of camping; was elected as a member of the Order of the Arrow, the national Boy Scout honor society; and completed National Youth Leadership Training, a six-day course equipping Scouts with leadership skills and experience applicable to both Scouting and personal situations.

For his Eagle Scout leadership service project, Melkerson designed and constructed a wheeled paper sorter to store and sort the large-format papers and cutting boards used by the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University's K-12 educational staff. His project accrued 150 volunteer hours from planning to completion, including the 60 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, Melkerson appeared before the Saugahatchee District's Eagle Scout Board on December

20, 2016.

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. Melkerson is among the 55,186 Boy Scouts nationally who comprise the 2016 class of Eagle Scouts.

Melkerson will graduate from Everest Academy this June. He plans to attend the University of West Alabama and study a technological-focused degree discipline on a trustee scholarship for academics and leadership.

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.