



Words to Live By: Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

Eight-Year-Old Cub Scout Saved His Father by Calling 911

Awarded the National Certificate of Merit from Boy Scouts of America

DENVER, CO – September 14, 2009 – Kirby Berke, an eight-year-old in the 3rd grade at Walnut Hills Elementary School in Centennial, will be awarded the National Certificate of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America and the Denver Area Council, upon recommendation from the National Court of Honor on **Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at the Denver Country Club at 7:30 a.m.** for taking quick action in calling 911 to save his father’s life during an insulin reaction. This Meritorious Action Award is given to individuals to recognize notable acts of service that need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self but put into practice Scouting skills and ideals.

On December 4th, 2008, Andrew Berke was caring for both of his children while his wife, Pam, was out of town. Kirby was watching TV when his dad came to him and said, “Kirby, I am going to the cleaners, please watch your sister while I am gone.” Andrew Burke proceeded to put his shoes on and after entering the laundry room off the garage, fell to the ground. He tried to get back up and banged his head on the door several times before losing consciousness. Kirby heard the series of thuds from the laundry room and went to investigate. He found his dad lying on the ground unconscious. He attempted to rouse him by poking him and shaking him, but

received no response. He was prepared to act based upon his Scout training. Kirby quickly went upstairs and called 911 to report that his dad was in trouble. The operator who answered the 911 call asked what the problem was and Kirby responded that his dad was having an insulin reaction and was lying on the ground and then provided his address. The operator replied that help was on the way.

Kirby went to ensure his dad was ok and then opened the garage door to make it easier for the paramedics to get to this dad. A few minutes later the paramedics arrived and Kirby explained to them that his dad was on insulin and provided them with his meter and logbook for review. Andrew Berke was given an I-V and woke up several moments later. The paramedics stated Kirby's quick answers to their questions and knowledge of his father's condition and equipment saved them valuable time in resolving a serious medical emergency. Kirby had simply responded with what he had learned in Cub Scouts by immediately calling 911 for help. Congratulations Kirby for performing a significant act of service that is deserving of this special national recognition!

About Denver Boy Scouts

The Denver Area Council serves over 60,000 youth through the assistance and mentorship of over 10,000 adult volunteers. The Denver Area Council continues its nearly 100-year tradition of strengthening youth and their families through the delivery of time-honored Scouting programs. The Boy Scouts of America provides youth the opportunity to try new things, provide services to others, build self-confidence, and reinforce ethical standards. Scouting prepares young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. For more information please visit <http://www.denverboyscouts.org>.

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