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**Ponderosa senior earns
Troop 16 Eagle Scout rank**

Brandon Polluconi, 18, of Parker, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a March 1 ceremony in his honor, hosted by Boy Scout Troop 16. The award is earned by about 3 percent of all boys who join the Boy Scouts of America. It is a culmination of years of leadership, service to others, outdoor survival knowledge and earning of at least 21 merit badges.

"Becoming an Eagle Scout was the most difficult and worthwhile accomplishment I have achieved so far," Polluconi said. "What I learned in the process not only helps me now, but will throughout life. I did not reach this feat alone; I had a lot of support from my family, my fellow Scouts and from my troop leaders."

The final step of the journey to Eagle is to plan and implement a service project; Polluconi, who will be pursuing a college degree in a computer-related field, chose to refurbish old computers for a Denver-based charity, Joshua Station. Families who live there in transi-



tion now have access to computers for job searches and educational games.

Polluconi trained Scouts in his troop on building computers, then led them in training the families in how to use the equipment.

He has been in Troop 16 since crossing over from Cub Scouts in fifth grade, and has camped more than 100 nights. He's participated in six high adventure trips including backpacking at Philmont National Boy Scout Ranch in New Mexico, canoeing at Northern Tier National Boy Scout Base in Ely, Minn., and kayaking and snorkeling at Sea Base, a third national Boy Scout high adventure

base in the Florida Keys.

Becoming an Eagle Scout is a tradition in the Polluconi family. Brandon's father, Marty, is also an Eagle Scout.

"We are very proud of Brandon and his accomplishment," said his mom, Cindy. "Becoming an Eagle Scout was a goal he set early in his Scouting career, and he saw it through to the end. This is one of those achievements that will be with him forever."

Brandon is the 79th Eagle Scout in the 30-year-old Troop 16. The Scoutmaster is Prescott Coleman. More information can be found at www.bsa16.org.