

141 Boy Scouts soar to Eagle

Blair, Blake earn DESA

It's the highest rank in the Boy Scouts, and on Feb. 20, 453 Scouts in the Denver Metro Area were honored for achieving Eagle Scout at the Renaissance Hotel located at 3801 Quebec St. Together this class of Eagle Scouts facilitated more than 57,486 hours of volunteer service and provided \$1,769,835 in value to their communities through completion of their Eagle Scout projects throughout the past year.

This is the end of a long road to this momentous achievement for a Scout. Each Scout has earned at least 21 merit badges, has demonstrated proficiency in leadership, service and outdoor skills, and has performed his own Eagle project. This process can take years, and must be completed before a Scout turns 18. Nationally, only about 5 percent of Scouts achieve this respected rank.

"It's a long way from their first den meeting in Cub Scouts, but it's a great way to start the next phase of life for these young men," said Denver Area Council Scout Executive Jeff Herrmann. "We're proud of their accomplishment and they serve as an example for the Cub Scouts just coming on-board. It's a saying around here, but today we truly honor tomorrow's leaders."

The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award was also presented to successful business owner, philanthropist and Denver Boy Scouts Council Commissioner Jim Blair, who has been a foster parent to 70 of Colorado's children in need, and Joe Blake, president of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, who has focused on statewide leadership and stewardship of Colorado's economy, competitiveness and business climate. In addition, both Blair and Blake were recognized for their record of service and contributions to the community.

DESA is a national award that was established in 1969. It is granted to those Eagle Scouts who received the Eagle Scout rank 25 or more years ago, have gained



Jim Blair



Joe Blake

status of fame or eminence in their life work, and have shared their talents with their communities on a voluntary basis.

All Eagle Scouts pledge to the Eagle Promise: I reaffirm my allegiance to the three promises of the Scout Oath, I thoughtfully recognize and take upon myself the obligations and responsibilities of an Eagle Scout. On my honor I will do my best to make my training and example, my rank and my influence count strongly for better Scouting and for better citizenship in my troop, in my community, and in my contact with other people. To this I pledge my sacred honor.

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