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Contributed by: Nichole Jensen on 4/3/2009

Local Scout someone all can look up to

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From Left - Major General Steve Best, Chairman Craig Mclroy, (no name), Town of Parker Mayor David Casiano, Commissioner Jack Hilbert, Daniel Dale, Commissioner Steve Board, Joe Skalisky.

Boy Scouting for 15-year-old Daniel Dale isn't merely a fun hobby, it's a way of life. That attitude along with his many achievements were the reason he was recently awarded the Douglas County 2009 Outstanding Boy Scout Award.

"(Scouting) gives me a chance to experience things that I wouldn't otherwise be able to," said Dale. "(This award) is an honor and I'm lucky to have received it. It's a great recognition."

Dale was chosen for the award based on his "outstanding service to the Community, Church, and Scouting". He was awarded the highest rank given by the Boy Scouts of America, an Eagle Scout, at the age of 13, has gone on to earn many other Scouting awards. Presently he has earned 10 Eagle Palms. To earn one Palm, a scout must earn an additional five merit badges, remain active in scouting, and keep the scout spirit after attaining their Eagle Scout Rank. In addition, Dale is on the Silver Palm Honor Roll, a recognition given to those who complete a total of nine months of active leadership and fifteen merit badges beyond the required twenty-one for Eagle Scout. He will be presented with his 86th through 90th merit badges this month.

He received the Denver Area Council Outstanding Eagle Project Award in 2006, is a member of the Order of the Arrow which is a group of Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. He has also received awards that include the Arrow of Light, Faith in God Award, On My Honor Award, World Conservation Award, both Silver and Gold United States Heritage Awards, and Tahosa High Adventure Scout Spirit Award. And, he is ahead of schedule to earn all 121 Merit Badges, and is also on track to earn all 20 Eagle Palms, two of his goals.

The Legend High School freshman has cerebral palsy which limits his walking. He has had surgeries including one a year ago, to help him return to more independent walking.

Nothing has slowed down his desire to be a great boy scout.

"Normally he goes beyond the stated requirements for his merit badges," said Curt Dale, his father. "For instance, although not required for the Radio Merit Badge, he is an FCC Licensed HAMS radio operator."

Curt Dale, who volunteers for the Boy Scouts in a number of capacities, but who did not nominate or have a part in the selection process for Daniel, said his experiences with Scouting make Daniel's award even more impressive in his eyes.

"I know how high the bar is for them to become Eagle Scouts. So it's rather awing to know he was selected from that marvelous group," Curt Dale said. "Yet, he's now working in an area where even few Eagle Scouts have gone, seeking all the Eagle Palms and all the Merit Badges. So, he's clearly worthy."

Brent Hillier, Parker Stake President for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said he looks up to and admires Daniel for all he has accomplished.

"Daniel is an exceptional young man. He is most deserving of this reward," Hillier said. "He has overcome great challenges in his life and worked through his adversity with a cheerful heart. He has accomplished extraordinary things."

Daniel Dale has also done much to support the Denver Children's Hospital and its Miracle Network Program. He has done interviews on their local and national Radiothon programs and he was selected to join Miss Colorado 2007 Keena Bonella, to throw out the game ball and accept a large donation to Children's Hospital from Coca Cola at a Colorado 14ers basketball game.