



Boy Scout earns highest honor

Landon V. Long of Kinston has received scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout Award, at an Eagle Court of Honor Dec. 16 at Westminster United Methodist Church.

Dr. Jack Harrell presided over the Court of Honor. Don Crawford, Assistant Fire Chief for the Kinston Department of Public Safety, spoke on Long's Eagle project. The Rev. Rick Vernon served as clergy for his nephew during the service and Long's aunt, Jane Vernon, provided special music.

Long began his scouting career as a Tiger Cub in 2003 with Pack 392, sponsored by Westminster UMC. With the Pack, he completed his Cub Scout ranks, including Wolf, Bear, Webelo and Webelo II. He earned the God and Me Award in May 2006 and obtained Cub Scouts' highest award, The Arrow of Light, in January 2008.

He joined Troop 392 as a Boy Scout in February 2008, where he has held the positions of assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader. He has attended summer camps at Camp Bonner (now Camp Boddie), Camp Grimes and Camp Bob Hardin. On his trail to Eagle, he has earned 37 merit badges.

A member of Westminster UMC, Long has been attending Southwood Memorial Christian Church for the past year where his uncle, the Rev. Rick Vernon, recently retired as senior pastor. A sophomore at North Lenoir High School, Long is an officer with the FFA. He is a junior volunteer firefighter with Hugo Volunteer Fire and Rescue. He comes from a family of Eagle Scouts, including his father, older brother Jason and his uncle, Dr. Gary Long of Radford, Va.

The new Eagle Scout is the son of Jeffrey and Susan Long of Kinston. He is the grandson of Sylvia Long of Kinston and the late Ernest L. Long, and Novella Vernon Bland of Kinston, the late Merl T. Vernon and the late Wesley Bland, all of whom lived in Kinston.