

Eagle Scouts Robert Abendroth and Francis Marachitelli Recognized by Maryland

Robert Abendroth and Francis Marchitelli
May 29, 2013



From left, Robert Abendroth, James Boothby and Francis Marchitelli

On May 29, 2013 two young Unificationist members of Boy Scout Troop 1212 were awarded the prestigious Eagle Scout medal in a ceremony at New Hope Academy in Landover Hills, Maryland. Both boys graduated earlier the same day from the respected Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Science and Technology program.

The Court of Honor was attended by Maryland State Senators Victor Ramirez (for Francis Marchitelli) and Senator Douglas Peters (for Robert Abendroth) who presented the boys with a "Senate of Maryland Resolution for their outstanding achievement in earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout."

Robert, Francis and two more eagle scouts, Alphonse Cohen and Marcel Caron, plan to bike across the country from East coast to West coast this summer. They collected water from the Atlantic Ocean and will mix it with water from the Pacific Ocean when they arrive. They will challenge themselves physically and pray for unity needed in many aspects of life to achieve a better world, according to Concha Marchitelli, mother of Francis.

Reflections of Robert Abendroth and Francis Marachitelli at Eagle Ceremony



Robert Abendroth Hiking in a scout trip

Robert Abendroth

The reason I first joined troop 1212 was because all three of my older brothers were in the troop. I looked up to them and wanted to do what they were doing. We have done things in scouts that helped build bonds between us, like going on the many trips and playing dodge ball.

As an older scout, I served my younger-brother scouts and discovered the feeling of truly being alive through living for the sake of others. Throughout my years in scouts there were five different reasons for memorable experiences: suffering, humor, accomplishment, altruism and serenity. I'll never forget one hike in the Shenandoah Mountains where our tent had no fly and I was trying to sleep in a puddle all night. I'll never forget the time we put a fellow scout's bed cot in the latrine where he would wake up for his birthday the next morning. I'll never forget the feeling of making it up Helicopter Hill (also in the Shenandoah's) after a long, steep climb in the dark. I'll never forget when my older brother, James, put my little brother's feet on his belly to keep them warm in below-freezing temperatures. And I'll never

forget the beauty of the Dolly Sods Wilderness Preserve in West Virginia in the winter.

In the great outdoors I learned brotherhood, strength, respect for nature and the power of nature. Of course, I also learned all the basics of survival: knots, first aid, how to use different boats and much more.



Jim Boothby with the senators from the day of the Eagle court of honor

In my last year as a member of Troop 1212, I had the honor of serving as the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), the boy leader of the troop. While SPL, having faith and confidence in myself and trusting others, were two very difficult aspects of leadership that I had to learn. I really had to practice them in order to become an effective leader.

Achieving the rank of Eagle means so much to me, because I know that since I could achieve such an honor, there are few things that I can't do.

As an Eagle Scout, I will have the leadership abilities, the courage and the perseverance that I learned in scouts which will be important in my future. Even in my immediate future, this summer, I will be biking across the United States with three other Eagle Scouts. I probably never would have even dreamed of it if it weren't for the adventurous spirit boy scouts has given me.

Without Troop 1212, I would not be the same person I am today. It has brought out the adventurer in me and taught me how to plan, act and speak with confidence and how to live for the sake of others.



Beginning of bike trip: left to right: Robert Abendroth, Marcel Caron, Alfred Cohen, Francis Marchitelli collecting water from the Atlantic Ocean

Francis Marchitelli

Scouting has given me experiences that are unmatched anywhere else I go. The brotherhood bond and the adventure were inserted into me through scouts. If I had not been a scout I would be a completely different person for sure. It gave me the love of nature, capacity to grow, invest in others, and to never give up. I have been given great leadership skills in scouts that I will use forever.

My goal in life is to be someone who changes things; someone who makes a notable difference in the world; someone who invests his time in living for the sake of others. Whenever I see people suffering or having problems I cannot help but wonder why. Many people talk about how they want to do this and that but never actually realize that if they want it, it's so easy to go and get it. Scouts has given me the confidence to do that

I was given the opportunity to go to Africa last summer and do service work, and it was one of the best

experiences I have ever had. If it wasn't for scouts I probably wouldn't have had the motivation or confidence to go over there and help others.

One of my dreams is to make a difference in the world of sports. In sports there are many good athletes, but often they are filled with arrogance and are not the best of friends. I want to start my own organization in which kids perfect their physical sports skills at the same time that they work on their character skills. They can come out of the program being not only the best athletes but the best people. It will be centered on the values learned in scouts and from my own spiritual life.

I have not only been active in scouts but also in my church, helping run a monthly program called "Word Up" where high school kids come and engage in many different character-building activities. Scouts and my religious life have both taught me to never give up and to keep trying to be the best I can be. I was also taught the value of family life and keeping good strong relationships. I want to be a role model not only for people to be inspired to do good things for others but also to keep strong family bonds and values

I want to strive to be better forever and never stop serving people. Money is not my passion, but people are. Thank you troop 1212, Scout Master Jim Boothby, the Unification Church and Reverend Sun Myung Moon. I have been taught well and will not let it go to waste.