The Athens Messenger

Brothers celebrate earning Eagle Scout rank together

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Cade Buckley (front, left), Will Buckley and Zane Buckley listen to an audience member during their Eagle Court of Honor on Dec. 16 at First United Methodist Church. The brothers decided to hold their ceremony together after Zane earned the Eagle rank.

Messenger by Nicole Bowman-Layton

Three brothers — Cade, Will and Zane Buckley — recently celebrated earning the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank — Eagle Scout — during a ceremony held at First United Methodist Church in Athens.

One of the requirements for Eagle Scout is the successful planning, execution, and completion of a service project for their community.

Cade earned his Eagle Scout rank on July 11, 2018. His Eagle Scout service project was the exterior refurbishment of the Carthage township building/garage and the on-site installation of a security system and U.S. flag pole in Athens County.

Will earned his Eagle Scout rank on June 15, 2021. His Eagle Scout service project was designing, constructing, and installing food and book donation boxes for those in need at Amesville and Coolville elementary schools in Athens County.

Zane, a Federal Hocking senior enrolled in Tri-County Career Center's construction program, earned his Eagle Scout rank on Aug. 22, 2023. His Eagle Scout service project was designing, constructing and installing U.S. flag retirement boxes at the Athens Community Center, Carthage Township Building/Garage, and the Carthage Fire Department.

It is rare for three brothers to be recognized for earning the Eagle Scout rank in the same Court of Honor. Cade and Will waited several years to be acknowledged for their achievements to be recognized with their youngest brother, Zane.

Nationally, only around 4% of those who start this journey make it to Eagle. The keynote speaker was Michael Fletcher, the first Scout of Troop 71 to earn Eagle rank. Fletcher noted that as Eagle Scouts, the Buckleys must hold the door open for others by mentoring younger Scouts on their journey through the ranks. They must also continue their commitment to their communities through service.

A reception followed.

BSA Troop 71, for boys; Troop 7071, for girls; and Pack 71, along with former Scouts and their families, participated in the ceremony.

Troop 71 meets at 7 p.m. on Mondays at First United Methodist Church, 2 S. College St., Athens. For information, visit https://www.firstumcathens.org/a-living-faith/scouts-bsatroop-71.