

The Athens Messenger

Community Leaders Recognized at Athens Scout Leadership Dinner

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Ron Hope.
Submitted photo

Ron Hope was honored as the 2021 Keith Butt Scouter Award at the annual Athens Scout Leadership Dinner for the Simon Kenton Council Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Jenny Stotts was also presented with the Scouting Community Leader Award for her many years of service in the community.

Hope, an Albany resident, is the fifth recipient of the memorial Keith Butt Award. He is retired from General Telephone and Electronics Corporation and its successors. Hope was recognized for over twenty years of service in founding and serving as Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster with Troop 50. Additionally, his work with the Cub Scout Day Camp known as Camp Red Arrow originally held at Dow Lake and now at Lake Snowden each June impacted many young Scouts in Athens County.

Stotts is the executive director of Athens Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardian Ad Litem Program and regional director of Southeast Ohio CASA. Prior to this appointment, she served as a family services caseworker and sexual abuse investigator. She serves on CASA Leadership Council, the Ohio Citizen Review Panel, and is a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and a member of the Child Conservation League.

Eagle Scout Isabelle Stowe from Troop 7236 spoke on the fun and value of her scouting experience and as one of the first cohort of female Eagle Scouts. Simon Kenton Council Director of Field Service Ryan Thompson travelled from Columbus and addressed the dinner with updates on Scouts BSA.

Major Samuel Eliason, United States Air Force, served as keynote speaker at the ceremony. Eliason grew up in Athens County, earning the Eagle Scout Rank from Troop 357, graduating from Athens High School, and earned his BSEE from Ohio University in 2008. He is a pilot and F-15E Instructor Pilot; trained to fly and instruct seven different mission sets and led numerous combat missions in Southwest Asia. Eliason links his scouting experience to his preparedness, saying it influenced his training and success in his military career.