



**Boy Scouts of America**  
**Troop 88**  
Patriots' Path Council  
Bridgewater, New Jersey



March 10, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is with great honor that we announce that Peter W. Alves, Nicholas A. McGinnis, Stephen M. Cristofich and Joseph W. Pickering have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. It is also at this time that we invite you to help celebrate this great achievement by honoring these scouts, their families and Troop 88 with your presence at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor. It will be held on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> 2015 starting at 2:00 PM at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish Center Cafeteria (<http://stbernardbridgewater.org/>). If you are not able to attend, your individual letters of commendation or recognition to these young men would be most appreciated.

**Peter W. Alves** started scouting in the first grade. He joined Pack 95 as a Tiger Cub and, after receiving the Arrow of Light, joined Boy Scout Troop 88 where he has been an active member. He has served as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Librarian, Troop Guide and Troop Instructor. Teaching and guiding the younger scouts have been some of his most rewarding experiences. He served as Quartermaster during the Florida Sea Base Adventure, sailing in the Florida Keys for a week. He also participated on the Sabattis trek in the Adirondacks, during which he canoed over 50 miles. That trek, along with 10 hours of conservation work, earned him the 50-miler award. The culmination of his 12 year scouting career was reaching Eagle Rank. His project was re-blazing the Middlebrook trail in Bridgewater Township and, with the completion of his project, all sections of the trail were connected. Peter is currently a senior at Bridgewater-Raritan High School, and is a National Merit Commended Scholar as well as a National Hispanic Recognition Award recipient. He is a member of the science and math honor societies, and with his passion for math and science, plans to pursue a degree in Applied Mathematics.

**Nicholas A. McGinnis** has been actively involved in scouting since he joined as a Tiger Cub in Pack 99. He joined Boy Scout Troop 88 after earning his Arrow of Light. Nick has been an active member in the Troop since joining and has served in the positions of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader. He attended numerous camping trips which included activities such as rafting, canoeing, kayaking and rifle shooting, as well as rock climbing, hiking and biking. He has worked on many service projects including multiple Eagle Projects during his time as a Scout. Nick has attended four High-Adventure trips as a Boy Scout which included climbing Mt. Katahdin in Maine, rafting on the New River in West Virginia, spending a week on a 75-foot schooner in the Florida Keys at the Florida National Sea Base, and canoeing 50 miles in the Adirondacks. Some of his greatest memories as a Scout occurred on these trips. Nick's Eagle Project involved affixing medallions onto storm drain grates which were engraved with the words "Do Not Dump, Leads to Waterway." This is to discourage people from dumping waste into the waterways, which harms the environment. He is currently a senior and an Honor Roll student at Bridgewater-Raritan High School. He is an active member of FIRST Robotics Team 303, BRHS Ski and Snowboard Club, iSTEM Club, Astronomy Club and Stock Market Club. Nick will be attending college to pursue a career as a Civil Engineer.

**Stephen M. Cristofich** embarked upon his Scouting career as a Tiger Cub Scout in Pack 95, based in Raritan Borough, NJ. He progressed through each Cub Scout Rank and earned his Arrow of Light, along with the Light of Christ religious medal. He graduated from Cub Scouts and joined Troop 88, in Bridgewater Township, NJ. There, he served as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster and Troop Instructor, leading and counseling his fellow Scouts in various activities. Throughout his many years in Scouting, Stephen has enjoyed participating in many camping trips, hikes, and adventures, but has never ceased to give back to his community, having lent a helping hand in fundraisers and volunteer projects. He earned a total of 41 merit badges during his time in Boy Scouts. His favorite Scouting adventure was at the Florida National Sea Base, working as a crew member aboard a 75-foot schooner and sailing the Florida Keys for a week. Stephen's Eagle Project benefitted Bridgewater Township by logging the GPS coordinates and charting the physical attributes of 470 utility and light poles thereby facilitating their maintenance and repairs. An outstanding student of St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, NJ, Stephen has consistently been named to the High Honor Roll list and is involved in various clubs, such as the German Heritage Club. He is now looking forward to attending college, where he plans to major in business and specialize in accounting. Outside of school and Scouts, Stephen is a science fiction enthusiast, he enjoys refereeing flag football, reading copiously and constructing model space ships in his spare time.

**Joseph W. Pickering**, a resident of Bridgewater NJ, is an exemplary member of his community. Immediately upon joining Boy Scout Troop 88, he immersed himself in all the troop's activities such as assisting elderly residents with fall yard clean up, collecting clothes for the needy and food for the local food bank. His favorite scout activities included rafting, canoeing, kayaking and rifle shooting. Joe's most memorable camping trips were rafting on the New River in West Virginia and a week spent with his fellow scouts working as a crewmember aboard a 75-foot schooner and sailing the Florida Keys at the BSA Florida National Sea Base. While Joe has held positions in the troop such as quartermaster & patrol leader, he was humbled when his fellow scouts recognized his dedication and leadership by electing him Senior Patrol Leader. He earned a total of 36 merit badges during his time in Boy Scouts. Joe has also had an active role in his church, St. Bernard of Clairvaux RC Church, Bridgewater, NJ where served as an aid, and is now an instructor in the religious education program there. Joe's commitment to his Eagle Service Project combined his interest in child development with his faith and was the construction of a children's prayer garden at St. Bernard's. This task involved over 170 man-hours of effort, including raising funds, design and construction of three benches, tilling and planting. Joe is a senior attending St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, where in addition to being an honor student, he is active in the drama club and as College Bowl B-Team Captain. Joseph will pursue a degree in Cognitive Science when he attends college this fall.

As you are aware, the future of our families, our communities, our nation and the world rests with our youth. To have an opportunity to honor one of the highest achievements of future leaders is special and we are duly proud of these young men for having shown the perseverance, dedication and determination in their scouting activities.

We thank you in advance for your anticipated commitment to honoring these young men and look forward to receiving your firm commitment and seeing you May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. However, should your schedule not allow you to join us, we thank you for your individual letters of commendation or recognition to these young men honoring them on their achievement. *All letters and commendations received will be assembled into a commemorative binder and presented to each young man at the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony.*

Please reply to:  
Mrs. Patricia Cristofich  
Troop 88 ECOH  
61 Shannon Road  
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807  
(908) 526-7189

Sincerely,

*Robert Archibald*

Mr. Robert Archibald  
Scoutmaster, Troop 88