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EAGLE SCOUT AWARD TO BE PRESENTED

Local Scout has earned Scouting America's highest rank advancement

KIRKWOOD 10/1/2025 Elliot James Grow of Kirkwood, Missouri, has earned Scouting America's highest advancement award, the Eagle Scout Award.

Grow will be recognized in ceremonies during the spring semester, 2026.

A member of Robinson Elementary School, Troop 325, Grow is one of only approximately 6% of all Scouts who attain the Eagle rank, according to Troop 325 Scoutmaster Phil Heisner.

Each candidate must earn 21 merit badges and successfully complete a community, church, or synagogue-related service project to earn the Eagle rank. Grow worked with the city of Kirkwood Parks and Recreation board of directors and staff to revitalize a unique Kirkwood and broader St. Louis historic landmark; Historic Quinette Cemetery (Quinette). Quinette is believed to be the oldest African-American cemetery west of the Mississippi and one of only a few similar burial sites around the St. Louis metro area.

Quinette is open to the general public, and is frequented by local residents, but is not widely known about or studied. There have been a few research studies, writings, and projects surrounding Quinette over the past three decades,

When Grow was asked why he chose Quinette as his project, he stated: "I believe that this project is less about the physical cleaning and beautifying of the cemetery, and more about both paying respect to the people who are laid to rest here, and helping more people learn about the story of Quinette."

With the backing of generous community business support, Grow's project included engaging community residents over multiple weekends. to renew two sets of pedestrian walking trails (only way to access Quinette), reintroducing native plants to approved garden areas with plant identification markers, and perhaps most importantly registering an international geocache at Quinette to help bring young historians to the site.

Grow is a member of Emmanuel Episcopal church in Webster Groves, recently graduated from Vianney High School, and is currently a freshman at the University of

Missouri, Columbia pursuing a degree in accounting. Grow plans to continue helping community members and their businesses as a CPA.

He is the son of Andrew and Paula Grow and grandson of Alma and Jim Wilson, and Roger and Nancy Grow.

About Greater St. Louis Area Scouting

The Greater St. Louis Area Scouting Council provides Scout Outreach through the Community Outreach District to students in communities with limited volunteers to lead packs and troops. Currently, urban and rural youth in Kindergarten through 8th grade are provided in-school and after-school Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA programs.

To ensure Scouts in the Outreach Program receive the same quality program as any other Scout, we developed a comprehensive program plan that includes structured activities for each meeting, a calendar of events, and guidance for delivering the curriculum. Youth membership fees are waived, and kids are provided with official Cub Scout and Scouts BSA uniforms. Kids also get to participate in STEM activities, character education lessons, and leadership training as well as opportunities to earn badges, participate in advancement ceremonies, outdoor education, and camping events.

About Scouting America

Scouting America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared. For Life.®" The Scouting organization is composed of more than **1** million youth members between the ages of 5 and 21 and more than **628,000** volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories.

Since its inception in 1910, more than 130 million young men and women have participated in Scouting America's youth programs. More than 35 million adult volunteers have helped carry out Scouting America's mission.

BSA programs are divided by age and activity: Cub Scouting is for boys and girls in kindergarten through 5th grade, Scouts BSA is open to young men and young women in grades 6 through 12, and co-ed Venturing and Sea Scouting are available for young men and young women age 14 through 20. Scouting America also offers career-oriented co-ed Exploring programs to youth ages 10 through 20.

Traditional Scouting programs are operated by local chartering organizations, such as religious institutions, clubs, civic associations, and educational organizations, which implement the Scouting program for youth within their communities. These units are led

entirely by volunteers appointed by the chartering organization, who are supported by local councils using both volunteers and paid professional staff.

In order to further outdoor activities, which are core to Scouting's mission, Scouting America has four High-Adventure Bases: Northern Tier (Minnesota, Manitoba, and Ontario), Philmont Scout Ranch (New Mexico), Sea Base (Florida), and Summit Bechtel Reserve (West Virginia).