

## **Graham County Eagle Scouts Honored by County**

The Graham County Board of Commissioners recognized the accomplishments of two Eagle Scouts at its regular meeting on December 21, 2009. Commissioner Bruce Snyder presented John Hicks and Zack Pennington each with a certificate of recognition and a Graham County flag which were specially made for the Eagle Scouts. Commissioner Snyder told those in attendance that both young men were hard workers and served as an example to not only him, but others as well. Following the presentation, the two scouts received a standing ovation from all in attendance. A third Eagle Scout, Curtis Meyer, was unable to attend the meeting but will be recognized at a later date by the commission.

Since its inception in 1911, the term “Eagle Scout” has been synonymous with the pinnacle of Scouting. It’s even found its way into the vernacular to mean “a straight arrow and self-reliant man” (Merriam-Webster Online) Out of more than two million Scouts, only 4% of overall Scout membership has claimed the rank of Eagle Scout. Yet it’s the overwhelming vision and desire of nearly every Scout.

There are eleven levels of achievement, or ranks, in Scouting, five in Cub Scouts and six in Boy Scouts, with Eagle Scout being the last. While every Scout does not reach the Eagle rank, recognition at every level is of great importance in Scouting, as important as the individual effort a Scout puts into completing an achievement or elective. Awards and recognition are presented at all levels of group meetings and at special events throughout the year.

Three of our forty-four U.S. Presidents were Boy Scouts, the first being John F. Kennedy. Gerald Ford and Bill Clinton followed in his footsteps with President Ford being the first and only Eagle Scout to serve as President of the United States.