

Scout heading toward career in the outdoors

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His scoutmaster suggested that the revival of the aging McAlisterville area churches sign be Cody's service project. The original sign was made in the 1980s by Eagle Scout Robert Strawser, according to the scoutmaster at that time, Larry Spade.

The current project began before the celebration of the bicentennial of McAlisterville in 2010. The wooden sign painted white with black lettering was weathered from snow, and wind over the past 25 years. The small slabs of wood bearing the names of area churches were beginning to break off the sign and hang by only a nail and were no longer legible.

The anniversary committee decided the sign needed to be removed for the sake of the town's appearance during the celebration's events.

Meanwhile, Cody and his dad, Dan Shadel, began sketching out plans on the computer for a new sign. Once dimensions were determined at 7 feet by 9 feet, Cody and his father began pricing lumber and other material in July 2010. Cody contacted the McAlisterville churches, including the original churches named on the first sign: Lost Creek Presbyterian, McAlisterville United Methodist and Trinity Lutheran churches.

Cody attends one of the churches named on the new sign, Good News Lutheran Brethren Church, and is active in its youth group. One change he decided to make was to add the names of the newer churches and extend the geographic area covered by the sign to include Cocolamus Mennonite Church, Bunkertown Church of the Brethren, Faith Community Church, Brown's United Methodist Church and Evangelical Methodist Church (in Oakland Mills).

Each church donated \$100 to the project to aid in material costs. Cody worked a total of 60 hours on the project, which included many Saturdays and some evenings. This was all the

while he was a part of other extracurricular activities like soccer, Future Farmers of America, track and activities with his church.

The signs were in place in late November 2011. One sign is located on the Thompson property at the west end of town. The other sign is located on the Ehrenzeller property past Brown's UMC on the east end of town.

"I wanted to give something back to the community," Cody says of his project.

Cody is admittedly not talkative nor does he demand attention. His words are few, but there is a spark when he has an opportunity to talk about his favorite experience as a scout.

"Not everyone gets to see Philmont," he says with a shy grin.

When Cody was 15 years old he went with Troop 65 to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The ranch covers 137,000 acres, or 214 square miles, of rugged terrain - a perfect place for the outdoor lovers and an ideal spot for boy scouts to "rough it."

Christine and Cody reminisce how as a young scout Cody had seen pictures of the ranch.

"I told my mom, 'I'd like to be there someday,'" Cody says.

The ranch experience helped Cody to appreciate his role in scouting even more. "I learned how to get along with others and to work as a team," he says, noting the group worked on the trails and dug up rocks. That experience, as well as his time achieving higher scout ranks, has given Cody a dream beyond his Eagle Scout award.

Once he is 18, he will become a junior assistant scoutmaster and will be able to help the leaders with the younger scouts. Beyond that, he is hoping to continue on with a career in the outdoors. Cody will graduate from EJHS in 2013 and would ideally like to have a career in the areas of fish and wildlife.

"Not in an office," he adds with another shy grin.

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