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News Release



Jay Stanton displays the Boy Scouts of America's Heroism Medal and certificate to more than 150 people who attended the Veterans Day ceremony at the Tyrrell County Courthouse on November 11. His parents, John and Wendy Stanton (both FWS Biologists in eastern NC), and an honor guard of two Eagle Scouts accompanied him.

Photo credit: R. McClees

Boy Scouts of America Present Heroism Medal to Jay Stanton

At the Veterans Day celebration on the Tyrrell County Courthouse steps in Columbia, NC, the Boy Scouts of America presented the Heroism Medal to Jay Stanton, son of John and Wendy Stanton of Columbia.

Jay is a Webelos Cub Scout in Pack 86, sponsored by the Columbia Rotary Club.

The citation read, in part: On May 29, 2007, Jay (a fourth grader) attended a party at a local swimming pool where a lifeguard and other adults were watching the swimmers. A third grader was headed toward the deep end of the pool when he got into trouble. He was about five feet from the edge of the pool when he started having difficulty catching his breath. He could not swim.

Jay, swimming in this area and wearing goggles, saw the boy straining to stay on the surface to breathe. Jay, having observed him both above and below the surface as he struggled, realized he was not playing.

Jay immediately approached the boy and attempted to give him aid. The boy thrashed around and tried to grab onto Jay. Watching out for his own safety, Jay carefully maneuvered the boy to safety at the side of the pool.

Jay put to use the training he had received from taking swimming classes and earning the Readyman badge in Cub Scouts. He recognized a person in distress, evaluated the situation, and acted quickly to provide aid.

"It is the opinion of the East Carolina Council and National Board of Reviews that one would expect no less of a Boy Scout. The Scout Oath states: 'To help other people at all times,'" said Michael Francis of Williamston who convened a National Court of Honor to award the medal. Francis is volunteer Commissioner for the Blackbeard District, East Carolina Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The audience of more than 150 people congratulated Jay with a standing ovation and long applause.