

LOCAL

Maner finds his Eagle on park trail

EMILY WEAVER

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It was in the fall of 2006 when Joseph Maner decided to take a path less traveled and transform it into a path more easily traveled at the Kings Mountain State Park.

Several hours and several Saturdays were spent on the project that would earn this Boy Scout his Eagle rank. But to get those coveted wings, he had to first embody the characteristics of leadership, service and outdoor skills.

He found, however, he would also need patience, ingenuity and determination. Patience would help him get through the weekends when he couldn't work due to weather or other circumstances. Ingenuity was employed after a Saturday's hard work was washed away by the rain. Determination was his driving force.

Maner's mentor, park ranger and church youth leader Sharon Robinson helped him acquire the supplies he needed. Unlike most other scouts in the hunt for the Eagle, he did not have to raise money for his project. The park service provided the mulch and the timber and he brought the tools. "The only money I had to spend was for the gas to get down there," he said.

Because this was a test of leadership, he employed six or seven of his fellow scouts to help him. They cleared the path, marked the path, laid down mulch and put in some crossties to keep the rains from washing away the path. Maner added a couple of steps to a footbridge that was

constructed and put in place by another Boy Scout troop in Clover, SC.

The "Farm Trail" is about a mile-and-a-half long, he said. "It's just a little hiking trail to get to what they call the living history farm, which I guess is like a Colonial-aged farm," he said. "It went from there to Lake Crawford and then up to the parking lot."

But what the trail would eventually lead Maner to was the Eagle. The son of Bob and Susan Maner, he is a member of Boy Scout Troop 92, based at First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain. He has been in the scouts since the 5th grade when he started as a Cub. The lessons he has learned over those past seven years are treasured as emblems on his sash and uniform. One of his most favorite experiences and merit badges is the one he received from small boat sailing. "We took a trip to Camp Rodney, which is on the Chesapeake Bay, and they've got a little sailing program up there," he said. "We actually learned how to sail our own little sunfish, like a one-to-two person boat. It was pretty neat."

He finished his Eagle Scout project in March, went before the Scouting board for final approval in June and received his wings on September 30. The ceremony was held at Maner's church, First Presbyterian. He said that there have been three young men in Troop 92 who have achieved the Eagle rank recently. According to the Boy Scouts of America, only about five percent of all scouts actually achieve this illustrious status.



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Joseph Maner restored the Farm Trail at the Kings Mountain National Military Park for his Eagle Scout Project. He stands next to the finished trail, above.

Hope Christian honor rolls listed

Hope Christian Academy has announced its honor roll for the first nine weeks grading period.

A honor roll - Kelsey Shores, Arden Maney, Rachel Whitlock, Tyler Brooks, Thomas Cable, Roni Crenshaw, Amir Moore, Micah Rivers, Tyler Shores, Joey Wall, Jarred Whitlock, Courtney Cox, Jacob Hoffman, Ryan Johnson, Thomas McDaniel, Lateef McMullan, Leatha Moretz, Linh Pham.

A/B honor roll - Jordan Maney, Jessica Terry, Jurgen Kohler, James Laughlin, Brandon Matheson, Ashley Regans, Casey Barkley, Savannah Horne, Josh Wall, Jessica Boone, Alicia Burrell, Heather Hoffman, Erica King, Max Penland, Sara Storch, Jessica Ridings, Ethan Segars, Lizzie Sibley, Blake Smith, Rashad Toney, Hannah LaPlante, Ashley Owens, Rachel Terry.



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