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Top from left: Matthew Spratlin, Lucas McDaniel, Oscar Wood, Bryce Israelson, James Bruinsma; Bottom from left: Alex Petroff, Tommy Christopher, Ben Trendler, Brandon Dreier, Allison Bruinsma; Holding live bald eagle: Anne Price, Raptor Education Foundation.

‘Tenacious 10’ recognized as Eagle Scouts by Boulder area troop

By Amy Bounds

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Dubbed the “tenacious 10,” a group of 10 teens recently recounted years of backpacking, camping and canoeing trips where they honed outdoor and leadership skills.

Combined with managing local community service projects, those experiences helped them meet the requirements to reach the rank of Eagle Scout, scout-

ing’s highest honor. The 10 are part of Scout Troop 78, whose 83 members live mainly in south Boulder and Louisville.

Dave Trendler, the troop’s scoutmaster and an Eagle Scout himself, said the newly minted Eagle Scouts scouts logged around 1,300 hours of community service through their projects. Altogether, scouts must complete about 500 requirements to reach the rank of Eagle, including holding leadership positions in the troop, earn-

ing at least 21 merit badges and lead a community service project.

“It takes a sustained focus, a sustained effort over many years,” said Trendler, whose son was among the new Eagle Scout group. “It’s very unusual to have 10 Eagle Scouts at once. They are being inspired by each other. Watching their friends progress kept them engaged.”

Allison Bruinsma, who will be a junior at Lafayette’s Centaurus High in the fall, had the dis-

tinction of being the troop’s first female Eagle Scout. She started with a different troop in 2020, then switched a year later to Troop 78, where her brother was a member. She said she joined scouts because of the monthly campouts, structured advancement and strong focus on outdoor skills and leadership.

She also was the first girl to register as a Troop 78 member, and was one of five girls in the troop that year.

went to Northern Tier in Quetico, Canada, for a canoeing trip. We had just spent nine days canoeing and were exhausted when we saw a bear swimming across a canal in front of us. It was amazing seeing a bear that up close, and is one of the many reasons why I love camping."

While the canoeing trip was her favorite memory, her favorite merit badge was the "100 Frost Points Award."

"You get it by camping in below-freezing temperatures where each degree below 32 is a point, and you have to reach 100 points in one year," she said. "It was super-rewarding to earn this badge, especially after one particularly cold negative-3-degree night."

For her community service project, she renovated a barn for Groundwork Ranch, an equine therapy non-profit. She led a team that installed a plywood floor and engineered board walls to help with dust and rodent problems. A challenge, she said, was not having enough skilled adults to saw the plywood for the number of young volunteers that showed up.

"My favorite part was seeing young volunteers grow their confidence in nailing and hammering throughout the project," she wrote in an email.

Her brother, James Bruinsma, earned his Eagle Scout award after building a storage shed for Ground-

work. He is attending the University of Colorado Boulder to study integrative physiology, renovated the trailhead and picnic area at the Bobolink Trailhead to be ADA compliant.

"My favorite part is when I go back to the trailhead and see people enjoying my project site," he wrote in an email.

He said his favorite scouting experiences included backpacking in New Mexico and sailing in St. Thomas, where he earned his small boat sailing merit badge. He was inspired by his dad, also an Eagle Scout, to earn his Eagle rank.

"Getting Eagle Scout has been a life goal of mine since I was in elementary school," he wrote. "Boy Scouts has had a profound positive impact on me as a young man, and it has changed my life."

Thomas Christopher graduated from Monarch in May and is headed to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study civil engineering. For his service project, he demolished and disposed of two old storage sheds outside Boulder's St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, where the troop meets. The removal created more parking space and saved the church the cost of removal.

He said the biggest challenge for his project was removing the sturdy, well-made roof from the second shed. He had to find a

couple of the stations. Lucas, who will be a senior at Centaurus, said his dad, uncles and cousin are all Eagle Scouts, making it a family legacy. He started in a different troop and considered quitting during the pandemic, but switched to his current troop because of the camping opportunities.

"I love being outdoors, and scouts is the easiest way to do that," he said.

His top three scouting trips were a 100-mile backpacking trip in New Mexico, a 120-mile canoe trip in Canada and a three-night camping trip to Goblin Valley in Utah. His favorite merit badge, "Citizenship in the Community," was earned closer to home. For that badge, he talked to city council members, mapped local places, attended a council meeting and completed community service.

"It was super-cool to see the inner workings of the community I had always lived in," he said.

He said the advantages to scouting include getting a good moral foundation, learning the outdoor skills to be comfortable camping on his own or with friends, and making friends with similar interests.

"There are a ton of kids I wouldn't know unless I did scouting," he said. "You build a community."

The other Troop 78 scouts who received E-