Hello, my name is Jimmy Rollin; I am an Eagle Scout in Boy Scout Troop 649, which is sponsored by St John the Evangelist Catholic Church. I earned my Eagle Rank May 14, 2012. This morning I am here to describe how Scouting has had an influence on my life. Scouting has allowed me to participate in unique experiences I otherwise wouldn't have had, develop and hone my leadership skills, and gain the confidence as an Eagle Scout to excel beyond scouting.

I have participated in many activities in Scouts ranging from basic skills to high adventure. The High adventure trips were some of the highlights of my Scouting career. Two trips in particular stand out in my memories. In the summer of 2011, I embarked on a Sea kayaking trek at Pamlico Sea Base in the Outer Banks, NC. This is easily one of my fondest memories of Scouting. In the outer banks, it is just you, your crew, and a kayak that held everything you have. We were island hopping all day and sleeping on the beach every night. The final morning we got up before sunrise and with glow sticks attached to our kayaks went out into the Pamlico Sound. There we witnessed a sunrise over the water. Moments like that just make you reflect on the beauty and tranquility of nature.

This past summer was my last as a youth and I spent it in Scouting paradise at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. This truly was the trip of a lifetime, backpacking for 2 weeks in the Rocky Mountains. Probably not everyone's first choice in terms of a dream vacation, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. Climbing up over 12,441 feet atop Mt. Baldy, and being able to see everything within a 100 mile radius is simply breathtaking. On our final day we got up early and watched the sunrise over the signature mountain called the "Tooth of Time", a sight seen firsthand will leave anyone speechless.

Scouting has taught me to be a leader. Throughout my career I have held various leadership positions within my troop. These positions ranged from Patrol Leader, Scribe, Order of the Arrow Representative, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and my current position as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Each position I gained new responsibilities and roles in my troop and had different expectations, thus allowing me to broaden and improve my leadership skills. Scouting truly is a "boy-run" organization. The Scouts are filling the leadership positions, and have the responsibility to make the decisions, teach and learn all of

the skills, and run the meetings and campouts. Scouting gave me a safe environment to both learn how to be successful in leadership and the challenges a leader can face.

This experience has translated into non-scouting activities as well. In school it has increased my participation in the classroom and whenever we do group work most times I am the leader. Through my church, I participated in Appalachian Service Project. ASP mobilizes teens from across the region to rebuild and repair homes in Appalachia. I was asked to be the leader of my work crew because of my ability to motivate people and experience with tools from working on Eagle Scout projects.

The Eagle badge carries a very visible significance. As an Eagle, I am a marked man! When introducing myself to people and telling them I am an Eagle Scout, they instantly have a different opinion of me. The Eagle exemplifies the type of character, leadership qualities, and work ethic of the individual. This has been shown in past eagles such as Neil Armstrong and Gerald Ford. Earning Eagle is a symbol of the dedication and persistence needed to accomplish a significant personal goal. The effort I put forth in Earning the Eagle Badge is something I will enjoy the rest of my life. I am currently in the application process for college and my eagle project has been the topic of many of my essays. The Eagle badge is something I will proudly wear the rest of my life.

Scouting has been a huge part of my life and has helped to shape the person I am today. My high adventure experiences, gaining invaluable leadership skills, and all the experience from earning Eagle would not have been possible without scouting.

On behalf of the youth in Scouting here in Howard County, thank you for your generous contributions! Your investments will make a difference to the almost 4,000 youth touched by Scouting in Howard County alone, some of which may be working for you someday!