

Students soar to highest scouting position: Eagles

Boy Scout Troop 263 of Farmington Hills is proud to announce that troop members David Sands and Arvind Surendran have each attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the scouting's highest rank.

David Sands' involvement in scouting began 10 years ago as a Cub Scout at Kenbrook Elementary School in Farmington Hills. He has been a Boy Scout for five years during which time he earned the 21 merit badges required to become an Eagle Scout.

His Eagle Scout project involved creating an educational brochure about the wildlife that inhabit Heritage Park. It features a game which involves matching animals with the tracks they make.

The brochure can be made available to children who visit the park with their families or as a part of a group activity.

He served his troop as assistant patrol leader, senior patrol leader, librarian and scribe.

He has supported scouting by participation in community service projects, fund-raising efforts and by taking on leadership roles within the troop. In 1992, Sands took part in a two week trip to Philmont, the National Boy Scout Camp, where he spent 10 days backpacking in the mountains of New Mexico.

Camping, hiking, rock climbing, cave exploration and summer visits to Michigan's Lost Lake Scout Camp have all been part of his scouting experiences.

Sands is a senior at North Farmington High School where

earlier this year he was awarded an academic letter. He is a member of his high school Quiz Bowl Team and the Environmental Club.

His creative nature was nourished during the four years in which he was involved in the Odyssey of the Mind competition. His team won the regional title and went onto the state competition during two of the four years in which they competed.

Sands, a voracious reader, hopes one day to establish himself as a professional writer. He plans to attend St. John College in Annapolis, Md., this fall, where he will pursue a course of study based on great books.

Arvind Surendran has been a member of Troop 263 since the sixth grade. He has also earned 21 merit badges and has served in various leadership roles within the troop. His Eagle Scout project involved making bluebird houses for Heritage Park in Farmington Hills.

Surendran has been very involved in developing his musical talents while a student at North Farmington High School where he is a senior. He is a member of the Northern Lights (mixed vocal ensemble) and the Men's Seateer (male vocal ensemble).

He took lead roles in two of the three musicals in which he participated at North Farmington. In addition, he has been active in ethnic plays and other cultural activities within the Indian community.

Surendran has been involved in the Odyssey of the Mind Competitions, Junior Achievement, Science Olympiad, Quiz Bowl, the Michigan Math League and Students Against Driving Drunk. He participated in Varsity Track and Intramural Basketball.

He plans to attend Michigan State University as a pre-med student after his graduation from North Farmington.

Both young men join 78 alumni of Troop 263 who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout since 1968.



Arvind Surendran



David Sands

Cat lovers plan purrfect convention

Fur will be flying at the Holiday Inn-Farmington Hills when members of Cat Collectors gather June 24-26, for the organization's biennial convention.

The convention will draw members from across the U.S. and other countries.

It will provide an opportunity for members who have become pen pals, who have shared their own collections for stories in the organization's bimonthly newsletter, to meet in person and to share their albums of pictures of their real cats as well as of their

cat collectibles, according to Marilyn Dipboye of Sterling Heights, founder and president of Cat Collectors.

The three day convention will feature a members' buy-sell-trade event, a flea market, a speaker on Goebel, Germany porcelain cats and other activities. A sidetrip to Pewabic Pottery, a historic landmark in the city of Detroit, will be followed by a luncheon at Bayview Yacht Club.

A convention highlight will be a silent auction with all proceeds to benefit a no-kill animal facility.

The convention is for members only. However, on Saturday, June 25 from 3-6 p.m., and on Sunday, June 26 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., it will be open to the public free of charge.

At that time vendors will be offering an array of cat merchandise and collectibles.

Cat Collectors always welcomes new members. Membership is \$18 in U.S., \$21 Canada, and \$23 other which includes a bimonthly newsletter and catalog of collectibles. For information call 313-264-0285.

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