

9 Hackettstown scouts earn ranks, 18 receive merit badges

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Boy Scout Troop No. 158 in Hackettstown.(Courtesy photo)

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Nine scouts with Boy Scout Troop No. 158 in Hackettstown earned rank advancements and another 18 received merit badges during a quarterly Court of Honor ceremony.

The ceremony was held Sept. 25 at the First Presbyterian Chapel in Hackettstown. It recognized efforts made by the scouts throughout the summer.

Advancing to the scout rank after joining the troop was Ryan Due, Chris Flanagan, Matthew Kmetz and John Trinneer. Advancing from scout rank to the tenderfoot rank was John Trinneer and advancing from second class to first class was Jamie Bragg and Andrew Kmetz. Patrick Jolly also advanced from star rank to life rank. Justin Lemasters was awarded the silver palm and Reid Captain was awarded the second bronze palm. Additionally, 18 scouts earned the following merit badges:

- Tommy Buchanan: emergency preparedness, Indian lore, pioneering and rifle shooting.
- Reid Captain: archeology, archery, cycling, Indian lore, pottery and textile.
- Johnnie DeHuff: archery, canoeing and cycling.
- Ryan Due: archery, geocaching, leather work, mammal study, space exploration, swimming and weather.
- Chris Flanagan: home repairs, shotgun shooting and wood carving.
- Patrick Flanagan: automotive maintenance, citizenship in the world, signs and codes and wilderness survival.
- Kabir Mirza: canoeing, citizenship in the world, fishing, forestry and woodcarving and space exploration.
- Patrick O'Byrne: canoeing, citizenship in the world, forestry and woodcarving.
- Patrick Remick: citizenship on the community and music.
- Michael Thompson: rifle shooting and woodcarving.
- John Trinneer: astronomy, kayaking, leather work, rifle shooting, swimming and woodcarving.
- Alex Ward: archaeology, genealogy, radio and scouting heritage.
- Patrick Jolly: camping, environmental science, medicine, photography, pioneering, pottery, public health, traffic safety, wilderness survival and woodwork.
- Andrew Kmetz: archery, astronomy, Camping, citizenship in the world, cycling, environmental science, first aid, home repairs, music, personal fitness, pottery and reading.
- Matthew Kmetz: archery, astronomy, canoeing, Indian lore, kayaking, rifle shooting and woodcarving.
- JJ McFadden: Indian lore, kayaking, leather work, music, pulp and paper and woodcarving.

Tommy Buchanan and Michael Thompson also earned rifle shooting dime awards while Reid Captain earned the archery rainbow award.

Since 1960, Boy Scout Troop No. 158 has served the Hackettstown, Great Meadows and Allamuchy areas. Currently, there are about 30 active scouts, ages 11-17, involved in the troop.