

2017 REPORT TO THE NATION IN 2018

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

February 24- March 1, 2018

DELEGATES & BSA DESCRIPTIONS



Andrew Chin – Eagle Scout
Troop 228
Patriots' Path Council, Cedar Knolls, NJ

Andrew started his scouting journey as a Tiger Cub in Pack 228 of Morristown at Woodland School. He bridged over to the Boy Scouts, after earning his Arrow of Light in March 2007, joining Troop 228 at St. Peter's Presbyterian Church. He held various leadership positions including Assistant Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader, earned 27 merit badges and attained the rank of Eagle Scout on May 2016.

Andrew's Eagle Scout Project involved raising \$ 4,000 for installing 188 braille room signs to make Morristown High School more accessible to blind and visually impaired students. He involved 120 volunteers over 600 hours, assisted by the graduating class of 2015 donated money, the MHS Swim team held a swim-a-thon, the winners of the Film Festival donated their winnings and numerous friends, neighbors, and teachers made donations. He then held a Blindness Awareness Day where 13 exhibitors promoted awareness of the activities and daily living solutions for the blind and visually impaired.

Andrew also received the Scout Scholar Athlete Award in December 2016 and was awarded the Eagle Scout Scholarship award on January 2017 at the Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner. In January 2017 Andrew was asked to be a speaker at the Stars and Stripes Breakfast where he spoke about what Scouting meant to him. Andrew is currently a freshman at The University of the Sciences in Philadelphia where he is pursuing a 6-year Doctorate in Occupational Therapy.



Jeffrey 'Blake' Deaton – Eagle Scout
Troop 130
East Carolina Council, Kinston, NC

Blake joined Cub Scouts in 2007 and Webelos in Sept 2010, earning all 21 activity pins and the Arrow of Light Award. He crossed over to Boy Scouts in 2012 where he held various leadership positions, including Chaplains aide, Historian, and Webmaster. Blake earned his God and church Award and a total of 81 merit badges, with Silver and double gold palms. Blake was selected as the 2017 Glenn A and Melinda Adams Eagle Scout project of the year award for his eagle project "Wings for Autism- Giving God's special angles Wings". His project goal was to raise \$ 10,000 to build and equip a sensory educational room for autistic and special needs students. He was inspired by his twin brother Shane, who is blind and autistic. Blake's project received local and national attention. People magazine highlighted his project. His leadership raised nearly \$30,000. He built 2 sensory educational rooms, one at Morehead middle School and one at West Carteret High School, with funds set aside to provide repair and replacement costs for years to come. His project will help special needs children for years to come.

Blake starred as "OZ" in Croatan's High School's play "Wizard of Oz" and is an honor roll student and was recently recognized for academic excellence and his Eagle project at the recent Board of Education awards banquet. His troop has created a scholarship fund 'Blake Deaton Summer Camp Scholarship' to help youth to attend summer camp. Blake hopes to be a clinical psychologist to continue to help others.



**Bogan Alexander Garcia – Eagle Scout
Troop 275
Last Frontier Council, Oklahoma City, OK**

Bogan Garcia has been involved in Scouting since 2009, when he joined as a Tiger Cub. In Cub Scouts, he was a two-time Top District Popcorn Seller and two-time Top Council Popcorn Seller, and has taught hundreds of boys, including his younger brother, how to be successful salesmen. He crossed into Boy Scouts with his Arrow of Light, and since 2014 has served his Troop in numerous leadership roles. He currently serves as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He became one of the newest Eagle Scouts this month—February 17, 2018.

In the summer of 2017, he served as Crew Leader at Philmont Scout Ranch, before attending National Youth Leadership Training and National Jamboree. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow in Ma-Nu Lodge and serves on the Ceremonies Team. In school, he has been on the Superintendent's Honor Roll repeatedly, been a member of the Quiz Bowl team for six years, and has won numerous academic medals at the state level. Last year he was chosen Best All-Around Boy by his teachers on the criteria of citizenship, extra-curricular activities and academic achievement. He serves as Freshman Class President.

Bogan's ultimate career goal is to make a worthwhile contribution, actively exploring ways to achieve his goal in the fields of quantum physics and service in public office. He hopes to attend the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics as a junior, in preparation for applying to MIT.



**Sean Anthony Golding – Life Scout
Troop 649
San Diego-Imperial Council, San Diego, CA**

Sean Golding was born in Woodland Hills, Los Angeles and lived in Reseda till he was seven years old. He attended the Multicultural Learning Center which is a language charter school and was bilingual when he left in 2nd grade to move to San Diego. He lives in Escondido and is in the 8th grade at Bear Valley Middle School. He has been a WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leader for the last two years, allowing him to be a mentor to incoming 6th graders. He is a member of ASB (Associate Student Body) and plans on running for CASL (the California Association of Student Leaders) in April 2018. Sean is a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 649, serving as Senior Patrol Leader. He started in Cub Scouts as a Tiger in 2009 and progressed through to Arrow of Light and bridged to Boy Scouts. He likes earning merit badges, learning new things and enjoys the campouts and adventuring. He serves as a leader and as a counselor in the summer and working with younger kids including Cub Scout Day Camp and the local church camp. He has worked with his sister's Girl Scout troop their skills.

When he is not busy with scouts he is rehearsing for his next theatrical production. He has been involved in 12 productions in San Diego and working with multiple youth theatre groups. His favorite role was being Lumiere in the production of Beauty & the Beast, Jr. He has learned more confidence and stage presence that he feels helps him in other areas of his life and being a WEB & ASB leader where you must be a positive role model.

After school he participates in flag football, tennis and golf. His favorite food is sushi. His favorite hobby is playing chess, whether with his family or at the local library. Sean loves animals and has had a few lizards over the years. His tortoise, Crush, an African Sulcata, is his pride and joy, now weighing 30 pounds. Sean enjoys spending time with his family who is very active outdoors. He is an expert snow skier and is just getting into wakeboarding. He enjoys hiking, boating, surfing boogie boarding and generally anything that is moving and active outdoors. He is fascinated by the human mind and would like to be a brain surgeon or a lawyer.



**Anthony Peluso – Eagle Scout and National Order of the Arrow Chief
Troop 303
Tidewater Council, Virginia Beach, VA**

Anthony is a 19-year old from Virginia Beach, VA. Since elementary school he has loved getting involved in service to others, both through the scouts and other organizations. Growing up, Anthony was on the soccer, basketball, and tennis teams, and was also involved in student government, theatre, and church. In high school he served as National Honor Society President.

In scouting, he is an Eagle Scout, and Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow. Through his leadership abilities, he was elected to the position of National Chief for the Order of the Arrow, an honor camper society, centered around leadership and cheerful service.

Anthony is currently a Sophomore at Virginia Tech where he is studying Economics with a double-minor in Business Leadership and Political Science. After graduation, he plans to attend Law School and continue service to others.



**Mercedes Samantha Matlock – Quartermaster Sea Scout and
National Sea Scout Boatswain
Ship 059
National Capital Area Council, Bethesda, Maryland**

Mercedes' first leadership experience in Sea Scouts was as Ship 59's Boatswain Mate for Program in September 2011. As the Ship's Boatswain for Program, she organized ship meetings, and training and coordinated events. During that first year, she took part in several regional events such as Chesapeake Flotilla's Winter Training, Camp Lifeguard and Regional Sail off.

The following year in 2013, she was elected as her ship's Boatswain, focusing on their program of sailing and participation in the larger sea scouting community. She led her Ship's participation in the Nygard Regatta, the Regional Bridge of Honor, and Northeast Region sailing events. She also represented her ship at Flotilla Wardroom meetings and forged relationships with other ships flotilla. In 2013 and 2014, as Boatswain, her ship earned JTE Gold and the Northeast Region Commodore's Award of Excellence and finished 3rd and 2nd place in the Nygard Regatta, respectively.

In the 2015-2016, she served as Boatswain's Mate for the Northeast Region. During her term, she worked with the National Boatswain on Sea Scout's National Apparel Committee, and represented the Regional Boatswain at a host of courts and bridges of honor, and regional events. In addition, she served as a mentor to the leaders in her ship's quarterdeck and actively participated in its operations as the purser.

She served as the Northeast Regional Boatswain. During 2016, she met with youth leaders during all three of the Region's Sail Off events to promote the 2016 Koch Cup that resulted in ten teams from the Northeast Region competing in this event. In addition, she met with Sea Scouts at three Sea Scout Regional Training events to promote SEAL, and 17 Sea Scouts attended SEAL during 2016. In November 2016, she met with Sea Scout, Boy Scout leaders and Venturing Crew Advisors during Seabadge Course in Mystic, CT and provided an update on Sea Scouting in the Region and benefits of this program.

She currently serves as the National Sea Scout Boatswain and provides leadership as the top youth leader to all Sea Scouts across the country.



**Michelle Teresa Merritt – Venturing Pathfinder and National Venturing President
Crew 345
Spirit of Adventure Council, Milton, MA**

Michelle serves as the 2017-2018 National Venturing President. She was selected by a team of sixteen youth from across our nation to serve. She is from the Spirit of Adventure Council in Boston, Massachusetts. She joined Venturing at the age of fourteen to experience what the outdoors had to offer and was hooked!

Michelle sought out leadership roles within her crew and quickly became crew president. Looking for that next adventure, she decided to apply for an area position and was honored to serve as the Northeast Region Area 1 Venturing President. As the Area 1 Venturing President Michelle was able to start and lead the Venturing Officers' Association for her home council. After her term as president, Michelle was looking for the next challenge. This search led her to serve as the National Venturing Vice President.

Michelle has not only excelled within our Venturing community by earning her Silver Award, Pathfinder Award, and being awarded the council and area level Venturing Leadership Awards, she is also in school studying Chemical and Biologic Engineering! Michelle worked tirelessly as the National Venturing Vice President and currently leads the group as its youth president.



**Gitanjali "Anjanli" Rao – STEM Scout
STEM SCOUT St. Andrews, Lone Tree, CO
Denver Area Council, Denver, CO**

Gitanjali is 12 years old and is a 7th grader at STEM School Highlands Ranch in Highlands Ranch, CO. She was just recently named *America's Top Young Scientist of 2017* by the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge with a device to detect lead in water faster than any other current techniques. She is a Davidson Young Scholar since 2012, and has received several scholarships and awards for achievements in science, arts and community service. She has been in STEM scouts for 3 years, involved in promoting STEM-based activities in schools and other clubs.

Gitanjali has won awards for her writing in national and international contests. She published her first book at age of 9, called, "Baby Brother Wonders." The self-illustrated book, based on the story that won 2nd prize in the PBS national writing contest, described the world through her younger brother's point of view. She has also won first place in the International Aviation Art Contest for last three years in the state of TN. She is a "Times for Kids" Kid reporter for the current school year and writes articles for the magazine. Apart from writing and art, Gitanjali is part of a 4-H club and has participated and won in several public speaking and demonstration competitions.

Some of Gitanjali's hobbies include playing the piano, Indian classical dancing, vocal, swimming, fencing, and baking. She has been playing classical music for 7 years, as well as recently the bass guitar and the clarinet. She has been playing piano in hospitals or assisted living centers from the age of 4. For the last 5 years, she has been an active volunteer for the Children's Kindness Network, spreading an anti-bullying message. She conducts workshops in elementary schools, educating children about kindness. She loves to travel. She enjoys visiting countries and learning about their traditions and cultures. Some of her favorite countries to visit are Japan, Egypt, Spain, and Greece. When she grows up, Gitanjali aspires to study genetics and epidemiology in MIT. She hopes to keep writing, discovering, and sharing her knowledge in the future.



**Donnell Thomas – Wolf Cub Scout
Pack 188, South Haven, Michigan
Michigan Crossroads Council, Flint, MI**

Donnell is a Wolf Cub Scout from Pack 188 in South Haven, MI in the Wabano Council, headquartered in Kalamazoo, MI. He joined when he was 7 and has earned his Leave No Trace Behind Award and the Eclipse 2017 Award. He loves fishing, going to summer camp and racing cars in the Pinewood Derby.

His favorite hero in the comics is the Flash, since he is superfast and helps those in trouble. He also looks up to his grandpa, Jeffrey Dick, helping him to learn new stuff and earn badges. He also sets a good example for him to follow.

When he grows up, he wants to be a firefighter so he can help people to be safe and to help them when they get in trouble. His favorite subjects in school are reading and gym. His extracurricular activities include football, baseball, Scouts and church.



**Bailey Thompson – Law Enforcement Explorer
Explorer Post 198, Boulder City, NV
Las Vegas Area Council, Las Vegas, NV**

Bailey joined Law Enforcement Exploring in Boulder City, Nevada. Because of his interest in serving his community and country, he also joined the United States Army at the age of 17. He aspires to be a police officer.

Through his knowledge and work with law enforcement, he recently helped others at a recent concert in Las Vegas. A gunman was shooting into the crowd and he focused his efforts on saving lives with no concern for his own safety. He truly believes in helping others and using his training to make a difference in others.

When he is not involved with the Army or the Explorers, he enjoys bull riding, hunting, and fishing. He loves doing anything that gives him the chance to be in the outdoors.



**Eden Bernice Tillotson – Venturer
Crew 500 and Ship 1886
San Diego-Imperial Council, San Diego, CA**

Eden is Vice President of Venturing Crew 500. She has set up the administrative side of her Crew. She is President of the Venturing Officers Association of San Diego, and the Boatswain for Ship 1886

She has a lot of experience leading and organizing through girl scouts and other organizations. She has helped organize and lead large-scale activities. This past spring her Girl Scout troop hosted the 2017 Girl Scout cookie kickoff. They ran a program for her service unit, to teach how to sell cookies by setting up activities where the young girls learned about the product, safety, marketing, selling, and having spirit. Many parents and young girl scouts participated in their activities.

While she loves the Girl Scouts and will continue to obtain her Gold award, her heart is committed to the outdoors, the ocean, and to the truths found in the Boy Scout Law and Boy Scout Oath. Both her bronze and silver award in girl scouts focused on environmental issues. Since joining the Boy Scouts, she has spoken about invasive species and the need to keep our beaches clean. She has set up the "Leave No Trace- beach cleanup".

She has participated in Circle of Friends for 3 years, a program within schools where students have lunch with special needs children. She has witnessed bullying and discrimination first hand and stands firm against both. She is active with Girls in Science through BEWISE (Better Education for Woman in Science and Engineering) by attending STEM lectures. She has participated in the Boy Scouts' Middle School Explorer Club during 7th and 8th grade. This coed activity allowed her to see the possibilities of Venturing and Sea Scouts. She learned about maritime activities and got to volunteer in several events representing the Maritime Explorers.

She currently sits on the committee for University City High School financial budget and is currently working with a group of adults to determine LCAP programs for the San Diego Unified School District 2018. She is a rower for ZLAC and now on the varsity rowing team. She loves to hike and experience different cultures.

Eden earned her American Red Cross first aid and CPR certification, wilderness first aid certification through NOLS, and her certificate of Completion through the United States Power Squadrons America's Boating Course. Besides Venturing, she belongs to Sea Scout Ship 1886, serving as yeoman. She is a freshman at University City High School, taking an AP Environmental Science Course and other advanced courses. She plans on earning a degree in science, possibly majoring in epidemiology or neuroscience.



**Daniel Yu – Eagle Scout
Troop 209
Pathways to Adventure, Arlington Heights, IL**

Daniel joined scouting in 2009, became an Eagle Scout in October 2017. While in scouts, he has held the positions of Webmaster, Scribe, Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He was the software lead for the AMES for Space project through the troop which gave him the opportunity to send his project up into the ISS. He completed the National Youth Leadership Training course in 2014.

Outside of scouting he is a member of his school's Model UN club and has won 3 awards from various competitions. He is currently Vice President of the gaming club and organize tournaments for the club. Every Wednesday he volunteers at the local care center with his peers. At his church he volunteers as a small group leader for elementary school students and has run the tech booth for services.

Additionally, he has played the violin for 7 years and has won multiple Illinois Music Education Association (IMEA) awards as well as was Metropolis's music student of the year. He aspires to go into computer science after high school.



Dan and Allison Ownby – Host couple

One of Dan Ownby's earliest experiences as a Scout was meeting a couple of Scouts from the Netherlands at a Cub Scout day camp in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Now he is completing his second and final three-year term as a vice chair of the World Scout Committee that oversees more than 50 million Scouts in 164 countries. In 2011, Mr. Ownby became the youngest BSA member ever elected to the world governing body.

The 28-year Scouter is slated to serve as a BSA contingent leader at the 2019 world jamboree. He was deputy camp chief at the 2015 world jamboree in Japan and the chair of the 2009 Philmont International Representatives Conference. He is the BSA's international commissioner and chair of the International Committee.

He is a board member for the Sam Houston Area Council and was the chair for the 2010 SHAC JAM that brought 27,000 Scouts and Scouters to the Houston area in celebration of the BSA's centennial. He has made 16 visits to Philmont, serving as a participant, ranger and trainer.

Mr. Ownby, who counts becoming an Eagle scout as the Scouting achievement of which he is most proud, is a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow and has been recognized with the Silver Beaver Award, Youth of the Americas Award (Interamerican Region), and five international Scouting awards from Guatemala (twice), Japan, Venezuela, and Korea.

Mr. Ownby is president of West Shore Pipeline. He and his wife, Allison, live in Houston, Texas.

Allison R. Ownby, Ph.D., M.Ed. is Assistant Dean for Faculty and Educational Development at McGovern Medical School, a part of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. Allison provides educational expertise in curriculum design and development, learner assessment, and program evaluation for the medical education programs. Additionally, she is involved with faculty development in the areas of educational theory and practice, curriculum design, program and learner assessment, and feedback.

In terms of hobbies, Allison owns a horse, Fritz, and enjoys riding. She pursues a variety of exercise activities including walking, weight training, Pilates, and swimming. Dan and Allison attend theatre events in Houston (Alley Theatre and Theatre under the Stars) on a regular basis. They also enjoy traveling and cooking. They are proud owners of an Australian Labradoodle named Scout.

Other Adult Scouter Support:

Keith Christopher—Report to the Nation Delegation Director, Boy Scouts of America, Irving, Texas.

Effie Delimarkos – Communications Director, Boy Scouts of America, Irving, Texas.

Jeffrey Dick – Grandfather of Cub Scout Donnell Thomas, Chicago, IL.

Randy Piland – Photographer, Boy Scouts of America, Burlington, North Carolina.

Frank Reigelman - Report to the Nation Delegation Associate Director, Boy Scout of American, Irving, Texas.

Michael Roytek – Photographer, Boy Scouts of America, Irving, Texas.

Mike Surbaugh – Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America, Irving, Texas.

Lisa Surbaugh – Spouse, Chief Scout Executive, Irving, Texas.

Bryan Wendell – Senior Editor, Magazines, Boy Scouts of America, Irving, Texas.