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Pride in America

'Take Pride:' Boy Scout Troop 46, BLM honored for volunteer work in teleconference

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Maintaining hiking trails and assembling picnic tables may not seem all that glamorous, but when volunteer efforts are nationally recognized, a few minutes of fame can feel pretty good.

Boy Scout Troop 46 and the Roseburg Bureau of Land Management district's volunteer program received national "Take Pride in America" awards Monday afternoon in recognition of their volunteer services.

"Apparently, it was a pretty big award and I didn't realize that until today," Eagle Scout Nathan Barnett of Troop 46 said after appearing on a national teleconference headed by Interior Secretary Gale Norton from Washington, D.C., Monday.

The awards recognize specific volunteer projects for stewardship of public lands, including forests, grasslands and public parks. The awards are distributed in 12 categories, including school program, nonprofit organization, and corporation or business.

Norton addressed the 18 award winners, who will attend an official ceremony in Washington, D.C., in September, from around the country via teleconference. Troop 46 members and BLM representatives participated in the conference at the Douglas Education Service District building in Roseburg.

Norton said she was pleased to hear about the numerous volunteer efforts to enhance public lands throughout the country.

"This is what makes the 'Take Pride in America' program so rewarding," she said. "... I'm especially pleased to see the young people that are involved."


The teleconference, despite its occasional technological glitches and sound problems, gave the winners a chance to learn about each other's

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TV honors
Roseburg Bureau of Land Management employees Joe Ross and Jake Winn, on right screen, are seen with other winning groups in the "Take Pride in America" awards presentation Monday. Boy Scout Troop 46 and the Roseburg BLM district's volunteer program received national honors in recognition of their volunteer services. The awards were announced via a video conference at the Douglas Education Service District in Roseburg.
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projects.

"We're just really honored to be receiving this award today," Barnett said during the teleconference.

Troop 46 received its award in the youth or youth group category for its members' various efforts, including maintenance on the North Umpqua Trail and China Ditch trail.

Barnett's personal contribution to his troop's volunteer efforts involved building an emergency evacuation trail at Sunnyslope Intermediate School for his Eagle Scout project.

"They do a little bit of everything," said Tracey Parker, the troop's committee chair. She added that since 1993, the troop has accumulated about 20,000 hours of community service.

The district BLM, which nominated the troop for its award, also received an award in the federal volunteer program or project category for its collective volunteer program.

Over a 17-month review period, volunteers for BLM contributed about \$954,500 worth of work in areas including recreation, biological resources and environmental education.

District Volunteer Coordinator Joe Ross said even though volunteers don't give their time in search of recognition, winning the award is a "great honor."

"It just really makes all the efforts seem that much more worthwhile," he said after the teleconference.

He added that upcoming events including National Public Lands Day in September and October's national Make a Difference Day are the perfect opportunities to begin accumulating volunteer hours for potential "Take Pride in America" awards in the future.

"It's a great way to get started," he said.

Ross said he's pleased that both the Roseburg BLM district and Troop 46 won the awards because it shows both groups are fulfilling their goals to serve.

"It reinforces that our program is doing the right thing," he said.

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