

The Old Scout

History of Scouting in the U.S.A.

105th Anniversary: 2015

This brief history of the Scouting Movement is intended to give young scouts information about the early founders of Scouting and the rich traditions that make up the scouting program as they forge their own paths toward the rank of Eagle Scout.

History of Scouting, Part VI: Eagle Scout, Arthur Eldred

Arthur Eldred (1895 – 1951) joined scouting in 1910 soon after it was incorporated in the United States. He was a member of Troop 1 in Rockville Centre, Long Island: an area that would later become part of the Theodore Roosevelt Council of Nassau County. By mid-1912, he had earned the 21 merit badges required to be an Eagle Scout.

Arthur Eldred had to meet with several of Scouting's original founders for his Board of Review: Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard and James West. He received a letter from West announcing he had become the *first* Boy Scout of America to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, dated August 12, 1912.

Eldred later became a Troop Commissioner for his son's troop. His eldest son Willard achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in October 1944.

In 1965 the 500,000th Eagle Scout was presented. The ranks reached one million by 1982, and two million by 2009. The National Eagle Scout Association was formed in 1972 to recognize the achievements of Eagle Scouts and encourage more scouts to strive to reach scouting's highest rank. It also sought to get more Eagle Scouts (as adults) re-involved in scouting.

Several years ago, Troop 201 participated in the dedication of a memorial in Rockville Centre honoring the 100th anniversary of Arthur Eldred's Eagle Scout award.

A short list of some well-known Eagle Scouts includes:

Neil Armstrong: astronaut

Gerald Ford: President of the United States of America

Michael Bloomberg: former Mayor of NYC

Mike Rowe: *Dirty Jobs* on Discovery Channel