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# Southland Students Choose Community and School for Eagle Scout Projects

Achieving the recognition of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America is one of the highest honors bestowed on a young man as a scout. The effort to achieve this honor requires commitment, dedication, and hard work from the young men who advance to this ranking. Since 1912, approximately 2 million Boy Scouts have earned the Eagle Scout rank. Today only 5 percent of all Boy Scouts with an average age of 17 years old achieve this recognition. Southland Academy is privileged to claim several of the local Eagle Scouts as their own.

Last spring, two Southland students began the final

steps of their journey to reach this achievement. To earn the rank, a Boy Scout must progress through five ranks before becoming eligible for Eagle Scout ranking. The scout is required to obtain 21 merit badges that represent the areas of emphasis that membership instills in the Boy Scouts of America. The BSA program builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. An Eagle Scout candidate must plan, develop, and give leadership to a service project for any religious organization or any school or community. They are required to work with respective groups for approval and project coordination, design and/or execute the project, as well as raise the funding to complete the named project. Andrew Carroll, of Troop 21, chose a project in his community and McClain Cummins of Troop 26, chose his school to be the recipient of his project.

**Andrew Carroll** is the son of John and Beth Carroll of Americus. He is a 10th grader at Southland and been a member of the Boy Scouts since 1999. Andrew chose Joyce Myers Park and constructing a foot-bridge as his project. After the tornado in 2007 ravaged the park, Andrew and his family began assisting with the restoration project. He often played there when he was young and wanted to do what he could to help revitalize the park where others could play. In preparation, Andrew worked closely with Mrs. Trish Popwell. The design of the bridge and plans had to be approved by the City of Americus and Park Commission. Andrew's project took over 120 hours to complete. He was recently awarded his Eagle Scout status in the Boy Scouts of America.

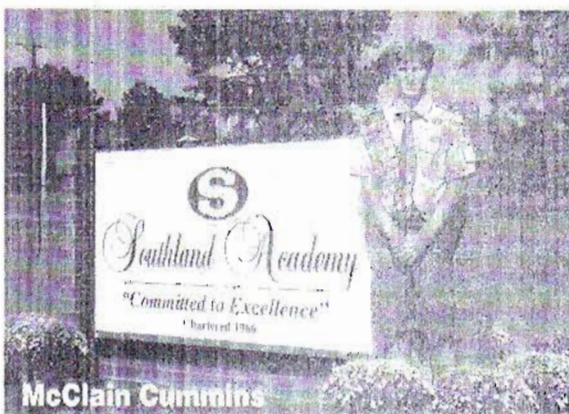
**McClain Cummins** is the son of Pam and Craig Cummins of Americus and a 9th grader at Southland. He has been an active member in his troop since 2000. McClain chose his school's sign as his project. The sign was in need of extensive repair or being replaced having

been another Eagle Scout project almost 25 years ago of another Southland student. Hearing that the PTO also wanted to tackle this endeavor, McClain asked to spearhead the effort on behalf of PTO and took the request to Southland's Board of Trustees for final approval. McClain designed the sign finalizing the plan with the expertise of a local sign company and had both groups mentioned approve of the idea. McClain is soon to receive his Eagle Scout ranking.

The projects chosen and completed by these young men exemplify the purpose of the BSA and requirement of an Eagle Scout Project. The prestigious rank is not easily achieved and requires a young man to be a leader, committed, and diligent to complete the task. "Southland has been the recipient of several Eagle Scout projects in the past and certainly can boast that we have worked with our scouts to promote their effort. On behalf of our school, we congratulate these young men on what they have accomplished in the Boy Scouts of America," stated William Stubbs, headmaster at Southland.



Andrew Carroll



McClain Cummins

## Southland Academy

Commends our students and parent scout leaders who participate in the local scout troops of the Boy Scouts of America.

We thank those in our community and the parents who continue to support these young people as they develop exemplary character, citizenship, and fitness.



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# Boy Scouts of America mark 100 years

## A brief history of Troop 21, Americus

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This year -- 2010 -- is a landmark for the Boy Scouts of America organization, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary throughout the year.

We congratulate all the local Scouting organizations on this anniversary.

We have chosen to focus on Troop 21 because it is the oldest Scouting group in Sumter County, celebrating its 90th birthday.

By J. MICHAEL GREENE

AMERICUS — This year, 2010, is the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouting in the United States. Americus has a long and proud history of scouting beginning with what is now Troop 21.

Troop 21 (then Troop 1) was chartered on March 2, 1911. The Troop has been continuously chartered since that time making it the oldest continuously chartered troop in Americus and one of the oldest in the country. The charter is signed by two famous scouts: James E. West as Chief Scout Executive and Dan Beard as the National Scout Commissioner and the original is on display at the Troop 21 scout hut. The American Legion sponsored the troop for the first two years, after which the Kiwanis Club of Americus took over as sponsor. The Kiwanis Club has been the sponsor ever since.

However, there is more to the founding of Troop 21. In June 1914, the Rev. J. A. Thomas, pastor of First Methodist Church, led a group of Americus boys in what was a scout-like organization known as a Camp. It is not known if this group was registered with the Boy Scouts of America and it was only active for about a year. The first known application for a charter of an Americus Troop with the Boy Scouts of America was submitted to the National Council on December 23, 1918. George O. Marshall, the County agent, was the chartering Scoutmaster. The charter for the Americus Troop arrived on Feb. 10, 1919, which was during the worldwide flu pandemic and the first troop meeting was delayed for several weeks due to the ban on public meetings in place in most cities in America.

So, how old is Troop 21? It depends on whether you require the troop to have been continuously chartered. Troop 21 has been continuously chartered since 1931. However, at least through the 1940s, Troop 21 counted its age based on the founding of the Camp by Reverend

Thomas in 1914. In 1948, at the 34th anniversary celebration of Troop 21, Henry Lumpkin and Frank Easterlin of the 1914 Camp attended as special guests and were referred to as "charter members of the troop." Thus, Troop 21 began in 1914, and died out a year or so later. It was then reborn in 1919, and stayed active until about 1924. It was then rechartered in 1931, and has been continuously chartered since that time with only the number changing in 1940. Therefore, the answer to the question is: in 2010, Troop 21 celebrates its 79th anniversary of continuous chartering and its 96th anniversary since founding.

In 1939, the formation of Chehaw Council pulled together a number of counties (or districts) each with its own Troop 1. In August 1939, the troops in the Sumter County District all changed their numbers to numbers in the 20s. Thus, Troop 1 became Troop 21.

During the 79 years of continuous chartering, Troop 21 has had the Eagle Rank awarded to 193 of its scouts. Troop 21 now ranks ninth out of all troops ever formed in the 100-year history of scouting in the number of Eagle Scouts. Troop 21 Eagle Scouts include national Distinguished Eagle Scout Award Recipient state Senator George



Submitted Photo

On June 20, 1920, Americus Troop XE "Troop 001 — Americus, Georgia" left for a trip of two weeks duration to attend an unofficial general Boy Scout encampment at Lake Junaluska, N.C. The trip was led by the Rev. Silas Johnson. XE "Johnson, Silas" George Walker went on the trip to assist Reverend Johnson. The trip was made by truck rather than train so that side trips could be made for sight seeing. The 14 scouts who went were: John Sheffield, Carl Humber, George Ellis, Sam Lott, Benjamin McMath, Walter Stapleton Sr., G. W. Harris, Charles Glover, Edwin Gammage, Robert Buchanan, Walter Reeves, James Furlow and Minor Walker. The entire group returned safe after a great trip on July 3. Since the photo contains more than 16 people, it must have scouts from other groups. Seated barefoot to the extreme left is Walter Stapleton Sr., and in the center foreground is Charles Glover. Daniel Beard, one of the founders of Scouting, is on the back row wearing the scout campaign hat. The photo is the property of Walter Stapleton, Jr. and is used here with his permission. Photo caption is taken in part from the Americus Times-Recorder, Dec. 19, 1960.



Submitted Photo

The first "Indian Ceremony" Court of Honor held by Troop 21 on July 21, 1952, at Camp Chehaw which is north of Americus. From left are John Argo, Doyle Bond and Harold Summerford.

Hooks and the new head coach of the NFL Buffalo Bills, Chan Gailey.

Much of the success of Troop 21 can be attributed to having two long-term scoutmasters, neither of whom had children in the troop. Charlie Hogg was scoutmaster for 30 years and had 69 scouts promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout. The current scoutmaster, Tommy McCurley, has been the scoutmaster since 1990, and has had 60 scouts promoted to the rank of

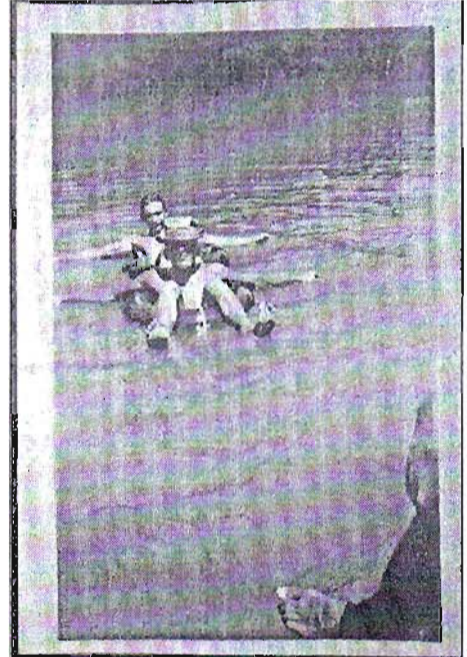
Eagle Scout.

More can be learned about Troop 21 at its web site: [www.bsagat21.com](http://www.bsagat21.com) and more can be learned about scouting in Americus and Southwest Georgia in the book *The History of Chehaw Council*, which is available free for viewing or downloading at: [www.chehawcouncilbook.com](http://www.chehawcouncilbook.com).

J. Michael Greene is a life-long Scout and supporter of Scouting. He is a

Chehaw Council XE "Chehaw Council" Eagle Scout from 1974, a Silver Beaver, a Vigil member of Immokalee Lodge, and he has received the Founder's Award from the Order of the Arrow. He has served in many adult capacities in Troop 21, Thronateeska District, Chehaw Council, and Immokalee Lodge. Currently he serves on the Executive Board and as historian for Chehaw Council.

The writer, who is also the co-author of *The History of Chehaw Council* and the



Submitted Photo

In 1949, the members of Troop 21 built rafts of innertubes and wood and drifted down the Flint River from Montezuma. The photo is of Scoutmaster Charlie Hogg being pulled behind one of the rafts. More photos are available on the Troop 21 website.

webmaster of the Troop 21 web site, wishes to express his deepest thanks to the Americus Times-Recorder for its graciously allowing him to use its articles and photos in both *The Americus Times-Recorder* and the scouts of the Americus area have relied upon each other since the beginning of scouting. Prior to the most people

having home phones, which was after World War II, the Americus Times-Recorder would respond instantly to insert changes in scout meeting or camping schedules so that scouts and their parents would get the news the next day. This was in addition to the wonderful coverage the paper has and continues to give scouting in Americus.

## All Boy Scout groups in Sumter County

These are all the Cub and Boy Scout groups in Sumter County.

• Pack 21 — Chartered by Americus Kiwanis Club, George Torbert, Cubmaster

• Pack 28 — Chartered by First Baptist Church, John Wilson, Cubmaster

• Pack 27 — Chartered by Americus Civitan, Terri Crawford, Cubmaster

• Pack 26 — Chartered by Mount Olive Baptist Church, Jimmy Josey, Cubmaster

• Pack 41 — Chartered by Friendship Missionary Church, Brian Terry, Cubmaster

• Troop 21 — Chartered by Americus Kiwanis Club, Tommy McCurley, Scoutmaster

• Troop 26 — First Baptist Church, Mike Ellis, Scoutmaster

• Troop 27 — Americus Civitan, Mark Crawford, Scoutmaster

• Troop 28 — Good News Ministry, Steve Woodson, Scoutmaster

## Troop 21 Eagle Roster

1. Frank Easterlin Jr. and Bob Arthur 1939
2. Billy Elam 1942
3. Terrell Horne 1943
4. Bob Gatewood 1943
5. Robert Ellis 1943
6. Jim Dudley 1943
7. Johnny Sheffield Jr. 1943
8. Roy Parker III 1944
9. Joel Mauk 1945
10. Lamar Dixon 1945
11. Jimmy Buchanan 1948
12. Ronald Mann 1948
13. Joe Ansley 1948
14. Dickey Morgan 1949
15. William Tietjen 1950
16. Jimmy Schmidt 1950
17. Bobby Halliday 1950
18. Harold Summerford 1952
19. Bill Morton 1952
20. Raymond Holt 1952
21. Paul Easterlin 1952
22. Gatewood Dudley 1952
23. Bob Culpepper 1952
24. Don Card 1952
25. John Argo 1952
26. Doyle Bond Jr. 1952
27. Brown Small II 1954
28. Hutton Barron 1954
29. Bob Ivey 1954
30. Richard Greene 1955
31. Oliver Oxford 1955
32. Henry Teaford 1955
33. Jimmy Loyd 1956
34. Douglas Morris 1956
35. Dan Willis 1957
36. Fred Morton 1957
37. Harry Dellinger 1957
38. Bill Moyd 1958
39. Schley Gatewood Jr. 1958
40. Lamar Teaford 1959
41. Wright Davis Jr. 1959
42. Richard Zimmerman 1959
43. Eddie Poye 1960
44. Bucky Turpin 1960

45. Parnell Odum 1960
46. Tim Furlow 1960
47. Walter Rylander Jr. 1960
48. Oscar Bryan 1960
49. Thad Wallis 1960
50. Randy Jones Jr. 1961
51. Tom Purdue 1961
52. George Hooks 1961
53. Wayne Clayton 1962
54. James Davis 1962
55. Ben Easterlin IV 1963
56. Earl Bell 1963
57. Bill McMath Jr. 1963
58. Russell Speer 1963
59. Harold Horne 1963
60. Jimmy Pond 1964
61. Gary Morris 1964
62. Frank Butler III 1964
63. Eric Brown 1964
64. Carter Broadhurst 1964
65. Charles Davis 1964
66. Steve Broadhurst 1964
67. Ricky Waitzman 1964
68. Phil Curtis 1964
69. Mickey McKinnon 1964
70. Lofton Odum 1965
71. Steve Pace III 1966
72. Herschel Smith III 1966
73. John Sheffield 1966
74. Winston Oxford 1966
75. Bill Perdue 1966
76. Larry Brown 1966
77. John Knowlton 1966
78. Milton Davenport 1966
79. Fred Turpin 1966
80. Paul White 1966
81. Charles Burgamy 1966
82. Charles Warren 1966
83. Jimmy Anderson 1966
84. Earl McCall 1966
85. Chan Gailey 1966
86. Roy Parrish III 1966
87. Johnny Horne 1966
88. Mickey Wise 1968
89. Hiram Knowlton 1968
90. John Gladden 1968
91. Frank Arnold 1968
92. Mike Brabson 1970
93. Scott Knowlton 1968
94. Clyde Winter 1968
95. Billy Shattles 1976

96. Mike Shattles 1977
97. Ed Shattles 1978
98. Richard Greene Jr. 1978
99. Tommy Parker 1980
100. Greg Slappey 1980
101. Chuck Reeves 1980
102. Jeff Brouwer 1981
103. David Cohen 1982
104. Jay Wanner 1982
105. Russ Carreker 1982
106. Bill Dudley 1982
107. Chris Tripp 1983
108. Neill Kipp 1983
109. Jeff Wall 1984
110. Stewart Rivers 1985
111. Chris Wall 1985
112. Jeff Pope 1985
113. Dee Jarrett 1985
114. Bill Stovall 1985
115. Chris Averett 1985
116. Ken Greene 1985
117. Travis Cliett 1985
118. Travis Hoxsie 1985
119. Carter Tharp 1985
120. Chris Hicks 1985
121. Tommy McCurley 1986
122. Grant Rowe 1986
123. Brandon Comer 1986
124. Barry Wiesner 1986
125. Wally Joiner 1986
126. Martin Stovall 1986
127. Tilman Oxford 1987
128. Chan Sheppard 1987
129. Brian Tye 1987
130. Charles Poole 1987
131. Tom Jones 1988
132. Tal Sheppard 1988
133. Chris Walker 1988
134. Jim Vaughn 1990
135. Macro Wiesner 1990
136. Kevin Underwood 1990
137. Lee Sumner 1990
138. Brandon Oxford 1990
139. Tee Gatewood 1991
140. John Edgemon 1991
141. James Edgemon 1992
142. Flynn Purvis 1992
143. Cullen Sheppard 1992
144. Ryan Cliett 1992
145. Griff Gatewood 1992
146. Ed Vaughn 1992

147. Brandon Oxford 1993
148. Jason Jones 1994
149. Thomas Sumner 1995
150. Justin Arnold 1996
151. George Bagley 1996
152. Griff Short 1996
153. Trey Myers 1996
154. Chris Barr 1997
155. Bardin Hooks 1997
156. Brian Parker 1997
157. David Greene Jr. 1997
158. Jonathan Bird 1997
159. T.J. Davis III 1997
160. Jamie Peace 1998
161. Todd Steiner 1998
162. Anton DeStefano 1998
163. James Barnett 1999
164. Jason Parker 1999
165. Jimbo Varnum 1999
166. Robert Kelley Jr. 1999
167. Craig Kelley 1999
168. John Mitchum 1999
169. Michael Myers 2000
170. Ben Andrews III 2000
171. Taylor Austin 2001
172. Charles Barr 2002
173. Bart Pond 2002
174. Steven Shellhouse 2002
175. Andrew Austin 2002
176. Andrew Heffernan 2003
177. Wesley Meadows 2003
178. Nathan Greene 2003
179. Dustin Wolcott 2003
180. Derek Wolcott 2003
181. Jimmy Whaley 2003
182. Garrett Faircloth 2004
183. Emory Greene 2004
184. Michael Whitten 2005
185. Justin Paramore 2005
186. Beau Carroll 2005
187. Thomas Ledbetter 2006
188. Ryan Lacy 2006
189. Wil Meadows 2007
190. Jake Pittman 2008
191. Skipped due to Bob Arthur being added as 1(b) in 2008
192. Doug Roseth 2009
193. Andrew Carroll 2009

## Troop 21 Scoutmasters

- (number of Eagles in parentheses)
- James Anthony Dundon 1931-1931
  - J. Stanley Burton 1932-1934
  - W. E. Gear (3) 1934-1935
  - Abe J. Davis 1935-1936
  - Olin L. Evans (1) 1936-1937
  - F. L. Butler 1937-1938
  - Charles Hogg (69) 1938-1945
  - John Pope (2) 1945-1945
  - Charles Hogg 1945-1967
  - Marion James 1968-1969
  - Earl Williams 1970-1971
  - Clyde Winter 1971-1973
  - Norman Rymes 1973-1974
  - Bill Wages 1974-1978
  - Richard Greene 1978-1982
  - Wade Barr 1982-1987
  - Bill Krenson 1987-1990
  - Tommy McCurley (60) 1990-current