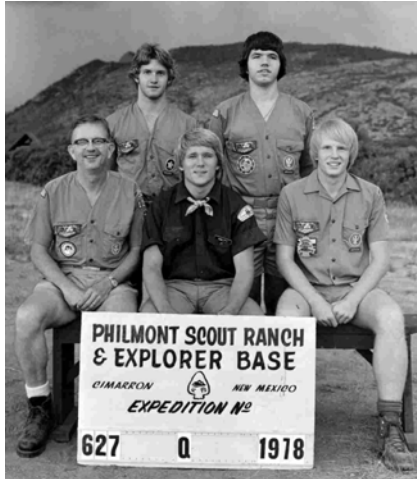


# Jon Harris

## Troop 124 Eagle Scout, 1977

May 2007



▼ Troop 124 Philmont Trek 1978  
Front: Crew Adult Leader Nat Harris III,  
Philmont Ranger Robbie Smith, Jon Harris  
Back: John Williams, David Harris



▲ Sean H., Jacob W. and Jon Harris, resting during a steep 1000' incline hike, up to the Appalachian Trail in PA, September 2006



▲ Scoutmaster Jon Harris and son Sean, at a Troop 48 Eagle Scout Court of Honor, April 2007

### AS A SCOUT IN TROOP 124 IN THE 70's

I was an active scout in Troop 124's Confederate Patrol, from 1971 to 1978, with John Williams and Ross Alexander being two of my scout contemporaries. Memorable leader training was a week at Golden Acorn Leader Training at Camp Cherokee, and learning from in-troop leaders and older scouts like my brother Mark. As patrol leader, I hopefully helped future Eagles David Brauss, Kirk Lola and Jon Dahlander develop their scout skills. I was fortunate to go to Philmont Scout Ranch twice; with Mark and my father in 1976, and again in 1978 with my father and younger brother David. Feeling the pressure of possibly being passed in rank by David, struggling to find momentum in my advancement--mostly due to my being distracted as a hard-core soccer player--and yes, wondering if being an *Eagle Scout* was really worth all the effort, I eventually got my act together. My Eagle Service Project was organizing a small crew of scouts to design and build check dams and other erosion controls, at the Episcopal Diocese Camp at Lake Texoma. David and I completed our respective Eagle Scout requirements in 1977, and we shared our Eagle Court of Honor. I also became an O-A Ordeal and Brotherhood Member as a scout in the Llanos Clan of Mikanakawa Lodge 101.

Thanks to the adults' dedication to Scouting, and a good group of older scout leaders, I have many fond Scouting memories. Summer Camp recollections as a young Scout include stabbing the palm of my hand while inexpertly coring an apple (couldn't swim after that); and diligently practicing my Lifesaving Merit Badge's 20-seconds clothes removal at home, in order to help ensure later success at camp. Later, as an older scout, some summer camp mischief included sneaking into the camp staff's area in the early morning hours, with Jay Fowler and a couple of scouts from another troop, and setting off the staff's primed and ready-to-fire Wake-Up Cannon at 5:30am--well in advance of their regular 6:00am camp-wide cannon reveille. Another memory is my attempt to disguise my blue-eyes and blond-red hair, in order to "sell" my role as an Indian Chief at Camp Constantine's O-A tap-out ceremony. I hoped that my troop's members wouldn't recognize me (...didn't work). And, that memorable ceremony included canoeing with torches across the lake, with an awesome cliff-top bonfire behind us on the far side of the lake opposite the camp. One summer's troop-organized, week-long Canoe Trip down the Buffalo River in Arkansas is another fond Scouting memory.

Influential older Troop 124 Scouts included my patrol leaders (and later SPLs) Curt Smith and Gerry Dahlander. My father, ASM & Advancement Chairman Nat Harris III, and SM Dr. Bruce O'Neal, were the most visible of our camping-active adult scouters. Many of the Troop Committee's parents sacrificed unrecognized hours on behalf of our troop's scouting program. My mother, Sue Harris, actively helped my brothers and me be *always* properly uniformed, and prepared and equipped for troop activities. And after my days as a boy scout were completed, she kept my scouting relics intact for years, until I again became active in Scouting.

### SCOUTING'S INFLUENCE & PRESENT DAY

Practical skills learned in Scouting, such as teamwork, planning, graphics, and presenting in front of an audience, were later applied during college. Probably influenced towards the profession by completing Architecture Merit Badge, and by high school drafting classes, I received a Bachelor of Architecture with Honors, in 1983 from the University of Texas at Austin. I have been a Registered Architect since 1987, and have been employed since 1993 with Ignarri-Lummi Architects, Cherry Hill NJ. I previously worked in Austin and San Marcos TX, Chelsea MA, and Philadelphia PA. Now married to Lezle since 1989; with daughters Kaitlin (16) and Eile (11); and son Sean (14). We reside in Tabernacle NJ, on the western edge of the ecologically fragile and vast New Jersey Pine Barrens, which offers nearby hiking, biking, canoeing and camping opportunities.

### ADULT LEADER IN SCOUTING & OUR TROOP TODAY

Cub Scout and Webelos Den Leader 2000-2004. Medford Lakes Troop 48 Assistant Scoutmaster in 2004, and Scoutmaster in February 2006. My son is a Star Scout; served as SPL; and he attended Florida Sea Base in 2006. Troop 48 has 52 scouts in 2007. Some of Troop 48's stand-out campouts have included US Military Academy at West Point NY (2005); the 94<sup>th</sup> Pilgrimage and Encampment at Valley Forge PA (2007), and whitewater rafting on the Lehigh River in the Pocono Mountains in PA (2007). Summer Camps have been repeat visits to BSA Camp Ockanickon, in Pipersville PA. We are now planning two troop crews, with 15 scouts and 4 adult leaders, heading for Philmont Scout Ranch in 2008. Troop 48's website is [www.medfordlaketrop48.com](http://www.medfordlaketrop48.com).