

M. ROBERT MARKS
1565 Obey Street • Pittsburgh, PA 15205



OFFICIAL DATE OF QUARTERMASTER AWARD: January 9, 2010

BRIDGE OF HONOR DATE: April 11, 2010
Flag Plaza, Pittsburgh, PA

PARENTS : Lucille M. Olszewski
Michael R. Marks

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE QUARTERMASTER AWARD:

The Quartermaster Award, which stands for excellence, goes to the young adult who attains the highest rank in Sea Scouting. Only 25 Quartermaster's were approved last year. When compared to an average of 52,000 Eagle Scouts, the difficulty and rarity of this accomplishment becomes evident.

The award is a reminder that as a ship needs a rudder, a compass, and a moving force to reach its destination, so an individual must be physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight to achieve worthwhile goals in life. It represents fulfillment and results from a young adult's determination to reach goals that he or she has set and achieved in spite of difficulties along the way.

More info: www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Venturing/Awards/quarter.aspx

WHAT IS SEA SCOUTS?

Sea Scouts is a specialized segment of the older youth, coed Venturing program of the Boy Scouts of America, which was organized to promote better citizenship and to improve members' boating skills and knowledge through instruction and practice in water safety, boating skills, outdoor, social, and service experiences, and knowledge of our maritime heritage.

Sea Scout units, called "ships," focus on sailing and cruising either sailboats or power vessels. During the boating seasons, Sea Scouts learn to maintain and operate their vessel, with a focus on learning the safe and proper methods of handling boats. Sea Scouts also learn the meaning of buoys and lights, how to take advantage of wind and tide, and how to drop anchor or approach a dock.

More info: www.seascout.org

ADDITIONAL AWARD TO BE PRESENTED:

On April 11, 2010, Robert will also be presented the William T. Hornaday Award – Silver Medal for exceptional and distinguished service to conservation and environmental improvement.

More info: www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Awards/HornadayAwards.aspx

QUARTERMASTER LEADERSHIP SERVICE PROJECT

To receive the Quartermaster Award, a Sea Scout must demonstrate an expert level of skill in the areas of watercraft and seamanship – and then he or she must teach that skill to others. Additionally they must plan, develop, and give leadership to a service project for any religious organization, school or community organization. (similar to the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project). Below is a recap of Robert's Quartermaster Project:

In September 2009, Robert repaired three sections of trail at the Wildflower Reserve at Raccoon Creek State Park. The largest portion was the removal of an old stairway that was crumbling down the hillside and creating a safety hazard. The other two sections involved repairing the underpinning of a foot bridge and creation of a new section of trail where the old section had been washed away. The volunteer work during the actual project was nearly all manual labor.

In order to maintain a strong element of training and education, the Boy Scout Soil & Water Conservation merit badge was offered to all Scouts who participated. The recently completed trail work completed was used as immediate examples of good practices.

ABOUT M. ROBERT MARKS:

M. Robert Marks has been involved in Scouting for over 12 years. In addition to the Quartermaster Award, he has earned a several other awards including Eagle Scout, the Venturing Silver Award; William D. Boyce Award, the Venturing Leadership Award and the Venturing Ranger Award. He also earned the James M. Stewart Good Citizenship Award, The Freedom Trail Award and the US Heritage Award.

Outside of Boy Scouts, Robert earned The Congressional Award–Gold Medal, two (2) President's Volunteer Service Awards–Gold, the Presidential Champions Award–Gold and the OLSH Helping Hands Award–Platinum Level.

Through various Scouting programs, Rob has travelled the United States. He built portage trails in the boundary waters of Minnesota, built new hiking trails in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico, cleaned-up Big Munson Island and worked on the coral reef in the Florida Keys, built trails in three national forests: Bridger-Teton (Wyoming), Shasta Trinity (California) and Washington-Jefferson (Virginia). He also biked the C&O Canal, hiked portions of the Appalachian Trail, sailed the Chesapeake Bay, backpacked and camped in the Grand Canyon, rafted the Colorado River, climbed the Red Rocks National Park, swam in Lake Mead, hiked The Narrows and Zion National Park and ran the rapids of the New River Gorge.

In the fall of 2009, Robert was a short term staff member at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland which enabled him to travel throughout Europe for four months. He is scheduled for a similar staff assignment at the Suncheon Asia-Pacific Scout Centre in South Korea this fall.

Robert is in his first year at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania studying engineering. He completed his EMT certification last fall as well as his Adventure Diver PADI certification last summer. Mr. Marks continues to volunteer as an adult on Scout training staffs, is a member of the BSA Speakers' Bureau and an Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 358, Coraopolis, PA.

PICTURES & MORE INFORMATION: MRMarks@verizon.net (412) 956-7117