Yokosuka Boy Scouts recognize their own

Story and photo by Paul Long, CFAY Public Affairs

Scouts from Yokosuka's Troop 35 recite the Scout's Oath and the Scout's Law during an awards ceremony Sept. 24. Sixteen scouts were presented various awards and merit badges during the ceremony.

Under dark, overcast, and windy skies, Boy Scouts of Troop 35, their parents, friends and family members, gathered for a quarterly "Court of Honor" awards ceremony Sept. 24 beneath the gazebo at Berkey Field on board Fleet Activities (FLEACT), Yokosuka.

Jeff Oakey, Scout Master for Troop 35, said that the scouts earn merit badges by fulfilling specific training requirements during their campouts, meetings, and other activities during the year. "It's also an opportunity for the community to come together. It usually ends up with some kind of a meal," Oakey said.

Oakey said 10 scouts received awards during the ceremony. The scouts who received awards were:
Andrew Jones – Family Life; Peter Jones – First Aid; Matthew Kim – Camping; Ian McCann – Communications; Randall and Ryan Riffle – Citizenship in the Community; Ronald Riffle III – Personal Fitness and Communications.

Curtis Blunt, Immanuel Burns, Kyler Griggs, Cole Oakey, Cameron Lett, Richard Kriener, Alexander Long, Christopher Martin, Gavin Roche – all received the Firem'n Chit and Totin' Chip. Cole Oakey also was awarded the Family Life badge.

Lett was promoted to Tenderfoot and Cole Oakey to First Class ranks.

"The cool thing about scouts, especially these scouts, is that this is a scout run organization," Scoutmaster Oakey said. "You have 13, 14 year old boys leading a group of 35, that's what I like about these scouts."

According to Scoutmaster Oakey, scouting teaches outdoorsman-ship, spiritual development, academics, leadership, and community service. "The scout's motto is 'Do a Good Turn Daily' and a lot of is service…they have to do service projects, which is one of the requirements to earn merit badges," he said.

Oakey also mentioned that all scouting organizations (Boy, Girl, Cubs, and Webelos) at Yokosuka will be having an open registration day on Oct. 5 from noon until 3 p.m. in rooms 216 to 219 at the Community Readiness Center (CRC).

Troop 35 meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 217 at the CRC. For further details about Troop 35 email: Troop35Japan@gmail.com.