

Boy Scouts Work to Preserve Tugboat.

Local Boy Scout Works to Preserve Historic Tugboat, Following Four Generations of His Family

March 20, 2006 Philadelphia, PA How many teenage boys want to spend their weekend painting an old tugboat? That's exactly what a group of Boy Scouts will be doing for two weekends in March (March 4 & 5 and March 18 & 19) as they help Christopher Rickards earn his Eagle Scout badge. Chris and his crew from Troop 225 of ST. Joseph's Church in Aston, PA will be working on Philadelphia's historic tugboat, Jupiter.

Chris' great grandfather and grandfather earned their living working tugboats. They worked aboard Jupiter when it was a working tugboat operated by the Independent Lighterage and Towing Company and maintained the tug. Four generations of his family have dedicated themselves to Jupiter's preservation. So it's not surprising that Chris chose to do his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project aboard Jupiter. His project involves scaling and chipping rust from Jupiter's bulwark then priming and painting the metal. There is a lot of rust. It takes about 1 hour to scale and prime paint 1 linear foot of bulwark. The tug has close to 200 linear feet of bulwark needing scaling and painting. Chris has recruited his fellow scouts for the first two weekends in March to work on the Tugboat. The boys will not only help preserve the Jupiter for future generations but will learn about life aboard by spending the weekends on the tug,

Chris holds the Life Scout rank. He wants to earn the Eagle Scout rank – the highest rank in scouting. To earn this rank he needs to meet several requirements, the major one is to complete an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. Chris had to plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community. The project idea must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, his Scoutmaster and troop committee and the council or district.

Chris has dreams of going into the USCG Academy. Getting his Eagle will definitely help him when he applies. The Philadelphia Ship Preservation Guild and the crew of the Tugboat Jupiter are proud to help Chris achieve this goal.

JUPITER, a century old tug owned by Penn's Landing Corporation, listed in The International Register of Historic Ships, is operated and maintained by the Philadelphia Ship Preservation Guild, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to preserving Philadelphia's historic vessels. Now, over 100 years old, JUPITER known as the "Living History Symbol of the Delaware Valley's Proud Maritime Tradition" takes part in educational and community outreach programs, festivals and boat parades. JUPITER offers visitors an opportunity to come aboard and experience a working tugboat.