



Eagle Scout

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Project Remember

**9/11 Memorial Lands
Florida Eagle Top Honor**

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



Career Matters

Some Eagles Have Taken an Unusual Route to Success

By Mark Ray

Mark Ladwig Pairs Skater

In middle school, were you ever embarrassed to admit that you were a Boy Scout? [C'mon, fess up!] If so, consider Mark Ladwig's plight. At age 12, the North Moorhead, Minnesota, resident gave up hockey for figure skating.

"There was the occasional idiot in the hall, but those guys? I wish the best for them now," Ladwig said in an interview.

Those guys may be wishing Ladwig the best in return these days. In the past few years, he has become one of the world's best pairs skaters. He and partner Amanda Evora were the top U.S. pair at last year's Winter Olympics, placing 10th overall. During their first four 2010-11 events, they consistently finished in the top 10 in the world.

Despite his success, Ladwig, 31, got into figure skating for a simple reason. His youth hockey team had room for two goalies, and he was third on the depth chart. Although one of those goalies eventually got hurt, making room for Ladwig, it was too late. "Ice skating was going so well, I told them, 'Thank you, but no thanks,'" he said. (He still enjoys the occasional pick-up hockey game, however.)

By his senior year in high school, Ladwig was skating an hour a day, but he somehow found the time to letter in band, drama, swimming, and track. (A pole-vaulter, he had a personal-best effort of 11½ feet.) He also had an active Scouting career in Troop 638, where he enjoyed winter camping, survival training, and advancement. Not surprisingly, he didn't exactly break a sweat when he earned the Skating merit badge.



Paul/Michelle Harvath

"I'm lifting this girl up over my head with one hand, and I'm on a quarter-inch of steel. I'm turning, I'm going to set her down, and I'm smiling the whole time."

—Mark Ladwig

He breaks a sweat on the ice now. While figure skating is perhaps the world's most graceful sport, it's hard work, too. "I'm lifting this girl up over my head with one hand, and I'm on a quarter-inch of steel. I'm turning, I'm going to set her down, and I'm smiling the whole time," he said.

He breaks a sweat off the ice as well. To support his career—which has cost him and his family more than \$300,000 to date—he works as a skating instructor, disc jockey, and occasional Zamboni driver at the Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex in Florida, where he and Evora train. He has also

worked as a busboy, a waiter, and a performer at Radio City Music Hall—anything to keep his dream alive and his credit-card bills more or less under control.

Ladwig's biggest challenge was finding the right skating partner. He had several partners in his first few years as a competitive skater, but none seemed to last. After volunteering at the 2002 Winter Olympics, he undertook a cross-country odyssey to find a new skating partner, stopping in Colorado Springs, Minneapolis, Detroit, and Chicago to skate with prospects. Along the way, he slept in his car and on a friend's floor.

Although he lived out of milk crates instead of a backpack, the principles were the same as he learned in Scouting. "I would unpack, and it was just one milk crate, two milk crates, three milk crates, sleeping bag. Roughing it was no problem," he said. "My wife always laughs at me. She's an interior designer; the finer things in life come very easy to her. I'm like, 'Hey, whatever.'"

Finally, his coach at the time, Ron Ludington (who won bronze at the 1960 Olympics), connected him with a colleague, who then connected him with Evora. They hit it off both professionally and personally and have been skating together ever since. "It's a tight relationship. We're there for each other both on and off the ice. We're each other's biggest cheerleaders," he said.

Ladwig and his wife, Janet Beverly, had their first child, Holden, in September 2009. While Holden didn't get to watch his dad skate in the 2010 Olympics, there is little doubt he'll grow up understanding that real men wear sequins, skates, and Boy Scout uniforms.

Career Matters



Scott Trimble *Location Scout*

For movie fan and science-fiction geek Scott Trimble, Marin County, California, was the perfect place to grow up.

"I was always exposed to the film industry," he said recently. "A lot of the kids I knew were related to people who worked at Industrial Light & Magic or Pixar or LucasArts."

By age 13, Trimble joined the movie industry, albeit in a small way, by working as an extra on the film "Radio Flyer." A few years later, he combined his love of the movies and Scouting by designing a Star Wars-themed patch for the Marin Council's contingent to the 1993 National Scout Jamboree, the second jamboree he attended. His patch, among the first jamboree shoulder patches to use movie characters, helped establish a trend that continues to this day.

After graduating from high school in 1995, Trimble enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley. He started as a pre-med major and later switched to archaeology, but he never forgot his first love. He kept working as a movie extra,

started a website that documented movie locations, and completed an internship at the Oakland Film Office.

It was at the film office, which markets Oakland to the film industry, that Trimble started meeting location scouts and realized that their career was his calling. He'd long been interested in the history of movies; as a location scout, he could help make that history. He worked in the Bay Area for several years, then moved to Los Angeles in 2004.

As the name implies, a location scout finds locations for movie shoots. One of the first people hired for a project, the scout works with the production designer to find locations that work both artistically and financially.

"It's got to be a place where the scene can take place, but it's also got to work within our budget and travel times and schedule," Trimble, 34, said.

On a typical project, Trimble starts by combing his archives of hundreds of thousands of photos, then branches out to the Internet, books and magazines, and local film commissions. He then goes out to likely locations to take new photos, which he presents to the production designer and director.

But finding locations is only half the job. Once filming starts, Trimble becomes a location manager, coordinating insurance, contracts with property owners, city and state permits, street closures and traffic control, parking, catering and bathroom facilities, security, site cleanup, and a host of other details.

Trimble deals with a diverse cast of characters every day—from property owners and bureaucrats to set dressers and directors—and he credits Scouting with teaching him essential interpersonal skills. "It gets you out there where you're working with all sorts of different types of people," he said.

His success shows in some of the locations he's secured. "I've been allowed to film in a lot of places that have never been allowed before just through my relationships that I've developed with the people who were there," he said.

Scouting also prepared Trimble for those times when there are no people around. "Usually when I'm scouting, it's just me," he said. "By the time the whole crew shows up, I've already laid all the groundwork and we have a medic on-site, and we have hotels nearby, and everything's established to make it as safe as possible. But early on, it's just me out there."

When scouting locations in Utah for the 2008 film "Star Trek," for example, he sometimes roamed 15 miles from the nearest town and three miles from the nearest road. "Boy Scouts really prepared me for that," he said.

After more than a decade in the industry, Trimble said he's thrilled to now be working on the sorts of movies he grew up watching, films such as "Star Trek," "Iron Man 2," "Transformers," and "Captain America: The First Avenger." He said it's "a dream come true."

On several of those films, his boss has been fellow Eagle Scout Scott Logan. "He's very honorable and somebody people can trust," Trimble said. "I think it also goes back to his Eagle Scout background."

Even in Hollywood, that means a lot.

Dante Fabiero

Animation Editor

Bored following a week of vacation in Australia last winter, Dante Fabiero fired up his computer and started emailing area colleges that teach animation. However, he didn't want to sign up for classes; he wanted to share his experience as an assistant animation editor for Fox Animation Studios in Los Angeles.

"To my surprise, every single school wrote me back and invited me," he said.

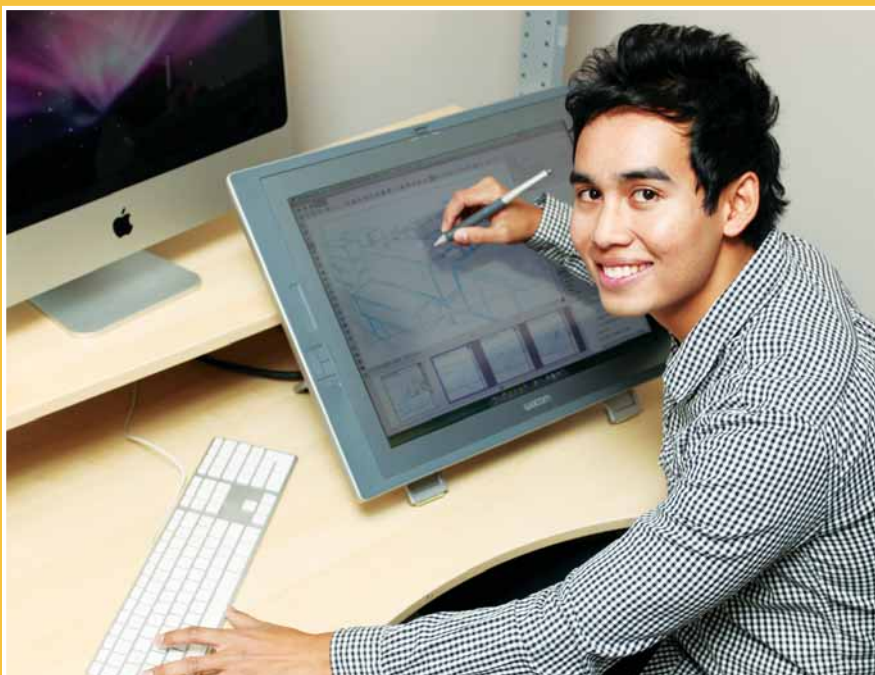
Fabiero's vacation quickly turned into a work trip as he visited schools to lecture on how to break into the animation industry. One school even flew him to other campuses across the country. His message at every stop was simple: Artistic ability will only get you so far; you also need people skills.

"When your degree is in fine arts or illustration, it's mostly about you working in your studio or your cubicle; you never have to work with anybody," he said. "The minute you go into the workplace, all of a sudden you're working with all these people. A lot of people feel weirded out by that."

That wasn't a problem for Fabiero. To paraphrase Robert Fulghum, all he really needed to know, he'd learned in Scouting.

Fabiero became a Cub Scout in San Bernardino, California, and remained in Scouting as his father's work with AT&T took him to Colorado, then Singapore, then back to Colorado. Although Scouting was different in each community, it became a common thread as he moved around the world. Highlights of his time in Scouting included traveling to other countries for outings, working on house-building projects in Indonesia, and leading his own Eagle project in Littleton, Colorado, where he built benches at a community park.

Although he had always enjoyed drawing, Fabiero planned to major in computer science at the University of Colorado at Boulder after graduating from high school in 2001. Following a less-than-stellar first semester, he transferred to California State



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—Dante Fabiero

University at Bakersfield and then the University of Southern California. He won an internship on 2006's "Curious George" and then joined Fox as a production assistant on "The Simpsons Movie."

Last August, at age 27, he became one of the animation industry's youngest assistant directors. Among the projects he's worked on are "King of the Hill," "American Dad," and "Family Guy." Up next is a new project featuring NBA star LeBron James.

Fabiero said he initially moved up based on his work ethic. He would show up on time and always ask his bosses for more work when he finished projects.

But moving past the "worker bee" stage meant calling on the leadership skills he had learned in Scouting. "If you can demonstrate that you have skills in guiding others and working as a team member, then you can

move beyond that," he said. "Skills like that are important if you want to move up."

The communication skills he learned while earning the Public Speaking merit badge also helped. Many people, he said, do poorly in job interviews and pitch meetings because "they get nervous, they forget what they're going to say or they say the wrong thing, and they're just not prepared for that interaction. I think I was always, always prepared for those interactions because one of the things I did in Scouting was I was always getting interviewed for things."

Like other Eagle Scouts, Fabiero said he works hard to embody the Scout Oath and Scout Law. While some people might think Scouting values would be out of place in Hollywood, he said every workplace recognizes and rewards people who are loyal, helpful, friendly, and courteous.

"I'm confident that as long as I follow the Scout Law and as long as I put those values into place in my life, that's going to keep moving me farther," he said.

Judging by his track record so far, he's probably right.

Are you an Eagle Scout with an unusual career? Email us at eaglescoutmag@scouting.org