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Troop 349 in Falls Church is a Gold Troop

January 4 2011 It was announced today that Troop 349 of Falls Church was awarded the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor for organizational preparedness - the **Journey to Excellence** (JTE) Gold Award. *"Troop 349 is proud to be part of a group of units in the area to receive this honor and it reflects the dedication and hard work of all of our scouts, leaders, and parents,"* stated Tony Uises, former Scout Master of the troop.

Instituted by the BSA last year, the JTE gold award is given to units that have followed a strict regiment of training, advancement, fiscal responsibility, and participation criteria. Troop 349 was founded with a desire to bring a hi-quality scouting experience that focuses on teaching leadership and community involvement to the youth of Falls Church. With 37 scouts, the troop has worked hard to provide that environment and will continue to maintain it going forward.

Troop 349 has a history of focusing on scout advancement and providing its boys multiple opportunities to do so. In January of this year the troop welcomed Special Agent Michael Mack, from the Bureau of Diplomatic Security to talk with the scouts on the first class trail. He discussed with the boys our constitutional rights and obligations as a U.S. citizen. Special Agent Mack has worked for both the county and the federal governments for over 30 years. He has served in various roles as a policeman and has been stationed overseas in Ethiopia, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Africa. The boys enjoyed his stories and everyone who attended learned a great deal about how our government works.

Leaders from Troop 349 spent a recent Sunday morning learning about team work and leadership from one of Falls Church George Mason High School's premier coaches: Julie Bravin, an extraordinary mentor for Falls Church City. Ms. Bravin has developed leadership techniques that consistently produce superior results in motivation, fulfillment, and top-level performance. Coach Bravin's record of team successes is extraordinary.

Boy Scout Troop 349, Falls Church City, was formed with the specific purpose of using scouting to teach leadership to youth. Ms. Bravin was gracious to present her winning philosophies to the adult leaders of the boy scouts. She delivered important lessons for our parents, youth, and our City. As adult leaders in the community, we thank and applaud both Coach Bravin and our school district for such superlative talent and dedication.

ABOUT TROOP 349: The Troop is open to boys between the ages of 12 and 17, who have graduated from the fourth grade, and/or have received his arrow of light award. Boys desiring to join the troop are welcome at any time to attend a meeting and present themselves to the Scout Master for admission. Troop 349 meets every Tuesday evening at 7 PM between September and June at the American Legion Hall on Oak St. The troop web site contains more information about joining and what boy scouts is all about. Go to www.troop349.us and click on downloads to view the scout handbook.

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Special Agent Mack discusses the constitution with scouts from the troop during his visit



Coach Bravin discusses leadership principles during the troops monthly breakfast meeting at Anthony's Restaurant

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