

36 Sheldon Pl
Commack, NY 11725
Feb 25, 2026

Tall Clubs International Foundation Selection Committee,

I heartily recommend Wyatt Bode for the Tall Clubs International Foundation awards annual scholarship in memory/honor of Kae Sumner-Einfeldt, Virginia Linquist-Winker, Robert Rader, Carolyn Goldstein and Charles & Doris Chickering.

I have known Wyatt for at least 14 years through Scouting America, serving as his Assistant Cub Master in Cub Scout Park 403 and as his Scoutmaster and Committee Chair in Scouts BSA Troop 125. Most recently I was his Eagle Project mentor.

Wyatt is always upbeat. He puts himself forward to help with the many tasks around camp. Wyatt is not easily discouraged. Scouting events are designed to test and to build resilience. An outdoor event may experience rain or other weather which may interfere with whatever the scouts were trying to do. Wyatt is happy to cook in the rain or help push a sled in the deep snow or brutal cold, all with a smile on his face and encouraging those around him to do the same.

Wyatt is well respected by the other scouts and the adults in his troop. Wyatt has always gotten along well with all members of the troop. He has a great character and always acts uprightly.

Wyatt is reliable. We can rely on Wyatt to deliver anything which he committed to deliver without prompting, such as preparing a presentation to troop or cleaning cookware after a campout.

Wyatt has confidence and is self-motivated. He has the ability to look at himself, judge whether he is able to do something, commit to doing it, push through any obstacles, and accomplish his goals.

Wyatt earned his BSA Lifeguard certification at summer camp. He has taken on a role as a lifeguard at the local Y. In addition to his normal duties, he has been one of the lifeguards for both our troop and the council (county-wide) open swim over the past three years.

Wyatt served the troop for two and half years as historian. He wrote articles and posted pictures though his time in Scouts BSA about trips which the troop went on and events in which we participated. Wyatt also served as an instructor in the troop. He stood in front of the troop to explain and talk through what a skill was and why it was useful. He then demonstrated the skill, guided them through using the skill with his help, and enabled the troop members to perform the skill on their own.

Once Wyatt decided to earn Eagle, he quickly decided that he wanted to help our local library, the Commack Public Library. He met with the director of the library and together they decided on a project to create raised plant boxes. The boxes were about six feet long, about 18 inches wide and about four feet high. The boxes were mounted on wheels so that the library could move them to where the classes would meet.

Wyatt then created, revised (quite a few times), and submitted the formal proposal for the project. He then created a very detailed plan for the project. To raise funds, he decided to have a car wash. That involved meeting with the owner of the business that would host him and recruiting the volunteers to work at the car wash. He made announcements at meeting, filled in a sign-up sheet, and when it was clear that would not yield enough people, ultimately called most of his volunteers to ensure that he had the correct amount of coverage at the event. He arranged for all the necessary materials to be present at the car wash. On the day, he showed his volunteers how to help direct positioning of those cars, to wash them, and how best to dry. He directed volunteers in a chicken suit and a bunny suit where to stand and how to flag down cars to get enough customers to raise the money that he needed for the project. He organized pizza and drinks for his volunteers.

Once the car wash completed, he purchased all of the materials for the planting boxes as he planned. He asked store owners and managers for discounts. He gathered all of the materials at his home. He then organized two main build days. Once again he had to recruit volunteers to help out. Once again, he ended up having to call his prospective volunteers to ensure that they arrived to help out.

He also organized a book sale at the library to help raise money for the project. He advertised the project locally. He organized the workers to lay out the books for sale, to organize them into topics, to continue to adjust the books as purchases were made, and directed a person to collect purchase fees.

Wyatt had no experience building this sort of project. However, he was able to think through and work with a variety of adults to come up a very detailed plan. To help ensure that he thought through items before starting, he planned down to the level that if he was not present, then one could use the plan to create the raised beds. He was present, of course, and lead the project on his own.

On each build day, Wyatt directed his group of volunteers to create the garden boxes. He directed a cutting station to cut the wood into the sections he needed. He directed multiple assembly groups to build the boxes according to his plan. When things did not quite fit the plan, he made adjustments to make it work. He had a limited amount of money for the project, so he had to be sure that he stayed within his budget.

He arranged for food and drinks for his work crews for each day.

Afterwards Wyatt mentioned that one of the hard things was learning how to keep his workers on task. He was able to keep his volunteers on task.

Once the boxes were assembled, Wyatt directed another day to attach wheels, apply weed cloth to keep soil in, transport the boxes to the library, and add soil to each box to allow for planting.

Wyatt was able to raise more funds than needed for building the boxes themselves. He used the extra money to purchase shovels and hand tools to allow the patrons to plant, and for the library to run program using minimal amounts of their own budget. The library uses the planting beds as part of their annual set of programs for their patrons. The planting boxes today are in the outdoor garden area just outside the library.

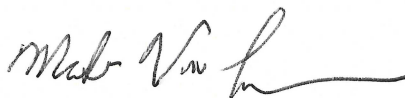
Wyatt documented the project as he went by taking pictures and writing down what he did and what he learned. Wyatt assembled all of that into a project report.

He did all those steps without prompting from his parents or other adults.

Wyatt persisted through his project to earn Eagle Scout rank at the start of his junior year. He has earned 38 merit badges. Whereas most scouts stop working toward advancement once they earn the rank of Eagle, Wyatt has continued to stay active and earned his third Eagle Palm two weeks ago.

Wyatt has become a fine young man and developed an outstanding character. He is an excellent example of what a Scout should be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Van Loon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Van Loon

Scouts BSA Troop 125 Committee Chair