

**Joe Donahoe:** This is Joe Donahoe again with the Fish and Wildlife Service, doing another podcast for the Service. Today, we are here with...

**Bruce Butler:** Refuge office Bruce Butler.

**Joe:** Ok, Bruce, and where do you work?

**Bruce:** I currently work at the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, located in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

**Joe:** Very cool. Puerto Rico, that's quite a trek to Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.

**Bruce:** Yes, it's hot and steamy, but it's been well worth the trip the past four days.

**Joe:** Well worth it indeed. The question I have for you is, you're an Eagle Scout, is that not correct?

**Bruce:** Yes, I'm an Eagle Scout. I earned my award in 1998.

**Joe:** Congratulations.

**Bruce:** Thank you.

**Joe:** Now what roles do past, well current Eagle Scouts play here, especially at the Jamboree to ensure that our future scouts will also achieve that rank?

**Bruce:** Well here at the Jamboree, I think a great part of the Service's mission is connecting the youth to nature. What a more perfect opportunity than the Boy Scout Jamboree where you have over 40,000 boys here from all walks of life, from all corners of the world, of the country, particularly, and a few international scouts. But here, we can talk about what we do in the Fish and Wildlife Service, and as I go around, and I've been talking to various troops and speaking with boys, telling them who I work for. They think that's cool. But when I tell them I'm an Eagle Scout, it's like wow! They're just in awe-struck that someone else is an Eagle Scout. At age 13-18, you don't really see the significance of being an Eagle Scout.

**Joe:** Right.

**Bruce:** But as I told many of the youth, once you get out of college, mid 20's, late 20's, you really recognize and see the importance, the significance of the Eagle Scout award. So this has been a great opportunity for myself as well as a few of my other fellow co-workers here at the Fish and Wildlife Service who are Eagle Scouts who are also here working at this exhibit to share about our agency but also we're all able to afford the opportunity to give back to the Boy Scout program and be a mentor and a role model for some of the youth coming through.

**Joe:** Ok, and I guess a quick follow up question is as an Eagle Scout, did that help out your career choice as a Fish and Wildlife officer?

**Bruce:** Yes it did. While I was a congressional intern, I had met someone who I had spoken with. I mentioned to him that I was an Eagle Scout. Well, he is also an Eagle Scout and he made some phone calls and found some vacancies that were available. He emailed them to me, and I applied, and I was successfully hired into the SCEP program. I started off working the Atlanta regional office, and from there, that's taken me all over, working all over the Southeast region to my current spot in Puerto Rico.

**Joe:** Wow, well very cool. I guess that teaches all the current scouts that Eagle is definitely more than just a rank.

**Bruce:** Correct.

**Joe:** Indeed. Well, great Bruce. Thank you very much, and we'll make sure we get more podcasts out to you listeners on our podcast page as the Jamboree continues. I'm Joe Donahoe and we're here at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia.