

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES



Each year **Binghamton Lodge # 70** honors students who have excelled academically or in community excellence. This year Esquire Bill Krasowsky, Inner Guard Bob Pflanz Jr, and members Crystal Stone & Kathy Barnett gave out eleven awards at five different elementary schools. Attached are pictures of the June 2015 moving up ceremonies for the Susquehanna Valley & Windsor Central



**Potsdam Lodge #2074** once again sponsored several inflatable rides during the Potsdam Summerfest celebration. The Lodge sponsored the rides for two days and approximately 700 children enjoyed the rides. The Lodge has sponsored the rides the past several years as part of the youth program. Elroy the Elk made appearances throughout the two days. He greeted children and their families and had his picture taken with numerous children and families. Elroy was also available during the annual Summerfest Parade and presented t-shirts to many children at the parade. Elroy is pictured with Potsdam Lodge member John Prosper and his grandchildren during the parade. The Lodge invests approximately \$7000 to sponsor the inflatable rides making this the Lodges most significant yearly community contribution.



**Lowville Lodge #1605** Annual Father—Son Banquet was a terrific success. A large crowd of fathers and their sons, and even a few daughter attended the banquet that featured former New York Yankee picture Tommy John as the guest speaker. John did an outstanding job captivating the audience during his speech. Following the banquet, he signed autographs. Many in attendance, including Dan Myers and his son had their picture taken with Tommy John. John had a simple message for the younger attendees, hard work, practice and perseverance pay dividends. John told the audience that Derek Jeter used to field 75 ground balls per day for about a month during spring training. As quoted in the Watertown Times "That's why he was such a good short-stop," "Because he practiced, practiced, practiced." During a question-and-answer session, John said the batter he feared the most was former White Sox slugger Frank Thomas because he hit the ball hard up the middle and he had the most trouble pitching against Ned Yost and Ken Griffey Sr. He also informed those attending that Yankee fans were his favorite and the Dodger organization made players feel special. His favorite Manager was Tommy Lasorda of the Dodgers.



**Clifton Park Elks #2466** awarded almost \$8000 in scholarships to students from the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, Niskayuna, and Shenendehowa High Schools at the Flag Day Ceremony in June. In addition, winners of the Americanism Essay contest were recognized with an American Flag that had flown over the US Capital. Pictured with award winners are (Left to Right) Congressman Paul Tonko, Ladies Auxiliary President Susan Simmons, Clifton Park Supervisor Phil Barrett, NYS Assemblyman James Tedisco, and Shenendehowa Superintendent Oliver Robinson.



**Patchogue Elks Lodge # 1323** held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Matthew David Shaughnessy. Matthew has been a member of Troop 47 since fifth grade and earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout on April 20, 2015. On his journey to Eagle Scout, Matthew earned 36 merit badges and completed a community service project at the Patchogue Seventh Day Adventist Church located on North Ocean Avenue. Matt's Eagle Project involved the removal of large bushes and grasses which previously blocked the visibility of the church's sign. He then replanted the area with smaller flowering bushes and perennial flowers. Pictured above: (l/r) Craig Munn, Past District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler, Matthew, Exalted Ruler Douglas MacVittie and Esteemed Loyal Knight Karen Costello.



**New Paltz Elks Lodge 2568** is Proud to announce Neal Peets has made his Eagle Scout. He is the son of two Lodge members, Ricky and Carol Peets. Neal has always been supportive of the New Paltz Lodge and volunteers when he can. Hopefully he will be and Elk when eligible. Congratulations Neal!

Through fundraising over the past year **Johnson City Lodge #2821** was able to sponsor a skybox for their Handicap Children's Association Adult family to a Binghamton Mets baseball game in August. There were many thanks and hugs from their guests! One of the residents kept showing us his Irish T-shirt. It was one of his gift from last year's Christmas Party! He stated "You got this for me! I love it! I wear it for special days!" He was right it was a very special day. Lodge members Alicia and Bill Beck with Kathy and John Tokos represented the lodge.

## NYSEA—A Proud Tradition of Supporting our Youth!!