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## Boy Scout organizes upcoming 5K, Fun Run

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SANFORD — Michael Sikinger's dad remembers the Boy Scout shaking in his shoes during his first board of review four years ago.

On Tuesday, the now calm and confident 14-year-old showed no nerves as he described his intention to organize a 5K and Fun Run to raise money for his Eagle Scout project.

The 5K begins at 9 a.m. and the Fun Run begins at 9:10 a.m. Saturday at Kiwanis Family Park. Halloween costumes are welcomed and there will be prizes for the best costume and medals and trophies for those who finish the race.

"Michael was an incredibly shy kid," said Will Sikinger, Michael's father. "He was ultra-uncomfortable in situations that were even just the least bit difficult."

Michael Sikinger is a member of Boy Scout Troop 941, which he joined seven years ago, when he was in the first grade.



Michael Sikinger

## SCOUT

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

"I was extremely shy and quiet," said Michael. "Scouting has helped me overcome that."

Michael was first interested in Boy Scouts because of the outdoor aspects and the extra time spent bonding with his father. The more he became involved, the more opportunities became available.

"Scouting has just opened up the world to him over the years," Will said. "I think most people not in Scouts think it's just about camping and that is just not true."

The Boy Scouts gave Michael the opportunity to interact with scouts his age, adult volunteers of all ages, with different backgrounds, socio-economic situations, family dynamics and religious and cultural beliefs.

"Most people that aren't involved in scouting think it's just about merit badges and camping," said Michael. "They are teaching me skills that will be useful my entire life such as basic automotive maintenance, cooking and job interview skills."

It wasn't just the activities that kept Michael coming

### WANT TO GO?

**WHAT:** Family-friendly 5K and Fun Run

**WHEN:** 5K begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, Fun Run begins at 9:10 a.m.

**WHERE:** Kiwanis Family Park  
**COST:** \$10 per runner and also \$10 for families with more than one runner

back, it was also the values and life lessons.

"Boy Scout law teaches us to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and honest," said Michael. "These are all qualities I would like to have."

For Michael's Eagle Scout project he hopes to construct a patio, firering and four benches near the existing flagpole at the Lee County Wildlife Club in Sanford that is meant to add to the continued success of the activities the Boy Scouts hold there. The construction is also meant for community members to use throughout the year, Michael added.

Michael has also been asked to dig a trench from the southeast corner of the clubhouse to two adjacent points

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near the flagpole that will be used during a post-project electrical installation for proper nighttime lighting of the American flag. The actual electrical work is not included in Michael's project.

The troop meets at First Baptist Church, where there is a poster on the wall showing Michael's progress since joining the Boy Scouts.

"That poster is 95 percent complete," said Michael. "How can I not finish something I've been working on since I was in elementary school?"

Michael has attended Eagle Scout ceremonies and watched other scouts receive their award surrounded by their friends and families.

"I want my friends and family to be that proud of me too."