

To NESAC Committee, Heart of Virginia Council, BSA:

It is my honor to nominate Paul Kreckman for the NESAC Outstanding Eagle Scout Award. It's been my privilege to know Paul and his family for 35 years, through church, Scouting, and in business. He is a model for what an Eagle Scout can achieve in life.

With everything he tackles, Paul is creative, encouraging, and inquisitive – constantly looking to make everything around him better. He gives his time and influence generously to help others succeed. Those are important qualities of a successful real estate developer and CEO – and powerful when serving as a community leader and mentoring young people. The information below is an overview of how Paul has made a difference to those around him at work, in the community, and to Scouting:

Education

BA Economics – Syracuse University

MA Economics – University of Virginia

Career

Paul Kreckman has more than 40 years of experience in the Virginia real estate market as a consultant, developer, real estate analyst. Before retiring, he was VP of Highwoods Properties Inc. and was its Richmond Division CEO since 1995. Highwoods is a real-estate investment trust based in Raleigh, NC.

Prior to his time at Highwoods, he was a partner in Ross-Kreckman who were first known for their 1983 renovation of the landmark Jefferson Hotel. Later, they became the primary developer of Innsbrook, the region's second-largest employment center.

Paul is an "idea-guy" who sees possibilities and has the financial know-how to make a vision come to life. Some recent undertakings for which Paul was instrumental:

- He envisioned a new phase of Innsbrook development that would transform the suburban office park into a 2 million square foot urban mixed-use center. Innsbrook Next has received county approval and its initial phase is underway.
- Paul was front and center during discussions to put a new minor-league baseball stadium and adjacent development in Shockoe Bottom.
- Paul came out of retirement to plan and execute a mixed-use development in Chesapeake, VA called Summit Point. His consulting firm 'Archway Advisors' helped develop this property into a retail and housing center.
- Along with a group of his work friends and their families, he started a winery south of Charlottesville called Valley Road Vineyards.

Community

Paul has been very involved with the Real Estate Circle of Excellence – an organization of local experts connected to the VCU School of Business. This group is a mentor to business majors, gives them real world experience, and hosts an annual conference which raises scholarship money and puts the spotlight on the school.

He has been very active on the Innsbrook Owner's Association since 1985 and was the 2011 recipient of the Rotary Business Leader Award.

A member of Richmond's First Baptist Church, Paul is a deacon and trusted advisor to members and ministry staff. He has long served on the Finance Team and spent several years as its chair.

One constant is Paul's work with young people - including the Royal Ambassador program for First Baptist which teaches boys about missions. He served on the local board for the Girl Scouts USA as well as a 35-year involvement with Scouting at First Baptist and the Heart of VA Council, BSA.

Scouting

Paul has been an active Scout leader for over 50 years and is the third of five generations involved with Scouting. His grandfather Charles A Worden was a pioneer of Scouting in Queens, NY and served as its Scout Executive from 1915 until his death in 1929. He has two Eagle Scout sons (one of which is a Scoutmaster) and three grandsons in Troop 443. His daughter completed the GSUSA Silver Award.

He was an Assistant Explorer Advisor at St. Giles and served four tenures as a Scoutmaster with two Richmond troops. During his tenure with Troop 443, nearly 40 Scouts achieved their Eagle rank. His focus on outdoor adventure took the troop on countless backpacking trips to the mountains, canoe trips, and the occasional 50-miler.

One notable 50-miler took the unit to the Presidential range in New Hampshire which included a climb of Mount Washington. This was their section of the "A-T All The Way" council hike that covered the entire Appalachian Trail within one year.

Paul has been a long-serving Executive Board member for Heart of Virginia Council and was a District Chairman for Capitol District. As part of his Board service, Paul led the Design Committee for the new council office and coordinated the design and construction of the Reinhart STEM Center and OA Pavilion.

Last but not least, he took Wood Badge in 2012 and served as a staff member three times. In the spring of 2024 he will serve as the Wood Badge course director for the Heart of Virginia course.

Hopefully that paints a picture of an Eagle Scout who used the skills and leadership learned in Scouting to make the world around him better.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark A Larson
NST Commissioner for BSA Territory 15
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