

# ZACHARY HOLLIS

Troop One's 32<sup>nd</sup> Eagle Scout, April 2007

Zachary was the son of Mike and Sandra Hollis and also the brother of Eagle Scout Josh Hollis. Zac was diagnosed when he was young with Tourette's, a neuromuscular disorder. Troop One had the honor of knowing Zac while he was a Cub Scout when he would come to meetings and family camps with his older brother Josh. Zac joined Troop One when he was 11 years old. He was so excited to be a Scout and in Troop One. He never let his disease affect him in Scouting. While Zac was in the Troop, there



were a couple of times he was admitted for tests. I would visit him and one particular day I went to visit him in the hospital room and he had wires attached all over his body. He could hardly move within 5 feet of his bed. I walked in and he was so excited to see me. The Troop made him cards and we sat there and he read each card aloud to me. We spent the evening together and laughed and joked about everything you could imagine. Zac was smart. He knew everything about reptiles and creatures. I think if his mom would have allowed it, he would have had more critters in his bedroom at home than he already had. One funny story that stands out in my mind was when Mike and Sandra

went on a well-deserved vacation and asked me to watch their 3 boys for a few days. I said yes



and was equally excited to watch them as they were to have me watch them. That week, one of Zac's parakeets died and he was pretty sad to lose his bird. We decided to replace that one bird with two birds. I bought Zac a green parakeet and a blue parakeet. He named them Zac and Mr. Meyer. On the way home, Zac peeked in the box and Mr. Meyer flew out of the box. Zac was really stressed and wanted Mr. Meyer back in the box. We had to pull over and climb all over my sports car without opening the door to get this #@\$\$\$ bird that was walking and flying all over my car. He finally went under my seats and was doing the Macarena dance under my seat when Zac grabbed him by his neck and stuffed him back in the box. We laughed and laughed about that one.

Zachary Hollis died tragically and suddenly in an automobile accident in Albuquerque, NM on April 19, 2007. I can say this now more than ever – don't waste a single second not saying I love you to the ones you love. Zac called me the day before and I didn't get a chance to call him back. I thought to myself I would call him back later. Well, later never came. He left a hole in my heart and a huge hole in Troop One. Mr. Braman was the Scoutmaster at the time and his wife passed away a few months earlier and the founder of Troop One died a year earlier. This black cloud laid over Troop One for a very long time. It has been 5 years since Zachary passed away. I still miss his laughter, his hugs, his smile, his wit. As I am writing this, I have tears in my eyes. I am just so thankful to God that I was his Scoutmaster and that we, Troop One, had him in our lives, even for a short time. ~~ Submitted by Mr. Meyer

