

Boy Scout Troop 253 Raises Funds For Diabetes Research

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Boy Scout Troop 253, of Oyster Bay-East Norwich, recently helped raise \$250 for the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI), a non-profit dedicated to leading the world "...in cure-focused research." The DRI seeks to develop a cure by "restoring natural insulin production and normalizing blood sugar levels."

To raise the funds, the Scouts sold bottles of water at the seventh annual Gold Coast Concours/Bimmerstock car show in downtown Glen Cove.

The community service project was coordinated by Assistant Scoutmaster John Tabako, who noted: "I have been witness over the last few years of amazing charitable events created by Joe Lapadula of Martino Auto Concepts. The outpouring of support by people to both the Diabetes Research Institute and the Toys for Tots programs are very inspiring. Joe's events are very exciting and raise money towards the cure for diabetes and collect toys for the less fortunate children in our area during the holidays."

Connecting the Scouts with this service-focused organization seemed like a great match.

For the Sept. 20 event, Tabako noted, "We were able to combine our great organization with their fundraiser towards the cure for diabetes. I'm proud of the way the boys in our troop participated and helped a great cause."

Service projects help Scouts live the Scout oath, specifically the promise of duty to other people. Christopher Tabako, 13, of Mill Neck, was pleased to be able to do something to help others.

"I have been coming to this event with my family since it started, so it was great to finally be able to help raise some money for diabetes research," Christopher said. "It was fun talking with everyone and

hearing some of their own Boy Scout memories as kids."

Christopher Syrett, 15, of East Norwich, agreed: "It was fun helping the community and going to a car show at the same time."

Selling water not only allowed the Scouts to raise funds, it gave them practice for their own fundraiser: selling water and soda at the 32nd annual Oyster Festival.

"Troop 253 is very fortunate," said new Scoutmaster Scott Gurney, "to participate in the largest festival on Long Island. The troop has operated a booth since the beginning of the Oyster Festival and it is a great opportunity for the Scouts to be able to support the community, the troop, and contribute toward the cost of summer Scout camp. We are able to defray the registration costs of needy families and maintain the supplies needed for camping and other outdoor adventures."

Troop 253 travels to Rockville, RI, for summer camp, where the Scouts have opportunities to learn new skills. Gregory Wulffen, 12, of Oyster Bay, has attended camp for the past three summers.

"What I like about Camp Yawgoog is the independence we are given to go to each merit badge with a buddy and have the responsibility to do all the homework and get the merit badge signed off on," said Wulffen.

This past summer one of the merit badges Wulffen completed was the Wilderness Survival badge. Besides learning how to treat water for drinking and learning how to survive in extreme cold or heat, Wulffen noted: "You have to build a shelter from nature. I had a lot of fun doing it because I did it with my troop and had to sleep in the shelter overnight."

Troop 253 meets every Tuesday evening at the Community Center in Oyster Bay.

"We welcome any boy between

the ages of 11 and 18 who might be interested in joining scouting," said Gurney.

For any questions, contact the Scoutmaster at Troop253OBEN@gmail.com.



