

Cornwell Scout Badge – Example Citation

At Group or District events, Harry is just the same as any other young person. He participates fully in most activities, and always endeavours to help others in Scouting whenever he can. This summer he went camping with the Explorer Scouts and then went on to his old Scout Troop's summer camp in Kent, taking on numerous responsibilities. Despite starting to feel unwell, he insisted on staying until the end of the camp. As a result, he spent the next two weeks in hospital to recover from an infection that he had picked up.

However, Harry is no ordinary Scout. He was born with a heart defect and was fitted with an artificial heart valve just after being born. The evidence sent with this recommendation outlines his medical problems, and includes a list of operations he has undergone with their respective dates.

Harry has gone through all the Scout sections, starting as a Beaver Scout. He has gained his Beaver Scout Challenge and also various Cub Scout Challenge Awards. In 2006, in a ceremony at his school, he was presented with his Chief Scout's Gold Award by the Lord Lieutenant for the County Scouts. His parents and grandparents were there to see the presentation and were rightly very proud of Harry.

Only by talking to Harry's parents would you get an understanding of his extensive medical history. Harry isn't one to talk about the problems he has faced; instead he just gets on with things. Harry is a very brave and courageous young person. Despite many painful operations and having to take medication since birth, he remains cheerful and determined to continue Scouting to the best of his ability.

Harry's father has highlighted his son's positivity ever since his first operation, which has helped greatly with the recovery process. However, over the last two years, Harry has physically slowed down due to the problems with the valve in his heart, which is failing to do its job.

In April this year, he had a stent valve fitted via a vein in his thigh, hoping to avoid heart surgery. Two days after the procedure, he was back at family camp. Over the course of the next month, his health started to deteriorate and he was diagnosed with endocarditis. This still didn't stop Harry leaving in June for the first day of his Silver DofE Award Expedition, but later that day he had to be pulled off the course as he developed severe chest pains whilst hill climbing. On days two and three he was given a lighter load to carry.

Harry spent most of the summer in hospital, and even had to leave camp early to undergo medical tests. On 1 September, in a long surgical operation, he had another homograft and the stent was removed. In total he spent 30 nights in hospital, but returned to school earlier than his doctors advised and was taking part in physical activities just 6 weeks later. At school Harry joined in with swimming, trampolining, canoeing and physical education lessons as normal.

Harry has shown great courage in the face of adversity and despite his health problems, he has shown great devotion to Scouting and life in general.