

Cub Scouts Supporting Evan

Evan Springman is a Bear Scout in Ramsey Pack 121 which is in Lincoln Trails Council in Illinois. He attends 3rd grade at Vandalia Community School. Evan is the son of Angie and Brice Springman. Angie is an Assistant Den Leader for Ramsey Pack 121. Evan has never been a popular kid at school and he is not athletic. He has always been shy and awkward. Cub Scouts have given him the opportunity to find things that he is good at and that he can accomplish. He loves to receive patches and belt loops because he has earned them and it gives him a sense of pride. The best thing about Cub Scouts he always feels loved and accepted. Scouts always support him and never tease him. At Summer Camp Evan really wanted to learn how to dive. The whole two hours he was in the pool, Evan did nothing but practiced his diving skills over and over with no success. The Boy Scout lifeguard, Paul Zaring and all the cub scouts were so encouraging to him and at one point they were all cheering his name loud and clear. Evan looked like he was "King of the World". He finally knew what it feels like to win at something!

This summer Evan started having small seizures. After having an MRI in June, doctors determined that Evan had a Brain Tumor. On his way to Webelos Woods, Evan had a major seizure and was taken to the hospital where he seized for 2.5 hours despite anti-seizure medication that he was given. From there he was airlifted to Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis, MO where they determined the extent of his tumor. After new x-rays, the doctor said that they would not know what kind of mass it was until they were able to test it. The doctor also said that the mass had pushed everything in the brain to the limit and it would have to come out. He explained that this would be a risky operation. The mass is by all the nerves that control vision, hearing, memory and various other vital functions. There would also be the risk of hemorrhage due to it being next to an artery. Evan's surgery was scheduled for September 22, 2009.

At a doctor's appointment one week before surgery Evan was told that he would have to have his head shaved. He was upset about this and did not want to have a bald head. Neighboring St. Elmo Pack 444 and Brownstown Pack 118 decided to see if any of their scouts would be interested in shaving their heads to support Evan. Leaders thought that they would have 10-15 scouts willing to participate. Pack 444 Cubmaster, Dale Sperry contacted St. Elmo barber, Larry Stolte. Larry donated his time and business with the help of former cosmetologists Marge Sperry and Tamela Polanin to shave a total of THIRTY-SIX scouts and leaders. The St. Elmo Fire Department wanted to help also so they brought a fire truck over for the scouts to tour after their "hair cuts".

At this time Evan was in isolation at home and could not attend the event but pictures were e-mailed to him. He was excited about the pictures and could not wait to have his head shaved so he could be "cool" like the Cub Scouts. Evan's mom commented, "It has touched me the way the Cub Scouts have come together to support us during this difficult time. I am so proud to be part of an organization that promotes confidence, brotherhood, and goodwill in boys!"



Evan & his mother

Evan's surgery went better than expected. Doctors were able to remove half of the tumor and were able to drain the cyst. When he awoke from surgery he was able to remember everything. Evan is currently at Cardinal Glennon Hospital in St. Louis where he will spend at least a week. From there he will be able to return home. He will not be able to return to school for 4-5 weeks. Evan will not be allowed to do any physical activities for six months to a year.

Please keep Evan and his family in your prayers, as there is still a long recovery ahead for him.

