

# Success Story

Erie County



Chris Collins  
County Executive

Anthony J. Billittier IV, M.D., FACEP  
Commissioner of Health

Department of Health

## 6 Boy Scouts Earn Public Health Merit Badge



Boy Scouts of America  
Public Health  
Merit Badge

As chartered by the Congress of the United States, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is a movement dedicated to supplementing and enlarging the education of youth. The BSA merit badge program, which provides opportunities for youth to explore more than 120 fields of skill and knowledge, plays a key role in the fulfillment of this educational commitment. To qualify for the Eagle Scout Award, Scouting's highest advancement rank, a Scout must earn a total of 21 merit badges, along with meeting other requirements.

On Saturday, April 18, 2009 six (6) Boy Scout participated in a day long program to earn their Public Health Merit Badge. This program included discussions on a wide variety of public health topics, science and laboratory based activities and a tour of the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) Public Health Laboratory. An additional 6 Boy Scouts participated in a portion of the day's program and will complete their requirements for the Public Health Merit Badge as part of their summer camp experience. This challenging and educational Public Health Merit Badge course was developed and led by Michael R. Simkins, BS, MLT (ASCP), CLCP (NCA) who is an Administrative Assistant-PHL with the ECDOH Public Health Laboratory. Michael presented this program as part of his Wood Badge training project. The Wood Badge award represents the completion of BSA's highest level of adult volunteer training.

04-2009