

## Eagle Scouts help lead BSA Auto Maintenance Merit Badge at Career & Tech Center

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Former Boy Scouts Andy Lucini, Troop 49 Lakewood, and Chris Van Loon, Troop 1 Gaspee Plateau, recently helped 17 Scouts from Troop 49 Lakewood earn the BSA Auto Maintenance merit badge. Both Lucini

and Van Loon are graduates from the Warwick Area Career & Technical Center in Auto Technology, and both earned their Eagle Scout rank and are employed at local auto dealerships as service technicians.

This unique merit badge, one of the few avenues for young adults to learn the basics of auto maintenance, provided the opportunity for Chris and Andy to share their automotive knowledge, which they learned from Vo Tech Automotive Instructor Bill Cilli, along with their knowledge they have gained as service technicians in the automotive service industry at their respective local auto dealerships.

Over the course of the merit badge, they helped scouts understand the importance of auto maintenance through classroom discussions and hands-on sessions. Through the use of the automotive shop resources at the Warwick Career & Technical Center, the scouts worked in teams to perform vehicle safety, engine component, drive train, wheel/tire and brake system inspections, and to perform basic fluid checks and lube oil service. The experience of hands-on learning and the sharing of know-how by Andy and Chris helped the scouts better understand the importance of proper vehicle maintenance procedures.

The merit badge also included local business support with an on-site visit to Advance Auto Parts, located on Warwick Avenue, where Assistant Store Manager Joshua Joyal helped the scouts learn how to identify and understand replacement parts and items to perform do-it-yourself vehicle service and routine maintenance.

Through the willingness of the two Eagle Scouts to give back and acknowledge the learning they received during scouting and technical educational instruction, they were able to help prepare other scouts for vehicle maintenance and ownership.