Sir:

I enthusiastically offer this letter in support of Jonathan and his application for the rank of Eagle Scout.

I have known Jonathan for nearly ten years. He and my son Hugh became fast friends when Jonathan’s family moved in as our neighbors on our small street in Evanswood. Their friendship seems to have only become richer with each passing year.

While my son has been blessed with a tight-knit social group that’s remained largely intact since his early school years, Jonathan has been a steadfast pal and most dependable fellow traveler. He is Hugh’s trusted confidant, and a steady voice of reason and right.

Growing up can be difficult. Teenagers are forced to make increasingly complex and thorny decisions, and face myriad temptation and distraction. One particular example that highlights Jonathan’s strong values comes to mind:

During finals period at the end of last year – the boys’ sophomore year – an illicit copy of the chemistry exam circulated among the students in this class. A copy arrived in the email inboxes of Hugh and Jonathan while they were hanging out at our house. While Hugh vacillated over whether to open the email (a difficult decision for any stressed-out child with grades on the brain), Jonathan put his foot down, counseling Hugh to destroy the email. Both boys deleted the email before opening it, and then disclosed the matter to the school administration.

There was no clear incentive for Jonathan to act this way. But his clear sense of right and wrong shined through.

I would be happy to speak with you more about Jonathan if helpful.

Sincerely,

Paul Stanton