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2016 Friends of Scouting Dinner

January 28, 2016

6:00PM – 9:00PM

George Washington Hotel

*Proceeds benefit over 5,000 youth
and volunteers of the Shenandoah
Area Council, Boy Scouts of
America.*

Guest Speaker: **Matthew Moniz**



17-year-old Eagle Scout Matt Moniz, is a senior at Boulder High School and also a sophomore at the University of Colorado in Boulder studying molecular biology. Matt is one of the world's most accomplished young alpinists. At the age of 12, he set the world speed record for completing all the US High Points in 43 days, and was named a 2010 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year. In 2014, he became the 14th American to summit 28,000 foot Makalu, the fifth highest mountain in the world, reaching the top only seven days after summiting 27,000 foot Cho Oyu.

This past spring Matt and his team left for Nepal for another ambitious expedition: to climb and ski two of the worlds highest peaks, Mt. Everest and Lhotse. As they approached Mt. Everest on April 25th an earthquake savagely rocked Nepal and triggered a deadly avalanche at Everest Base Camp. Matt took cover behind a boulder as a 200 mph powder blast hit the camp. Several lives were lost and nearly 70 people were seriously injured. For his selfless actions Matt received the Boy Scouts of America's highest award for lifesaving – The Honor Medal with Crossed Palms.

Rather than return to Colorado, after the initial earthquake Matt remained behind to help the Nepali people rebuild. For over a month, Matt and a team of international doctors and climbers cared for the injured and built temporary schools and homes in the remote Himalayan Mountains. He and his climbing partner Willie Benegas were instrumental in raising over \$100,000 to hire local porters to carry nearly 20 tons of UN supplies to the people of the devastated village of Laprak.

In February, Matt was presented with the 2015 Outdoor Inspiration Award. In March, he was honored at the Boulder Citizens' Dinner as the 2015 Boulder Distinguished Eagle Scout. In August Matt was recognized in front of over 73,000 fans as a Broncos Country Hero at the preseason Denver Broncos versus San Francisco 49ers game. In demand as a public speaker, Matt has appeared at national and local-level events as a strong advocate for the Boy Scouts of America.

Learn more about Matt's expeditions on his Facebook page or follow on twitter at "Climb7Moniz".