

Wisconsin Eagle Scout Colin Paiva, ECS '11, achieves goal of earning all 130 current merit badges!

Colin Paiva, ECS '11, of Mazomanie, WI recently reached his goal of completing all of the 130 current Boy Scout merit badges. He is the third young man from Wisconsin to reach this achievement since the beginning of boy scouting over 102 years ago.

Nation-wide, with over 114 million youth in boy scouting since its inception, Colin is the 179th Eagle Scout in the United States to reach this pinnacle. He is a member of the Gateway Area Council and Troop 22 of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Colin is a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, which is a national scouting honor society that recognizes scouts who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.



Colin graduated from Edgewood Campus School in 2011 and is now a sophomore at Edgewood High School in Madison and is very active in the Dane county community. During his six years as a boy scout, he completed over 500 hours of community service. His volunteer work includes playing piano in nursing homes, assisting at the Mazomanie food pantry, serving as an altar server and participating in numerous mission trips. He is also a member of the Dane County Youth Governance program and serves on the Personnel and Finance committee with members of the Dane County Board of Supervisors. Colin enjoys numerous sports and activities; his favorite of playing rugby on the Madison Westside Rugby team. Colin can be heard world-wide on the amateur radio airwaves with his ham radio call sign of W9CLN. He enjoys building electronic kits and programmable robots.

To earn Eagle Scout, a young man must earn 21 merit badges along with numerous other requirements. Colin earned his Eagle Scout rank in 2010 while in 7th grade with 62 merit badges. At that point, he set a goal to see if he could complete 100 merit badges. When he arrived at 100, he reset his goal to complete all the remaining merit badges. Recently he completed another three merit badges – ones that have been retired – for a grand total of 133. His favorite merit badges were wilderness survival, scuba diving and American business. According to Colin, the most difficult merit badges were the ones that required learning a totally new skill like waterskiing and bugling. These skills took up to a year to learn, but once learned they really became fun! Colin has found that one of greatest benefit of completing the entire list of current merit badges was the great depth and breadth of knowledge he gained in numerous subjects and skill areas.

As for his plans for the future, Colin is considering majoring in business and is beginning to look at colleges and universities. This is a young man to watch!

Article References:

1. http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/100_years.aspx
-114 million youth membership since inception

2. <http://www.meritbadgeknot.com/registry.htm>
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3. <http://www.oa-bsa.org/misc/basics/>
-Order of the Arrow