

PRESS RELEASE-March, 2009
ATLANTA, GA
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EAGLE SCOUT DAVID CANO EARNS ALL 121 MERIT BADGES AND 20 EAGLE PALMS



On March 30, 2009, the Georgia State Senate and the House of Representatives honored David Cano for his Scouting achievements. David, age 17, of Boy Scout Troop 1776, Marietta, Georgia, is making Boy Scout history. Even though the odds were against David, his resolve was not dampened during the first or final stages of earning all 121 Boy Scout merit badges, which was a feat by itself; but David was able to earn an additional 20 Eagle Palms, becoming one of only 3 Scouts to do so in the United States.

Since joining the Boy Scouts at the age of 10, David has remained focused on one goal - to earn all available merit badges. Just prior to earning his Eagle Scout rank, in 2004, the goal driven young man set his aim even higher. He was determined to earn all 20 Eagle Palms.

The Eagle Rank is the Boy Scouts' highest award and only approximately 5 percent of all registered Boy Scouts ever achieve it. To accomplish this prestigious award, David had to earn 21 merit badges, serve as a leader in his troop, and complete a major community service project, fulfilling nearly 462 requirements. In 2004, David's Eagle service project gave him the opportunity to lead 47 boys and adults in building an outside classroom on the grounds of Queen of Angels Catholic School, in Roswell, Georgia. The project took 491 man-hours to complete and it is still in full service today.

Each year, a very small number of Scouts in the United States earn all 121 available merit

badges – 100 more than needed for the Eagle Rank. It is a remarkable display of determination, courage, and achievement for these young men. What makes David's Scouting experience unique is not only the fact that he did just that, but that he fulfilled the 1,674 additional requirements to get 20 Eagle Palms, the last one of which will be awarded to him on May 16, 2009.

In order to earn an Eagle Palm, a Boy Scout must be active in his troop for at least 3 months, demonstrate Scout spirit, demonstrate leadership ability, earn five additional merit badges beyond those required for Eagle Scout rank or last Palm, take part in a Scoutmaster conference, and complete a committee board of review. David did that twenty times in a quest that lasted over seven years to complete.

David, who's dream is to become a medical doctor, may possibly be the first Eagle Scout to achieve such a record in the state of Georgia and one of only three Scouts in the United States.

David's Scouting experience took him to unique places in Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Virginia, Washington D.C. and Georgia. He visited the Huntsville and Orlando Space Centers, the Georgia Governor's office, the CNN anchor desk and many other exciting destinations. He bicycled 150 miles, hiked 158 miles, camped 126 nights and had the opportunity to meet many wonderful professionals, who were his merit badge counselors. He also traveled to the National High Adventure Sea Base in the Florida Keys, the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, the National Jamboree in 2005, and to Yellowstone National Park in 2008.

David is a member of the Atlanta Area Council Boy Scout Troop 1776, chartered to Saint Ann's Catholic Church, for seven years. He has served his troop as Librarian, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Instructor, Scribe, Chaplain's Aide, Order of the Arrow Representative, Quartermaster, Den Chief, Historian, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Bugler, Senior Patrol Leader, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. In addition to serving his Troop in these leadership positions, David was an Altar Server and is also a member of Model United Nations, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools, his high school football team, high school band, and high school soccer team. He has earned the World Conservation Award, Kayaking Award, Leave No Trace Award, Snorkeling Badge, and the Ad Altare Dei Award. David has received District Junior Leader Training, Greenbar Training, and Junior Leader Training. He has also performed several roles as a cast member of the Roswell Dance Theatre's Nutcracker production for six years.

David is a junior at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School. He is currently a website developer having created more than seventy websites for small businesses. He is the son of Rodrigo and Rosa Cano and brother of Steve Cano, also an accomplished Eagle Scout.

In addition, to the recognition by the Georgia State Senate and the House of Representatives, David will be honored at a special Court of Honor ceremony at the Atlanta Area Council's Volunteer Service Center, on Sunday, April 19, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For more information on Scouting, visit www.atlantabsa.org.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

By Andria Simmons, Dan Chapman, Eric Stirgus
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Wednesday, April 01, 2009

GWINNETT COUNTY

Gym manager accused in thefts

The manager of an LA Fitness gym in Buford has been charged with allegedly breaking into members' lockers to steal valuables.

Police believe Mark Medrano, 35, of Lawrenceville also may have used a machine found at his home to clone stolen credit cards and commit identity fraud.

Medrano was arrested Friday after an off-duty Gwinnett County officer working out at the club caught him rifling through lockers at the gym at 3420 Buford Drive, police said. A search of Medrano and his gym bag uncovered a laptop and a wedding ring believed to have been poached from unsuspecting gym members, said Gwinnett police spokesman Cpl. David Schiralli.

The victims, who were at the gym, identified the stolen property as theirs, Schiralli said. Police said Medrano also was carrying bolt cutters in his gym bag.

— Andria Simmons

FULTON COUNTY

Roswell Scout earns rare ranking

A Roswell teen is making Boy Scout history. David Cano of Boy Scout Troop 1776 has earned all 121 Scout merit badges and all 20 Eagle Palms. He's one of only three Scouts in the country to ever achieve such status, said Scoutmaster Tom Morin.

David, 17, was honored Tuesday with a Georgia House resolution. The Georgia Senate did likewise on Monday. A junior at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, David develops Web sites and participates in the Model United Nations, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the National Honor Society. He is the son of Rodrigo and Rosa Cano.

— Dan Chapman

ATLANTA

Trash pickup spurs workers' rehiring

Atlanta Public Works Commissioner Joe Basista said Tuesday that the department is planning to rehire 12 workers laid off last year because they're missing some pickups of trash, yard trimmings and recyclables.

The department's solid waste division collection rate has declined in recent months from about 200 missed pickups a week to 3,000 missed pickups a week, officials said. The city has an estimated 100,000 customers.

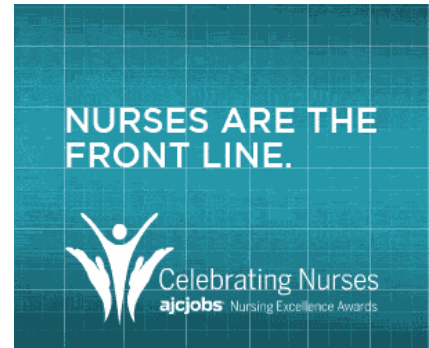
Because recycling and yard trimming pickup has been reduced to once every other week, some residents have complained it can be a month before their items are picked up if city crews miss their street.

— Eric Stirgus

VENT OF THE DAY

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Teen completes Herculean task of earning all 121 badges, 20 Palms

Published: 04/06/2009

By Marcus E. Howard
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EAST COBB - David Cano, a 17-year-old Eagle Scout, has become only the third Boy Scout ever to earn all 121 Boy Scout merit badges and 20 Eagle Palms, Scout leaders say.

It's a goal Cano set for himself when he joined the Scouts at age 10.

"I did it for the experience," said Cano, a member of Boy Scout Troop 1776 in east Cobb. "With every merit badge, there's a purpose. You'll learn something new with every single badge. Some are life skills and others are hobbies that will be with you for the rest of your life."

Young men must earn 21 of 121 merit badges to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Very few Scouts go on to earn all 121 merit badges, Boy Scout leaders say.

However, what makes Cano's achievement even more remarkable is that he fulfilled 1,674 additional requirements to earn the 20 Eagle Palms, the last one of which will be awarded to him on May 16. An Eagle Palm is awarded for every five merit badges beyond the 21 needed to become an Eagle Scout.

Cano, who will receive his final Eagle Palm on May 16 at a ceremony in Atlanta, is believed to be the first Scout from Georgia to earn all 20.

Rich Cuervo, of the Boy Scouts Atlanta Area Council, said his organization could find only two other Scouts who had accomplished as much in the nearly 100-year history of the Boy Scouts of America: Cameron Barber of Texas, in 2007, and Travis Cochran of California, in 2008.

"David is just a very focused young man. He set this as his goal when he was 10 years old," said Troop 1776 Scoutmaster Tom Morin, who has known Cano since he was 6.

Cano is a junior at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School in Roswell. He has been a member of the school's football and soccer teams, school band, Model United Nations and is a National Honor Society member. Someday, he hopes to become a surgeon.

"I've really enjoyed the Scouting program," Cano said. "I've picked up a lot of friends and really had the time of my life being in this organization."

He said he enjoys outdoor activities with friends, and water skiing - which developed as a result of earning a merit badge. Each merit badge requires a Scout to master a complete set of skills from a counselor who has expertise in the field.

Among the fields Cano earned badges in are dentistry, geology, law, hiking, railroading, graphic arts, surveying, music, public speaking and space exploration.

Cano said some badges took him only a few days to earn, while others took him a couple of years. The bugle badge was his most difficult, he said.

"One of the requirements is to play 15 bugle calls," Cano said. "I had to learn every single call and play the notes correctly to my counselor's satisfaction."

Cano's parents, Rodrigo and Rosa Cano, said they were extremely proud of their son and can barely keep up with all the media requests for interviews he has received. David's older brother, Steve, is also an Eagle Scout.

Rodrigo and Rosa Cano are natives of Colombia who moved to the United States in 1980. Rodrigo Cano said the values his sons had learned from the Boy Scouts helped ease his family's immersion.

"It did help us to bridge between being Hispanics into the American society in a way that Scouts offers minority boys - whether black, Chinese or Hispanic - the American culture," Rodrigo Cano said. "This is something that is very near and dear to many American families."

Last week, David Cano was recognized by the Georgia General Assembly. On April 19, he will be honored at a Court of Honor ceremony at the Boy Scouts Area Council in Atlanta.



Eagle Scout David Cano of east Cobb will be honored for earning all 121 Boy Scout merit badges and 20 Eagle Palms, becoming one of only three Scouts to do so in the United States.
Photo by Laura Moon

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