

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Boy Scout Troop 93, Fullerton, CA
Orange County Council, Los Amigos District
Contact: Scott Angotti, Troop 93 Public Relations Coordinator
Phone: 714-788-8022 email: c2cscott@gmail.com

Fullerton Eagle Scout Earns All Available Merit Badges

Fullerton, CA (August 4, 2014) – Fullerton Resident and Eagle Scout, Brent Dennewitz, has earned all of the available Boy Scout merit badges, a feat (according to meritbadgeknot.com) accomplished by fewer than 250 Boy Scouts since 1928. A 2014 graduate of Fullerton High School, Brent earned all 135 of the regularly available merit badges, plus four special merit badges available only during the Boy Scout Centennial in 2010.

In 2006, while in the 8th grade, Brent read an article in Boys Life magazine about a Scout who had earned all of the available merit badges at that time and made that his goal. He printed out a list of all of the available merit badges and, eliminating the badges he already had, figured out that he would need to earn 24 merit badges per year to accomplish this feat. When he approached his mother, Barbara Dennewitz with his plan, her initial thought was “You’ve got to be kidding me”. But Brent was serious and insisted that he wanted to get them all. With the help of his mother and father, Randy Dennewitz, Brent started breaking down the list into groups of similar badges, determining which ones he could earn at Boy Scout Summer Camp and other Scouting events, and which ones would take some research, effort and planning to complete.

Whitewater, Waterskiing and Scuba were a bit of a challenge because those were not events in which Brent’s Boy Scout Troop (Troop 93) participated. For the Whitewater and Waterskiing badges, Brent’s parents planned their family vacations around the required activities, and the rest of his family participated as well. In order to earn his Scuba merit badge, Brent enrolled in a Scuba class at Fullerton College while still a student at Fullerton High School.

Metalworking was Brent’s most enjoyable merit badge to earn. Choosing the blacksmithing option, Brent worked with the Orange County (CA) Blacksmithing Association, whose director was a former Boy Scout Merit Badge counselor, for four months, learning the techniques of Blacksmithing. With that experience and, having earned his metalworking merit badge, Brent volunteered as the assistant director for the metalworking badge at the 2012 and 2014 Lost Valley Boy Scout Summer Camp.

Brent’s last and most difficult badge was for Bugling. Having no experience playing a brass instrument, Brent talked with the band director at his high school, and he agreed to lend Brent a trumpet and to teach him how to play it. Working with his school’s band director at lunch several times a week, and practicing throughout the weeks of his volunteer time at Boy Scout Summer Camp, Brent was able to master the 12 required bugle calls and complete the requirements for his final (and 139th) merit badge just two days before his 18th birthday on July 21, 2014.

Brent, whose two older brothers, Brandon (22) and Bryce (20), are also Eagle Scouts, earned his Eagle rank in 2011 at the age of 15 and has also earned eight eagle palms. He earned all five segments of the

National Outdoor Badge (Camping, Hiking, Aquatics, Riding and Adventure), and the National Medal for Outdoor Achievement, being the first Scout in Orange County to do so, and only one of 54 Scouts nationwide to have earned the medal since its inception in 2010.

During his Boy Scout career in Troop 93, Brent has hiked over 400 miles, camped over 125 nights, and held positions as his troop's Librarian, Historian, Quartermaster, Scribe, Bugler, Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. In 2012 he was his troop's Serviceman of the Year with 89 hours of community service and was his troop's top seller of Scout-O-Rama tickets. He has attended the National Youth Leadership Training, has served as his troop's "Leave no Trace" trainer and is Wilderness First Aid trained. Brent is also a member of the Order of the Arrow, and has served as his chapter's Vice Chief of Activities and Executive Vice Chief.

As a student at Fullerton High School, Brent has participated in CIF Football, Track & Field, and Swimming. He participated in School Theater and Choir, becoming a member of the High School Honor Choir, SCVA Regional Honor Choir and ACDA All State Honor Choir. This fall, Brent will be attending California State University, Chico where he will major in Small Business Management with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship.

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