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NEWS-SICKLE-ARROW

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Local Scout makes history

On Oct. 27, Colin Paiva of Mazomanie completed 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, Paiva 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. Paiva is a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, a national scouting honor society that recognizes scouts "who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives."

Paiva is 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 has 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.

Paiva enjoys numerous sports and activities, including his favorite, playing rugby on the Madison Westside

Rugby team. Paiva 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 become an Eagle Scout, a scout must earn 21 merit badges along with numerous other requirements. Paiva earned his Eagle Scout rank in 2010 while in seventh 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. His favorite merit badges were wilderness survival, scuba diving and American business. According to Paiva, the most difficult merit badges were the ones that required learning a totally new skill like waterskiing, and bugling. Three of the badges he did have since been retired.

Paiva reports he has found that one of greatest benefits 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.

There's not any extra space on Colin Paiva's Merit Badge sash, since he is one of only 179 Eagle Scouts ever to earn every badge offered by Boy Scouting.

Contributed photo

