

HEALTH

Pearland Eagle Scout earns 141 merit badges

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Photo: Submitted Photo

Conner Stewart (center) with Scoutmaster David Albee (left) and Charter Organization Re. Craig Slater (right) at Court of Honor

Press Release

Troop 464 of Pearland awarded the final of a complete set plus five merit badges to their Eagle Scout Conner Stewart.

Stewart is a fourth generation scout, beginning with his great grandfather, Scoutmaster Ewing Stewart, who built a Troop in Modesto California and Camp McBride on Pinecrest Lake. His grandfather John Stewart attended the 2nd National Jamboree in 1947 at Valley Forge, by train from the central valley in California. His father Erik Stewart, is a current scout leader with the Bay Area Council Galveston.

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Merit Badges allow Boy Scouts to pursue interest in sports, hobbies, technology, and all sorts of other topics. Conner has the unique accomplishment of completing all the current 136, plus 5 for a 141 badge total. He joined Troop 464 at First United Methodist Church in 2008 after crossing over from Cub Scouts with the Arrow of Life Award. After his first meeting, and conversation with Scoutmaster George Hernandez, he asked what the Merit Badges were. When told he said, "You mean, I can learn about everything and get a badge for it." He asked how many there were and when told 121 badges (at the time) he said, "is that all." Usually that's enough for any scout.

On his first Fall camp at Bay Area Council's Camp Karankawa on the San Bernard River in Sweeny Texas, he earned First Aid, Rifle, and Archery. Seeking out merit badge courses at museums, camps, with Merit Badge councilors and every other opportunity that he could find became a passion.

When asked what was his favorite the answer is Aviation at the Sid Richardson Scout Ranch near Fort Worth, Texas. What merit badge has led him to his college/career plans; it is the Chemistry Merit Badge with the "evil red gummy bear" experiment. One badge he most enjoyed was Woodworking, which allowed him to work with his grandfather in building a Chess table from Maple and Purple-heart woods.

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He earned memorable Fishing and Fly Fishing Merit Badges at the 2010 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill with expert fishing merit badge instructors from around the U.S. Stewart took Space Exploration from an actual Space X Corp. rocket scientist. Thought the badges change with the interests and technology changes in the U.S. The base Eagle required merit badges remain consistent for any who have earned the Eagle rank in the last 100 years, with basics like First Aid, Citizenship in the Country, and Camping. The many others badges allow a scout to explore all kinds of interest, though Beekeeping and Poultry have been retired. His final merit badges included Digital Technology, Programing, and Animation as newer additions to the current badge role. Conner is looking forward to new challenges in college this fall, pursuing Chemical Engineering and will be sailing in the 2016 International Koch Cup Competition for Sea Scouts this summer. The small boat sailing merit badge is taught at the Sea Scout Base Galveston.



Boy Scouts of America currently has 136 active Merit Badges. Conner completed Computer MB prior to its replacement with Digital Technology (2015) and the 4 Historic Merit Badges offered for the 100 year anniversary of the Boy Scout's in 2010 Signaling, Carpentry, Pathfinding, and Tracking bringing his total to 141.

Pearland, Texas is a highly active scouting city starting with the long time Mayor and Eagle Scout Tom Reid to a large number of active and robust scout Troops in the city. These troops accomplish a great deal of community service hours and Eagle service projects throughout the city. They also seek adventure throughout North America. Troop 464 sent high adventure crews to Canada last summer for canoeing treks. Troop 464 has produced over 100 Eagle Scouts in an almost 50 year history. They meet on Tuesday night behind the First United Methodist Church of Pearland. Mr. David Albee is the current Scoutmaster for Troop 464 and welcomes any interested boys.

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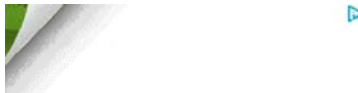
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