

Cameron Hirsch of Redding BSA Troop 15 Earns Eagle Rank Amidst Global Pandemic.

Last November, Joel Barlow class of 2020 graduate, Cameron Hirsch, quietly joined the ranks of Eagle distinction shortly before his 18th birthday. Without traditional pomp and circumstance, and in the presence of his parents, Heidi and Paul Hirsch, and his Scout Master, Scott Morris, he accomplished his long journey to Eagle.



Cameron embraced numerous positions for Troop 15 including Patrol Leader, Scribe, Historian, and two-term Senior Patrol Leader. “Cameron holds a special place in my heart,” said Morris. “He was my right-hand man when I joined as a new Scout Master and has been a role model to Scouts and leaders alike.”

Noteworthy achievements during his tenure include SCUBA certification, Red Cross Lifeguard certification, and gaining employment at Topstone Park as lifeguard. He also holds titles to the 50 Miler Award and the Arrow of Light distinction.

“I am most proud of Cameron’s high values that come from upholding the Scout Oath and Law,” said his dad and former Scout Master, Paul Hirsch.” “He developed his own style of leading and earned the trust and respect of others. He discovered a great love of hiking and the outdoors and became a pro,” said Hirsch. “I’ve watched him climb mountains and endure days of rain and wind, soaked to the bone, and still remain in good spirits.”



In testament of his skills perfected through Scouting, he served as Philmont Crew Leader during an exhilarating and physically challenging two-week trek across the New Mexico wilderness at only 13 years of age. Putting his knowledge and skills to the test, he found strength he hadn't known existed. "I don't think I'd be the person I am today had I not participated in this trip," said Cameron. "Crossing back through the gate into basecamp," was an ultimate highpoint. "Knowing our group worked through any issues, I felt I had done my job as Crew Leader."

In his typical style, he exceeded requirements and earned 34 merit badges, 13 more than necessary to achieve Eagle rank. "Interesting merit badges like Engineering and Climbing took me out of my comfort zone," said Cameron. A broad base of skills and lessons in perseverance, problem-solving and teamwork prepare Scouts for their culminating Eagle project. Cameron chose to build trail kiosks for the Redding Land Trust on the Ground Pine Sanctuary. Trail kiosks allow for posting of trail maps, ownership information and open space rules. "Our trail system is benefitting from a terrific array of building and restoration projects," says the Redding Land Trust Group. "Our community is fortunate to have such a vibrant Scouting tradition."



Taking a gap year to pursue his passion for outdoor travel, he took a few weeks to explore the National parks. He accepted a position at Vail Ski Resort, applying outdoor expertise to endure the often sub-zero Colorado snow season. "I learned to live and work outside," said Cameron. "Whether in the freezing cold of February or the sweltering heat of July," he feels he's mastered

the skills to survive. Future plans include attending University of Colorado at Boulder and joining the Air Force ROTC to ultimately become a pilot.

Troop 15 offers their deepest gratitude to Cameron for his service and participation and congratulations on his success. For more information about Redding Troop 15, visit our website at www.ReddingTroop15.org or contact Jacob Cedusky, Committee Chairman at jcedusky@gmail.com.

The CT Yankee Council provides programs and services to more than 9,700 young people and 3,300 volunteers in Fairfield, New Haven and parts of Hartford counties of Connecticut.