

FENNVILLE'S KYLE NELSON EARNS VENTURING SILVER AWARD FROM BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
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The highest rank a youth can attain in Venturing (a co-ed program through the Boy Scouts of America for youths from ages 14 to 21), is the Silver Award. Kyle Nelson has received this honor. The award centers on emergency preparedness and leadership.

Some of the requirements for qualifying for this award are: earning one Bronze Award, (There are five Bronze Awards that can be earned, but only one Gold), and the Gold Award, in addition to a 40 + hour First-aid Course, a CPR Course, and a Safe Swim Defense Course. Kyle's earned Bronze Award was the outdoor Bronze.

"What I believe is the most important requirement for the Bronze Award is to complete the Venturing Leadership Skills Course," Kyle explains. "I took that training two years ago. Also one must serve at least six months in an elected position of leadership in your crew district or council. I am part of the Greenville Crew, 2125. My elected position in which I still serve is the Web Master for the Venturing Officers Association. This involves keeping the Website up-to-date with event meetings, outlines and agendas."

Kyle is an outstanding young man. He graduated Valedictorian of his 2008 graduating class at Fennville High School. He now attends Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. This semester makes the third semester that he has made the President's List at the University. Kyle is also an Eagle Scout and currently serves as an assistant scoutmaster with the Fennville Boy Scout Troop 2.

"For seven years I have been working toward this Silver Award. It's an individual progress; all requirements can be worked on all at once."

The Venturing Silver Award is a rare award; more prestigious than the Boy Scout Eagle Award. In all of Western Michigan, only four Silver Awards, including Kyle's, were earned in 2009. In 2008, only two were awarded. Kyle's council is the Gerald R. Ford Council. The Council Executive, Michael Sulgrove, will attend Kyle Nelson's Silver Award Ceremony; the setting yet to be decided. This will occur at any place of Kyle's choosing.

Kyle continues, "The Venturing Silver Award is symbolized by a silver bar and accompanying medal which adorn the uniform of a youth who wins the award. I earned my Venturing Leadership Award a year and a half ago for outstanding service in staffing events and maintaining the Website. I'm currently working toward my Venturing Ranger Award. I attend every council and venturing event during the school year."

Kyle is majoring in Meteorology at Central Michigan University in preparation for becoming an Avalanche Forecaster. "My leadership and outdoor skills will prove to be invaluable in my chosen career," says Kyle.

Kyle sums up his achievement. "If it wasn't for my parents encouragement and support I wouldn't be where I am today."

His parents, Craig and Mary Nelson can indeed be proud of their son.