

Highest Honor For Fayetteville Boy

Wins 56 of Possible 57 Merit Badges

Has Studied Scouting Three Years

Stephen H. Porter, Eagle Scout.



Merit Badge for Invention Only One He Has Not Secured—Has Three Ideas He Is Now Working On and Hopes to Win Final Honor With Them.

The highest honor within the gift of the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America, election as an eagle scout, has been conferred upon Stephen H. Porter, son of the Rev. H. A. Porter, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Fayetteville.

Scout Porter is eighteen years old and he has been interested in scout work for three years. In that time he has qualified for fifty-six of the fifty-seven merit badges offered by the National Court of Honor. The merit badge for invention is the only one that he has not earned, and he is now working on three inventions, with one of which he hopes to win the last badge.

The winning of twenty-one merit badges entitles Scout Porter to the silver eagle badge, which distinguishes him as an eagle scout. There are a number of these created every month by the National Court of Honor. But the fact that Scout Porter has won thirty-five more badges than were necessary for his election places him in a class entirely alone. His record has not been equaled among boy scouts anywhere. The National Court of Honor has not yet devised a badge of other insignia with which to reward scouts who attain so many honors.

Kept Constantly at Work.

The process by which Scout Porter won his unique distinction was one of constant work and perseverance in the study of scout lore during the last three years. He began as a tenderfoot member of Troop No. 1, Fayetteville scouts, when he was 15 years of age.

Soon after joining the movement he went to Oberlin, Ohio, where he entered Oberlin Academy and there, with eight other boys continued his interest in scouting. Through the second

and first classes in the scout curriculum he made rapid progress and then began the series of tests by which the merit badges were won.

The first five were a matter of physical and mental fitness and elementary scout training. They were first aid, athletics, life saving, personal health and public health. Upon qualifying for these badges Scout Porter was elected a life scout and was in line for the other badges.

When he had completed another series of five he was chosen a star scout and eleven more made him an eagle scout.

Not satisfied with the number necessary to win the silver eagle badge he continued his work, until last week when he received the last of the fifty-six badges. They were given for excellence in the following tests in addition to the five mentioned above:

Agriculture, angling, archery, architecture, art, astronomy, automobiling, aviation, bee farming, blacksmithing, bugling, business, camping, carpentry, chemistry, civics, conservation, cooking, craftsmanship, cycling, dairying, electricity, firemanship, first aid to animals, forestry, gardening, handicraft, horsemanship, interpreting, leather working, machinery, marksmanship, masonry, mining, music, ornithology, painting, pathfinding, photography, pioneering, plumbing, poultry farming, printing, scholarship, sculpture, seamanship, signaling, stalking, surveying, swimming, taxidermy.

The examining board before which Scout Porter appeared for the majority of his tests consisted of the Rev. Charles Themanston of Oberlin, Ohio; Thomas Blair Pratzman of Norwalk, Ohio; John B. Long of Poughkeepsie, and Ralph Ellis Shriver of Mexico.

Scout Porter is now in attendance at Syracuse University, summer school where he is taking a course in pedagogy, preparatory to teaching English in the Henry A. Nelson Memorial school in Tripoli, Syria. He will leave early in September for Syria to take up his work there.