

News

Senator Klobuchar Presents Webelos with National Certificate of Merit

Following the council's awarding of the National BSA Certificate of Merit to Antonio Vandal at the Council Coordinated Committees Meeting in January, a local presentation was held in his home community of North Saint Paul on February 18.

Friends, family members, leaders and fellow Scouts gathered at the North Star Scouting Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting for the re-presentation of the BSA National Certificate of Merit to Antonio Vandal.

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United States Senator Amy Klobuchar teamed up with Brian Bullock, Council Vice-President of District Operations to present the Certificate during the National Court of Honor. Senator Klobuchar also made a few remarks, congratulating Antonio and thanking the volunteer leaders and other supporters who make Scouting possible.

Mike Kuehn, Mayor of North Saint Paul, read a Proclamation in Antonio's honor and was joined in attending by several City Council Members.

KSTP-5 Television covered the ceremony and there was also a brief article in the Pioneer Press.

[KSTP Coverage](#)



Webelos Scout Antonio Vandall was presented with the National Certificate of Merit in front of over 200 Scouting volunteers at the opening of the Council Coordinated Committees Meeting on January 28.

Antonio and Richard Neuner, Council President

Anyone who was ever in Cub Scouts will remember the Cub Scout oath, to "Do your best." In August of 2010, nine year old Webelos Scout Antonio Vandal of North St. Paul, Minnesota certainly fulfilled that oath.

Antonio had been invited to go on a canoe trip with other Scouts and friends on the Namekagon River near Hayward, Wisconsin. Because he had no canoeing experience, Antonio purchased a Scout merit badge book on canoeing. Then, in preparation for his new adventure, he and his father, Rocky Vandal, went to a nearby lake to practice canoeing techniques, including what to do if capsized.

On August 12, 2010, Antonio and his father would show the value of trying to "Do your Best." During this outing, their first ever adventure of this kind, the canoe of one of his friends capsized in turbulent rapids of the Namekagon River. Following precisely the procedures he had learned just one week before, Antonio skillfully stabilized their canoe, enabling his father to successfully pull his friend to safety.

For his putting his recent Scout training to use in the rescue of his friend, Antonio Vandal was presented one of Scouting's highest awards, the National Certificate of Merit. This award is, indeed, significant. Last year, out of over 615,000 Webelos Cub Scouts registered in the United States, only four Webelos Scouts received the National Certificates of Merit and only 57 were presented nationwide.

Congratulations Antonio!

WCCO 4 and KARE 11 had reporters and cameras at the ceremony and WCCO ran the story Friday night

[WCCO Coverage](#)

[Kare 11 Coverage](#)

Publish: 2/21/2012 | Expires: 2/29/2012



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Carl Baumeister

Well done, Antonio! The mark of a hero is putting the safety and well-being of others before one's own.

Reply · 1 · Like · January 31 at 12:15pm



Joellyn Reinke · Assistant Tax Manager at Thomson Reuters

Adam Reinke is proud to call Antonio a friend. Nice job!

Reply · 1 · Like · January 30 at 7:20pm



Donald Lesher · NCS Technical Planner Tier 2 Network Operations at Usbank

Great Job, what a dedicated Scout.

Reply · Like · February 19 at 2:31am



Karen Foster

He has been a hero to me for years! Way to go Antonio!

Reply · Like · January 28 at 12:59pm

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