

Determination leads Eagle Scout's project for local museum



Brandon Rogers earned his unofficial badge for beating the clock when he earned the rank of Eagle Scout five days before aging out of the Boy Scouts — something he learned soon after completing his project.

“It came as a shock to me,” Brandon said. “I didn’t know it was that close.”

Brandon has been working toward the goal of Eagle Scout for 12 years as a Boy Scout. According to his father, Stephen Rogers, his son has enjoyed the journey as much as reaching his goal.

“His big thing is that it was more fun learning and being with the guys,” Rogers said.

To earn his Eagle Scout, Brandon designed and built an outdoor classroom at the Onslow County Museum.

While attending church at First Christian Church in Richlands, he learned the museum wanted the classroom, so for two months, he led a crew of 22 people who built the patio-like area outside that is 15 feet by 12 feet.

Through the construction process, Brandon said he had to confront one of his biggest academic challenges: mathematics. He came up with the design, figure the specifics, got help from his friends and “had the time of his life.”

“It was great because everyone had a great attitude,” Brandon said. “We told jokes and laughed the whole way through.”

Lisa Whitman-Grice Onslow County Museum director, watched the classroom steadily come to fruition between March and May. She said museum patrons will now be able to sit and learn outdoors of Brandon’s work ethic.

“He has a tremendous work ethic,” said Grice. “I found him to be a hard working young person that wanted to do something to better his community.”

Rogers agreed with Grice, saying when his son starts something, he doesn’t rest until it’s finished.

“Brandon hates to leave things undone,” Rogers said.

Brandon said the support of his troop was what ultimately got the job done at the Museum.

“Without a strong work ethic, you’ll never get anything done,” said Brandon. “You have to keep on yourself and overcome your obstacles to get where you need to be.”

Brandon graduated from Richlands High School in June. He plans to follow in his father's footsteps and study to be a physician's assistant. His father says his son is a chip off the old block and will fit right into the profession once his schooling is completed.

"He's able to quickly adapt to his surroundings," Rogers said. "He always looks for ways where he can improve certain areas ... That's vital when you're a physician's assistant, especially when there are complications."

Brandon Rogers aged out of the Boy Scouts on May 18, but he says he's not done working with his troop. He plans on assisting with their activities and will lead his troop to the annual Boy Scout Jamboree in West Virginia in July.

"The Scouts is a great program," he said. "I want to give back in any way I can."