

Scout designs solar collector for Science Resource Center



Eagle Scout Joshua Rintamaki designed and supervised the construction of a portable solar collector that will be used by Douglas Cooper for school districtwide symposiums on alternate forms of energy.

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Joshua Rintamaki is the 118th member of Boy Scout Troop 116 of Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield to achieve the rank of Eagle, scouting's highest award. He is the son of John and Marilyn Rintamaki of West Bloomfield and a junior at North Farmington High School.

For his Eagle service project, Rintamaki designed and supervised the construction of a portable solar collector to be used by the Farmington Public Schools Science Resource Center for a district wide science symposium about alternate forms of energy.

It is housed in Fairview School Environmental Center and will be used to teach solar energy.

The Thermosiphoning Air Panel (TAP) Solar Collector uses an absorber plate to convert the sun's energy to heat, and then moves the heated air into a building by convection. The TAP consists of plexiglass glazing, a black steel absorber plate, a wood frame to hold the parts together, and vent tubes to conduct the flow of air in and out of the collector.

The TAP took 10 scouts working over a period of eight weeks 36 hours of supervised time to complete, not counting the 47 hours spent by Rintamaki on the project.

He assembled two notebook-photo albums which detail the construction process and other project data with an explanation of how and why the Thermosiphoning Air Panel Collector works. A poster to be used as a teaching aid was made and laminated to make it durable. It shows the design of the solar collector, explains how a TAP works and describes the scientific principles involved in its functioning. The solar collector, poster and one of the notebook-photo albums were given to project advisor, Douglas Cooper, science consultant for the Farmington Public Schools, to be used in the science programs of the district, as part of this Eagle project.

RINTAMAKI has been involved in scouting since 1980 when he became a Cub Scout in Pack 116. As a Webelos Scout he earned Cub Scouting's highest award, the Arrow of Light, while completing all 15 activity badges offered in the program.

Since joining Boy Scout Troop 116 in 1983, he has served as den chief, librarian, instructor, assistant senior patrol leader, and is currently the Senior Patrol Leader of the troop.

He has earned the Ben Chief Service Award and the Historic Trails Award. In 1986 and 1987, as top fundraiser for Troop 116, he earned the George R. DeCourcy Award, a trophy presented by the troop in honor of its founder.

He was elected by fellow scouts to the Order of the Arrow, an honorary camping society and became an O-A Ordeal member at the 1987 Conclave of the Chipewaga Lodge. He has hiked the Chief Pontiac Trail, the Potawatomi Trail, and served for two years as a member of the Governor's Honor Guard on Mackinac Island.

He helped earn two first place "Most Creative Station" Awards from the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department for participation in the "Haunted Forest" in 1985 and 1987. He has attended numerous camps, canoe trips and campouts, as well as week long summer camps at Lost Lake and D-Bar-A where he completed Boy Scout Junior Leadership Training in 1988.

As a sophomore in the Michigan Industrial Education Awards competition, he earned a first place award at the district level and a fourth place award at the state level with his computer drafting drawing of a trolley. He was also a member of an Odyssey of the Mind team which won a bronze medal at regional competition and a silver at the district level.

He was awarded a citation of excellence from Case Western Reserve University for a science symposium he attended in the summer of 1987, and this year he advanced to the second level of the Michigan Math Test. He is an active member of St. Columban Parish where he attended religious formation classes leading to his Confirmation, and has participated in the Teen Group and in the music liturgy of the parish.

This summer Rintamaki will be attending the National Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, VA as a patrol leader for Troop 2032, a provisional troop from the Clinton Valley Council. This week-long event in August involves thousands of Scouts and Explorers from every corner of the U.S. as well as foreign countries. Upon graduation from high school, he plans to study aerospace and aeronautical engineering.

He plays the corset in Jazz Band, and is a member of the Pep Band. He is on the Yearbook Staff and a member of the Junior Varsity Track Team. He has earned an academic letter and is a member of the National Honor Society and maintains a 4.0 average in advanced placement and college preparatory classes.

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