



Summit Scout Ainsley Martin, Crew 16

It is a distinct honor and pleasure to announce that the Great Southwest Council has a new Summit Scout on its roster. The Summit Rank is the highest rank in Venturing. It is co-equal in prestige and precedence to Scouts BSA Eagle Rank and Sea Scouting Quartermaster Rank. To earn the Summit Rank a Venturer must complete training in effective communications, resource and time management, leadership skills and goal-setting; perform at least 60 community service hours in addition to planning and conducting a major service project; become a mentor to other Venturers, and participate in adventures with their crew.

The current Venturing Rank program started in 2014 with three Venturers earning the Summit rank. The first was earned in February 2019 by Erika Tolson of Crew 220 and the second was by Colin Howard of Crew 280 in October 2021. Our third most recent Summit Scout was awarded on January 2, 2024.

Our newest Summit Scout is Ms. Ainsley Martin of Crew 16. She is the second Scout in our council to earn both Eagle Scout and the Venturing Summit ranks. After earning her Eagle Scout Rank, Ainsley sought a new set of adventures and leadership opportunities by returning to the Venturing Program and serving as President of her Crew. Attending adventures is part of the Venturing foundation, and Ainsley participated to the fullest. Her favorite adventures were participating in World Scout Jamboree and attending Sea Base, with a twist. At Sea Base, a hurricane was forecasted to hit the Caribbean and the official program was cancelled. Ever adventurous, Ainsley led her crew to make the most of the time and turned the trip into an exploration adventure of sailing, snorkeling, hiking, kayaking, and more throughout the islands.

In addition to her Eagle Rank project and completion of the Girl Scouts Gold Award; Ainsley organized and led a Summit Rank service project. The project was to install two Night Eyes night time orienteering courses at Girl Scout Camp Barker in Angel Fire, NM. Overcoming fire restrictions in the summer of 2023 and other challenges, she completed the two courses and provided the camp with a wonderful teaching tool.

Congratulations again to Summit Scout Ainsley Martin on this momentous occasion and outstanding achievement!

Brian Tolson
Council Venturing Program