

Maurits G. Boon van Ostade



Eagle Scout Maurits Boon van Ostade graduated from Canton High School in 2009. He was born in Massachusetts in 1991. He has both the Dutch and American nationality. In his life he has lived in four countries and visited many different places. This is what he writes about his life:

Throughout my life I have moved 8 times and in the process I have experienced much. I did not always enjoy moving away from friends, my house, my town and then move into a totally new place. A new house, new friends, new things, everything was different from what I was used to. Sometimes I hated it. Starting off new could be frustrating. However, I learned a lot and have knowledge about different cultures. When I moved to Brazil, I learned about many of the hardships and poverty in that country. When I was in Belgium, I saw different types of architecture. In Germany, I acknowledged a very different cuisine. All of these countries made me more aware of the world around us.

In 1989 my mom and dad both moved from Holland to the USA to Pittsfield, MA. Both of my parents knew little English, but after a year they started to get the hang of it. Then in May of 1991 I was born. A year later my parents moved to Detroit, and this is where my brother, Jan, was born in 1992. After 2 years in Detroit, we all moved to Louisville, Kentucky. In 1995, my second brother, Alex, was born. Then in 1997 my dad got yet another job, this time outside the U.S. Two weeks later we moved to Brazil.

Brazil had a very different environment compared to America. It was very hot and it hardly ever rained. It had very easygoing people and good food. Despite the poverty and crime, it was a very relaxed place. Since I lived there only 2 years and by then I was 6 years old, I remember the scenery, the friends and the school. I learned how to speak Portuguese. In Brazil, we lived in a poor country and it was a very good experience for me since it made me more grateful, and overall a better person.

After Brazil we moved to Belgium. Belgium was the exact opposite of Brazil. It did not have the tropical weather we were used to. It had a very rich and elegant feel to it. The houses had very different architecture, it was more old and aesthetic, a very pleasant country plus it was the closest I have ever lived to my extended

family, which mostly live in the Netherlands. It was also a very cosmopolitan place. There were people from Korea, Brazil, UK, India, France, Philippines, and America. Our school had 41 different nationalities. I learned how to speak French and Flemish. I loved the school and again, it influenced me greatly.

Then in 2001, we moved to Germany. Germany was one of my favorite countries. I made very good friends (we met the Scully family!), enjoyed the school, and loved the food. Germany was a very scenic place. On a clear day you could see the Alps that were all the way in Austria. I skied for the first time, I ate schnitzel and went to Oktoberfest for the first time. I learned how to speak German as well. In 2005, I came to Canton, Connecticut.

My brother Jan and I joined the boy scouts basically 2 months after we moved here in 2005. I was 14 years old and had some catching up to do since we had no idea what it exactly meant to be a boy scout. Our whole family felt really welcomed by the troop and we seemed to fit in well. I remember going on the Block Island campout and really loving it. After that I decided to stay in the troop and give it a shot. We went to Philmont a year later. Maybe it was not too late to become an Eagle Scout. It turned out it wasn't.

After I graduated from Canton High School in 2009 I decided to go on a gap year. I spent eight months in South Africa, Kenya and Malaysia. My boy scouts skills helped me really well to be prepared and survive in strenuous situations. I am very grateful to be back in the United States and ready to go to St. John's college in New York City where I will study Criminal Justice.

Rank Advancement

Scout	09/28/05	Star	09/19/07
Tenderfoot	06/06/06	Life	05/28/08
Second Class	07/06/06	Eagle	08/25/09
First Class	12/13/06		

Merit Badges Earned

Art First	Aid*
Basketry	
Leatherwork	
Camping* Personal	Fitness*
Citizenship in the Community*	Personal Management*
Citizenship in the Nation*	Rowing
Citizenship in the World*	Sculpture
Communications* Snow	Sports
Cooking	
Sports	
Emergency Preparedness*	Swimming*
Environmental Science*	Truck Transport
Family Life*	Wilderness Survival

*Eagle Requirement

Eagle Project

Through the Simsbury Beautification Committee I learned about the Drake Hill Flower Bridge in Simsbury. Originally designed and built in 1892, the bridge spans 183 feet and carries a 12-foot roadway suspended 18 feet over the Farmington River. Every year the Flower Bridge committee fills the 48 flower boxes with

flowers and plants and this is sponsored by local businesses and families. I met with Mr Jerry Lintner and he explained to me that the boxes were really deteriorating and needed to be replaced soon. I accepted the project.

The fundraising was relatively easy. I was interviewed by several local newspapers and many readers phoned me to donate. Also my family in Europe was very generous and therefore helped me to accomplish my project.

Building the boxes was a lot of work. I spend many hours in our garage to build them. I got a lot of help from family and friends, especially from a friend from Brazil, Mauro Dantas Cordeiro, who was visiting us and he helped me to buy the right wood and designing and building the boxes. Because I raised more money than needed I did not need financial assistance from the Flower Bridge Committee and they could use that money to improve the irrigation system to water the flower boxes. Now the Drake Hill Flower Bridge continues to be a beautiful landmark in Simsbury.



Completed Eagle Project