

BL HEADLINERS

NAME: Lawson McLeod

BORN: Jan. 20, 2004

HOMETOWN: Wesley Chapel, Fla.

MADE HEADLINES: By becoming the 6-year-old winner at the 2010 IronKids national championship, after swimming 50 yards, biking two miles and running 500 yards. More than 500 athletes from 30 states and four countries competed.

THE SCOOP: The former Cub Scout ran his first triathlon at 5. Lawson's mom, Laura, competes in them, but he didn't start until a family friend mentioned the Youth Triathlon Series.

A SLOW START: When Lawson was 4, he wore casts and leg braces for a year to help him walk properly, and he started swimming for therapy.

FAVORITE PART OF TRIATHLON: Biking. Lawson named his race bike "Captain Rex," after the "Star Wars: Clone Wars" character.

OTHER INTERESTS: Reading, Legos, traveling

THE FUTURE: "I want to get to the IronMan national triathlon someday."

ADVICE: "You've got to train hard."

ON THE WEB: boyslife.org/links/ironkids

—Jennifer L.W. Fink



DAVID SANCHEZ

**HERO
TO THE HOMELESS**

**EAGLE SCOUT
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE**



NAME: David Sanchez

BORN: Sept. 11, 1991

HOMETOWN: Racine, Wis.

SCOUT RANK: Eagle Scout (Troop 161, Racine)

MADE HEADLINES: By winning the 2010 Barron Prize for Young Heroes, a national award recognizing outstanding young leaders who make a positive difference in their communities. David founded Job-Link Racine, an organization that connects homeless and low-income teens with part-time job opportunities.

OTHER AWARDS: Parade Magazine 2010 All-America High School Service First Team, 2010 Coca-Cola Scholar, 2010 AXA Achievement Scholar, Vanderbilt University Ingram Scholar

HOBBIES: Physical fitness, filmmaking, soccer, reading

ADVICE: "Start with the end in mind. The road to Eagle can be intimidating, but take it one step at a time, and before you know it you'll be setting up your Eagle board of review. Find what you're passionate about and do it. Everything will work out."

ON THE WEB: boyslife.org/links/barronprize

—Angie Kay Dillmore



**SCOUTS [AND OTHERS]
WITH BIG STORIES**

NAME: Luis Lopez

BORN: June 29, 1999

HOMETOWN: Kelseyville, Calif.

SCOUT RANK: Scout (Troop 45, Kelseyville)

MADE HEADLINES: By leading his U.S. under-12 soccer team to the semifinals of the international 2010 Gothia Cup tournament in Gothenberg, Sweden, the furthest any American boys team advanced in the event.

THE SCOOP: The only goalkeeper on the team, Luis played every minute of the four games played by his team, the USA Earthquakes. Luis was voted the team's most valuable player and had 12 saves in the team's semifinal playoff game against Germany.

OTHER INTERESTS: Baseball, wrestling, basketball, football, math

THE FUTURE: Luis would like to become a professional soccer player. "I'm good at math, so being a doctor is a possibility."

ADVICE: "Never say, 'I can't.' Always move on."

ON THE WEB: boyslife.org/links/gothiacup

—Bob Kowalski



NAME: Michael Reed

BORN: April 21, 1992

HOMETOWN: Chattanooga, Tenn.

MADE HEADLINES: By winning the national John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Contest in 2010, which challenged high school students to write an essay about an elected official who has demonstrated political courage.

THE SCOOP: The former Scout wrote about U.S. Congressman Ken Hechler from West Virginia, who in 1969 stood up to powerful interests in the coal-producing state to pass legislation protecting the health and safety of miners. The award: \$10,000.

WHAT ELSE: Certified scuba diver, senior class president

ADVICE: "Be honest. I write because I want the opportunity to add my thoughts to the world's conversation about who we are and who we want to be." —Annemarie Mannion



QUICK HITS

Noah Robertson

BORN: Jan. 7, 1996

HOMETOWN: Iuka, Miss.

SCOUT RANK: Eagle Scout (Troop 26, Crew 15, Iuka)

MADE HEADLINES: By winning the 2010 Mississippi Middle Level Prudential Spirit of Community Volunteer of the Year Award, the Northeast Mississippi Jefferson Award and the American Legion School Award for leadership, patriotism, courage, scholarship, honor and service. Among other projects, Noah created and implemented an anti-bullying program at his school.



Aaron Robinson

BORN: June 26, 2002

HOMETOWN: Mount Pleasant, S.C.

SCOUT RANK: Cub Scout (Pack 502, Mount Pleasant)

MADE HEADLINES: By winning the mini javelin throw and placing third in the shot put at the 2010 South Carolina USATF Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships. At the 2010 South Carolina Regional Junior Olympics, he placed second in mini javelin with a record-breaking distance of 72 feet 3 inches.

Neil Kondamuri

BORN: April 22, 1992

HOMETOWN: Dyer, Ind.

MADE HEADLINES: By winning Indiana's 2010 Top Young Scientist title and a \$10,000 scholarship. Neil studied how bees navigate back to their hives. He hoped the answer could explain the western honeybee's recent disappearance.

—Kathleen Landis



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