

December 24, 2011 AP

Calif. teen becomes youngest to climb 7 summits

BIG BEAR, California (AP) – A U.S. teenager became the youngest person to successfully climb to the summit of the seven tallest mountains on Earth's seven continents, according to his mother and his website.



Jordan Romero, 15, called his mother, Leigh Ann Drake, on Saturday to confirm that he'd achieved his goal of reaching the top of Mt. Vinson Massif in Antarctica.

The California native beat the record previously held by British climber [George Atkinson](#), who completed the ascents at age 16 in May.

Romero's team began the climb Wednesday. Romero's Facebook page, "Find Your Everest," marked reaching the summit, but the climb is hardly over.

"Descent still to come then we celebrate," a post to the Facebook page read.

Romero completes the climbs with his father and stepmother.

At age 10, Romero climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa, and at 13 he climbed the world's highest mountain, Mt. Everest, in Asia.

Drake declined further comment, saying the family is not seeking attention for the boy's achievement.

January 21, 2012

16-Year-Old Girl Sails Around the World Alone, Parents Not Arrested



After a yearlong journey, Laura Dekker, a 16-year-old from the Netherlands, [completed a solo sailing trip around the world today](#). Upon her arrival at port, Dekker was greeted by family, friends and neighbors celebrating her safe return.

Jody Bell, one of Dekker's 10-year-old fans, calls her story "amazing," and says he "can't imagine someone her age going out on sea all by herself." Neither can I, Jody, but what I find most amazing about the story is that her parents seem to have spent this entire year without their daughter avoiding arrest on charges related to child protection.

After all, the attempt was not without precedent. The rescue of a 16-year-old girl on a similar journey made [international news](#) just two months before Dekker's departure in 2011. But, you know, that girl survived, and Dekker's parents probably made her watch *Castaway* at least twice.

Guinness World Records has refused to acknowledge Dekker's claim of being the youngest person to sail around the world, and their effort to avoid inspiring young sailors to do something equally stupid was an admirable one.

Meanwhile, Dekker's parents are still walking the streets.