

Symbols of Success

March 3, 2016 | 49 upvotes | by [WhySoRuff](#)

Summary:

This post is not about \$2K watches or \$60K cars, those are **status symbols** and they DHV to the world. The symbols I'm referring to are insignificant to the world yet mean something to us.

Blue Pill Symbol

I noticed my 8th grade niece had received an attendance award, it was attached to the fridge. I read who it was made out to which bears my last name, it made me smile. Then I was shocked to read the award was for having the 7th best attendance record in her class. Not the 8th grade class as a whole, her individual class of 30 students. What the fuck?! Yes, children need positive reinforcement, but I was a child once and we didn't get recognized for 7th place in anything. Why are they rewarding mediocrity? Can you imagine if the Olympics awarded those who placed 7th?

Red Pill Symbol

Have you ever walked into a business and seen a \$1 bill taped up on the wall? That is the 1st dollar the business owner made. He is proud of that dollar because it reminds him of the day the cash register rang for the first time. It's not about the actual dollar, it's a symbol that what this man has sacrificed has paid off. I will bet that he would give you a \$20 bill from his pocket before he gave you that particular dollar from the wall.

In Progress Symbol

This is my [lighter](#). It has a quarter tank of gas left, and is probably worth 25 cents. Over a year ago when I was still getting high, I would go through a 5 pack of Bic's every week. If I wasn't draining each lighter to its very last drop of fluid, I was handing it to a friend and forgetting about it (jacked) or having it drop off my lap without noticing as I got out of the car. The lighter you see pictured is the last one I've ever bought. It's been in my possession for over a year. It symbolizes my victory over a lifestyle that was draining my wallet and slowing down my progress. Do you see that chipped and frayed edge at the bottom? I've used this lighter to pop the caps off many bottles of beer in the last year. Beers I fucking earned.

Share your symbols of success below.

Archived from theredarchive.com

Comments

gabilromariz • 13 points • 3 March, 2016 10:50 AM

My symbol of success is a medal I won for second place in a comedy contest. I am the least funny person I know of, but I worked hard, prepared jokes, rehearsed the act and so on. To me it's a symbol of me achieving what I didn't think was *me* and how hard work trumps "natural knack". I have it pinned to the corkboard in my office. I also have a box in my nightstand with random hex nuts I collect at important times. I have one taken from a traffic signal from my hometown, one taken from my first car, you get the picture

SteeleLion • 6 points • 3 March, 2016 08:19 PM **[recovered]**

Mine is literally a steel lion.

My name roughly translates to Lion, my Family name is Steele.

I saw a lion figure head made of some sort of steel like metal in a market place when I left my home country to restart my life 3 years ago. It symbolises the ferocity and hard edge I wanted to cultivate for myself.

Kind of like a Totem for me, now I just think be the Steel Lion.

[deleted] • 4 points • 4 March, 2016 01:27 PM **[recovered]**

Could you possibly have a more bad ass name?

[deleted] • 5 points • 3 March, 2016 03:18 PM

Big into these:

I keep the cheap black pepper box that I used to season the cold Chunky Soup that I'd eat when I basically lived in my car in LA for a year.

I keep the first contract that I ever get when I started my company on my wall. I priced it so I had just enough to pay rent that month while still winning the sale.

Just reminders of where I've where I'm going.

[deleted] • 3 points • 3 March, 2016 11:06 AM

[permanently deleted]

Peter_Pan_MGTOW • 9 points • 3 March, 2016 04:19 PM

"whats that you got in your pockets son?"

"dont worry officer, that's nothing to worry about, that's just my symbol"

"Oh, its your symbol. Of course. Carry on"

[deleted] • -1 points • 3 March, 2016 06:57 PM

[permanently deleted]

empty_basket • 1 point • 4 March, 2016 12:44 PM

You're just lucky, OP. Just like me. Not everyone is so lucky. Ditch the high horse routine though. It doesn't suit you.

TheRedStoic • 3 points • 3 March, 2016 03:58 PM

I don't really have a symbol. I do have a set of skills.

I have my business, I have a mastery level capability playing piano, and I'm noticeably ripped.

These are my success "symbols" I guess, I don't really have any hard physical representatives though, like a medal or anything.

You've forced me to introspect op. I don't have physical symbols of anything really, jewelry, art, etc. I don't like them, I like having abilities I can use. That's what I get off on.

bebestman • 1 point • 3 March, 2016 05:37 PM

Similar here. My possessions change as my personality changes. Say I was to learn playing the piano, I'd have one staying in my place. If I stop playing, the piano goes away too, even if I still can play.

But I am not sure that this is a particularly good way to live, not showing to other people what you are capable of by showing off your possessions, as they can serve as an excellent conversation piece.

TheRedStoic • 1 point • 3 March, 2016 06:30 PM

That's true. Though I usually ride through social proof.

People know what I'm good at quickly, I've spent most of my life cultivating myself to be a "go to guy" Party planned? Me.

Events? Me.

Job? Me.

Etc. So I've always been maximizing my value. Thanks to upbringing I suppose. You raise an excellent point though, I should consider getting more easily accessible? Transparent? Whatever the appropriate word is.

bebestman • 1 point • 3 March, 2016 06:40 PM

"Conspicuous" seems like a good choice, as in "conspicuous consumption" for showing off wealth. Which is especially funny with nerds, who profess to not playing status games, but play them indirectly by showing off either their "knowledge" or what kind of media they consume.

Personally, I make an effort keep the books I learned the most from and to acquire hardcover versions of them. This gives people a variety of topics to pick from. Sometimes I even buy the book after having found the information elsewhere.

What are some other ways to show off skills, especially those that do not necessarily need tools, like programming?

reasonableman1 • 4 points • 3 March, 2016 12:59 PM

My body is my symbol. I was a obese 42 inch waist tubbo with no muscle tone for years, and then I lost weight, cut my hair into a decent style, and started lifting weights and now I'm in better shape than 98% of guys my age. I say 98% because I don't personally know a single guy my age in better shape, I just know they exist.

Rasalom72[] • 2 points • 3 March, 2016 02:05 PM

When I started my first job, I bought a papermate refillable clicky pen to do the kitchen orders with. I still have that pen over two decades later. And I can still get refills.

LetsGoAllTheWhey • 2 points • 4 March, 2016 01:58 AM

My symbol is my Marine Corps uniform that's been hanging in the closet for the last 25 years. Last time I tried it on, my arms wouldn't fit in the sleeves.

[deleted] • 1 point • 4 March, 2016 01:28 PM

Nothing is more rewarding than trying on an old shirt and noticing how the sleeves can barely stretch around your bis

ObservantOmega • 1 point • 3 March, 2016 12:45 PM

My first three books I've bought after my family lost everything in a flood (house, almost all possessions plus the family business). They remind me that you can rebuild everything if you work for it.

A bundle of dueling blades from my time in a German student corporation. They remind me that for all the tough talk most people are weak cowards, and it takes confidence to go out there and take a risk.

eccentricrealist • 1 point • 4 March, 2016 03:15 AM

A small frame of my first novel's cover. It's not even good, I published it independently in high school, but I keep it as a reminder that if I stick to a plan I can do whatever the hell I want. Also, when I don't have to bust my ass all day long with econ, I'll write as much as I can because I fucking love it.

Donny577 • 1 point • 4 March, 2016 06:43 PM

My symbol is honestly my pants from 9th grade I was 160. Let myself go my senior year after sports and wrestling was done. Ended up 210 at the middle of summer, found the RP and now I can wear those pants again.

RedPillAtNight • 1 point • 4 March, 2016 09:45 PM

I have three. I have a plaque for winning Best overall driver at a driving school at Atlanta Motor Speedway. I was the best (fastest driving the road course they had inside the big oval at the time) that day out of 120 total drivers.

I have a marathon finisher certificate from the Chicago Marathon the day I qualified for Boston. After that race I sat in the tent in front of a heater and shivered for 30 minutes. I literally left every ounce of energy on the course.

And I have a third place flag hanging in my living room from the Chicago to Mackinac sailing race (333 miles, three days racing) where we placed third. It was on my dads boat and it was epic to see his face on the stage when we got the flag.

All hard earned and significant to me.

Entropy-7 • -16 points • 3 March, 2016 07:09 AM

The greatest status symbol is to have a hot chick on your arm. There was a whole Playboy article on this and a Rolex came in second place.

I am saving up for a simple stainless steel; it will set me back about low five-figures. Meanwhile my girlfriend is 5'9", 20 BMI and otherwise rather striking.

Peter_Pan_MGTOW • -2 points • 3 March, 2016 04:26 PM

negative, look at elon musk and his wife and observe how much of a fucking idiot he looks like. a genius who revolutionized industries, and then married a dumb pair of tits. the guy is the laughingstock of his social circles.

Having a hot chick on your arm is not a symbol of social status, **having a hot chick on your arm is a symbol of clueless narcissism** because everyone knows you want them to think youre high-status when you

have a hot chick on ur arm.

having a wife like talulah riley is the equivalent of driving around in a ferrari... you get a lot of respect from pimple-faced 12-year-olds who read about you on the internet, and ZERO respect from your comrades in business, who chuckle about your "little hobby" behind your back every chance they get.

Having a hot chick on your arm is like driving a ferrari. 12-year-olds think you're high status and everyone else thinks you're just clueless.