



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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Scout Earns 133 Merit Badges

Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is quite an accomplishment. Earning 133 merit badges along the way makes Eric Neidigh of Troop 336 in Mulberry, Ind. an extremely rare accomplishment. He is the youngest in Indiana to do so and because of special badges only available during the 100th anniversary year of Scouting, he also holds the most badges earned in the state. Nationally, there are only 174 who earned all possible merit badges on the path to the Eagle rank since 1910.

Neidigh, who just turned 16 in August began as a Tiger Cub. He recently completed his Eagle Scout project and is awaiting approval for his Eagle Scout status. He raised about \$1,300 and led construction of three flights of stairs and decking to increase public access to the pond and chapel at Camp Cullom in Clinton County.

He said he enjoyed learning new things and earning all of the badges. But when pressed, he said the most challenging badge was for bugling. It took him two years to complete including lessons on how to play the instrument and spending three months as the troop bugler. The badge he enjoyed the most? Scuba diving; where he had the chance to explore an old sunken school bus.

Now that his Eagle project is complete, he wants to complete his Firecrafter rank, earn Eagle Palms until he is 18, take the Leave No Trace certification class and complete his National Outdoor medal, Religious Emblem for God and Life and possibly a Hornaday award.

Not only has he been involved in Boy Scouts, he's also assisting his sister with her Girl Scout gold award.

His advice for others? "Don't let the little things get to you, everything is possible."

*By Debbie Davis
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