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News | Around Town

Boy Scout Brothers from Vienna Complete All 135 Merit Badges

Youngest brothers to earn every single badge, according to Boy Scouts.

Posted by [Mary Ann Barton](#) (Editor) , May 13, 2014 at 09:56 AM



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Sean and Eric Grapin pause for a photo while hiking. Photo courtesy of Grapin family

Two Northern Virginia [Boy Scouts](#), brothers Eric Grapin, 13 and Sean Grapin, 11, have accomplished what only a handful have accomplished before them: They have earned every Boy Scout [Merit Badge](#). The boys are members of Troop 345, chartered by [Wesley United Methodist Church](#) in Vienna.

According to www.meritbadgeknot.com, 221 Scouts have completed all of the badges. Statistically, this accomplishment equates to 0.000004 percent, according to the scouts' Merit Badge counselor, John

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Moran.

More stats about the Grapin brothers' accomplishments, according to their Merit Badge counselor, Brian Kristal:

- They are the first brothers from Northern Virginia to have earned every Merit Badge.
- They are the youngest brothers to have done so.
- Both are the first non-Eagles to have earned every Merit Badge.
- Sean - at 11 years, 8 months, and 22 days - is the youngest Scout by at least two years to have done so.

The two boys recently met with counselor John Moran to sign-off on their final merit badge - their 135th. Last month, the two completed their Lifesaving Merit Badge (#134, and their second-to-last); and their final Backpacking trek.

Their travels in reaching the goal of fulfilling every single merit badge have taken them to 17 states including:

- as far west as **Las Vegas** (for several badges, including Golf)
- **Minnesota** (for Welding and Search and Rescue)
- **Boston** (for Stamp Collecting)
- **Phoenix** (for Metalwork)
- **Atlanta** (for several including Small-Boat Sailing)
- and several other states

Their Merit Badges also included Nuclear Science, Scuba Diving, Shotgun Shooting, Archery, Backpacking, Snow Sports, Veterinary Medicine, and three levels of Citizenship.

The brothers say they would like to revisit or pursue some of the activities they experienced.

For Eric, *Shotgun Shooting* tops his list of favorite activities; for Sean, it's *Horsemanship*. The boys first got interested in Merit Badges after seeing an old BSA promotional poster titled *The Merits of Scouting*.

Eric is looking forward to being a Counselor-in-Training at his council's summer camp, and preparing for high school in the fall; Sean says he'd like to enjoy the summer, maybe try some more horseback riding, and visit his grandparents in California.

Troop 345 meets at Wesley United Methodist Church in Vienna. If you're interested in Boy Scouts, contact **Be a Scout** to find a pack, troop, ship, crew or team near you.



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