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Tyson Gubler an example in Scouting

By: For The Journal When sophomore Tyson Gubler went to his first court of honor at the age of 11, he quickly decided he wanted to earn his Eagle before he turned 13, but that wasn't all he wanted. "I made the goal to have 50 **merit badges** along with it . . . I got that."

At Tyson's Eagle Court of Honor, he set a new goal, one that only 17 other people have been documented to have achieved: Tyson decided to earn all of the **merit badges**.

"Our hardest thing was probably to find **merit** badge counselors," said Tyson's father, Lance Gubler.

Tyson explained that some of the last **merit badges** he had to earn were especially hard to find counselors for, like, "Small boat sailing; that was my last **merit** badge. We called and there were no counselors in the Zion District." They had no better luck locating one in St. George either. "We were getting depressed trying to find someone." Tyson's uncle Wayne Olsen knew how to sail, but they still had to locate a boat. During football practice, the small boat sailing **merit** badge was mentioned, and Coach Christensen made the comment that his wife had won a small boat. This was just what Tyson had been looking for. They borrowed the boat in mid-October and headed to Quail Lake.

The wind wasn't blowing at all, but they pushed the boat out anyway. The wind came up and quickly died. "It was fun," said Tyson. The wind would catch the sail and push it down. Water would start coming up and it was cold. Upon inspection of the boat, they learned there was a hole in the plug, letting in more water than they had coming over the side. "One of us would run the rudder and the sail while the other would plug the hole with his finger. That was the last **merit** badge I earned."

"Some **merit badges** take you three months," said Lance. "Take personal management; you've got to keep a history of all your income, what you spend it on, receipts. They're quite intense."

Earning all the **merit badges** takes time, and Tyson already had his time scheduled to its fullest. He plays soccer, football, takes piano and is a 4.0 student. "He's just trying to find the time to do everything," said Lance. "So we're glad he did it before he's 16, because it becomes impossible."

"The **merit** badge clinics at the high school really helped me a lot," said Tyson. "I got about a third of the **merit badges** there."

Though they're a lot of work, many of the **merit badges** can be fun as well. "White water, that was really fun," said Tyson. "We went on a three-day camping trip. It was really fun, too, because you could stop at places and go see Indian dwellings and petroglyphs." Tyson was able to go canoeing with the Hurricane Troop down the San Juan, through 8-foot rapids, with tipped canoes, saving equipment in the middle of the river and sandstorms.

"As far as **merit badges** go, he has learned so much, and we have learned, as parents, in doing it," said Lance.

Tyson's earning all the **merit badges** has been a positive experience, not only for himself, but for all those in the La Verkin Stake. "There are other kids now who are just striving because of what Tyson has done," said Lance. "All these kids are saying, 'hey, we can do it.'"

Tyson has learned a lot through doing all the **merit badges**. He's been able to get a look at different fields and has even come up with plans for the future based on his **merit** badge experiences. "As a career . . . probably what I'm going to go into is engineering. With the engineering **merit** badge, we used CAD machines, and we could build actual roads and print them out. It was fun, building things."

"That's a neat thing that it does do, is give these kids a hands on," said Lance. "The engineering, the drafting; he got to see what people do for a living. He came to journalism and saw what these guys do, the whole process—the printing, the graphic design." Tyson also had to write an article and get it published as part of his journalism **merit** badge. "The community really does help these boys," continued Lance.

"I've got a greater view of everything in the world," said Tyson, "things I can do for hobbies, like small boat sailing. I wouldn't mind getting one of those. Water skiing was lots of fun. Snowboarding, I do that now. It was lots of fun doing all of them."

"Only about 3% of all scouts ever get their Eagle," said Tyson's father. "That's 21 **merit badges**." According to the BSA, 2,045 boys out of approximately 61,000 scouts received their Eagle in 2003. Only 18 earned all the **merit badges**.

"I think the hardest **merit** badge he had to do was bugling," said Lance.

"It was my second to last one," said Tyson. He had to learn 12 different calls to earn this **merit** badge. "You could use a trumpet, but you couldn't use the valves to push down to play different notes. It took me three months."

Tyson also had the opportunity to go to the BSA National Jamboree in 2001, where he was able to earn his oceanography **merit** badge. "We got to go to New York, The Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, Washington D.C., Valley Forge. We went to the World Trade Centers three months before it got hit , then we went to Fort AP Hill, Virginia, and they had a bunch of activities there."

"With this, any kid can do it and it's wonderful because it just gives them a taste of what the world really is and what their options are out there," said Lance. "That was the nice thing about him. It did open his eyes up to different fields. Now he sees what medicine can do and what

engineering can do. Where, you really don't get to see it until you go to college and really get into it."

Tyson has been a great influence on his younger brother as well. "He's setting his goals to beat Tyson," said Lance. "It's neat, because Tyson can help him."

Now that Tyson's completed all 120 **merit badges**, he's looking into the next phase of scouting, earning his letters.

"We're very pleased with him," said Lance. "He's a good leader."

Tyson would like to personally thank Reece Straw, Glade Peterson and Nick Scholzen for all their help. He would also like to thank his mother. He stated that he couldn't have done it without the help of his leaders and his parents.

Tyson Gubler will be awarded his final three **merit badges** at a court of honor on January 29. It will take place at the La Verkin Stake Center at 7 p.m.

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