



Congratulations to Eagle Scout Zachary Lien for accomplishing a feat that less than one-half of one percent of scouts achieve. Just days before turning 18 years old, Zachary earned the last of 139 merit badges in the Scouts BSA program. He is the first scout in Troop 600 of Bellevue, WA to earn all 139 merit badges.

Accomplishing this feat required mastering skills in merit badges as varied as Archery, Composite Materials, Farm Mechanics, Scuba Diving and Veterinary Medicine. The merit badge program in Boy Scouts of America is intended to inspire a new hobby or a career that may not have otherwise been considered, introducing fields of study and interest beyond the limits of a school classroom. This scouting feat is so rare that only .0038% finish every requirement such as: volunteer at least 8 hours for a charitable organization in your community, hit 12 out of 25 targets with a shotgun, weave a camp stool, check a car's transmission fluid and raise an insect through metamorphosis.



Zachary's first merit badge was Fingerprinting which he accomplished at his first week-long camp with Troop 600. His favorite merit badges were the ones he thought he could never do and things he had never done before. He really enjoyed the skating merit badge and the challenge of trying a sport he didn't

know he could do. Zachary recounts the most difficult of all 139 merit badges for him was backpacking. He has struggled with a form of arthritis for many years and completing the 50 mile backpacking trip required to earn the backpacking merit badge was a huge accomplishment.

Zachary's advice to new scouts is to not be afraid to try new things. Merit badges are about discovering new things and gaining a basic knowledge of the topic.