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Fairfield Eagle Scout earns every merit badge



Skyler Parthemore, 17, (left) crosses off merit badges on his countdown poster at this week's Troop 488 meeting as Greg Keathley, the troop's advancement chair, points to one of the badges. Parthemore has earned 139 badges: all 137 currently available plus two that have been retired. Jessica Rogness — The Reporter

By [Jessica Rogness](#), The Reporter

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Skyler Parthemore is a senior at Vanden High School where he is a member of the robotics team. Now that he has completed his merit badge goal, he plans to mentor younger scouts and focus on applying to college. Jessica Rogness — The Reporter

Looking at the lack of available space on Skyler Parthemore's olive green sash, you would imagine he has devoted a lot of time to being a Boy Scout.

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 What might not be obvious at first glance is that he has earned every merit badge possible for today's scouts, plus some.
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The 17-year-old Fairfield Eagle Scout, who belongs to Troop 488 in Vacaville, has earned 139 merit badges. That includes the 137 badges currently available plus Computers and Cinematography, two badges that were retired during Parthemore's career in scouting.

The Vanden High School senior has been an active scout since he earned his first merit badge, First Aid, in 2011.

Last week, he completed the paperwork for his final merit badge, Exploration.

Parthemore became an Eagle Scout at 14 and it was around that time he made a goal to complete every badge.

“When I got started it was to beat my father at 51 and then to double it,” Parthemore said.

He did double it, earning 102 badges by April 2015. He realized completing the entire list was within reach.

Some merit badges unlocked new hobbies and led him to adventures. He traveled this year with his troop to Sea Base, a high adventure program run by the Boy Scouts in the Florida Keys, where he completed the scuba diving merit badge.

“To get it, you have to do a lot of the stuff you have to do to get certified and then first aid and wilderness requirements,” he said.

He decided to pursue scuba further after completing the badge, and is now certified as a rescue diver. He plans to become a dive master once he is 18.

Other favorite badges included Metalworking, Programming, Robotics, Small Boat Sailing, Wilderness Survival, and Shotgun and Rifle Shooting.

In addition to Boy Scouts, he is a member of the Vanden robotics team and wants to study computer science and software engineering in college.

Bugling was the most difficult to earn: he hadn’t played a brass instrument before.

Some badges took him hours away to meet with the appropriate counselor. Nuclear Science meant taking a class three hours away. So did Archaeology, which required him to spend three days in the field.

Only two to five percent of Boy Scouts will make it to Eagle Scout, Dave Fleming, Troop 488’s Scoutmaster, said.

“I’ve been in scouts 74 years and I have never been anywhere where someone earned all of them,” he said.

There are very few people who have earned 139 merit badges, Greg Keathley, the troop’s advancement chair, said, because the number of badges has grown over time.

“As of this date, there’s just a little over 200 people who have earned all the merit badges,” Keathley said.

Parthemore also has earned the National Medal for Outdoor Achievement, which is the highest recognition for exemplary achievement, experience and skill in multiple areas of outdoor endeavor.

“Essentially he’s earned just about everything you can earn,” Keathley said.

In addition to celebrating Skyler’s achievements, his parents, Darla and Terry, were recognized by Fleming and Keathley at this week’s troop meeting for their contributions to the troop, including taking the scouts on the Sea Base trip.

Now that Parthemore has achieved his merit badge goal, he is focusing on applying to college, and on training the younger scouts in his troop.

Make small attainable goals, he advised.

“Because if you look at each merit badge, you’ll see a long list of tasks,” he said. “You’ll see a huge wall of text you have to do, and you just have to focus on it one step at a time.”

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About the Author

Reach the author at jrogness@thereporter.com.

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