



SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

2225 North Loop West • P.O. Box 924528 • Houston, TX • 77292-4528
713-659-8111

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three brothers Earn Eagle Scout Rank- 2 of them earn all 121 merit badges

Contact:

Jason Volz

Sam Houston Area Council

713.756.3370 (office)

314.504.8958 (cell)

Jason.volz@shac.org

HOUSTON, Texas, June 12, 2007 – Three brothers earning the Eagle Scout rank is very uncommon, especially when two of them earn all 121 merit badges sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. Austin, Scott, and Bryce Vaughan have earned a total of 293 merit badges. The merit badges ranged from atomic energy, farming, wilderness survival, and first aid to aviation, archery, and citizenship.

The Vaughan brothers are members of Troop 1509 sponsored to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Spring Creek Ward. Austin is the oldest brother and was the first to earn his Eagle rank. However, the stakes seemed to get higher for each of his younger brothers. Scott, the next youngest brother narrowly completed the last of his 121 merit badges days before his 18th birthday. Bryce, the youngest brother earned his Eagle by the early age of 13 and completed all of the merit badges when he was only 14 years old.

Only about 4 percent of all Scouts earn the Eagle Rank. The national office for the Boy Scouts of America does keep statistics on how many Boy Scouts have earned all 121 merit badges but it is very rare.

The boys began their quest almost four years ago when the oldest brother, Austin, had turned 17 and Bryce had just entered the Boy Scout program. Austin says, "It was worth it because all three of us would work together and help one another to accomplish the same merit badge; a 'three-for-one' deal." The middle brother, Scott, credits his accomplishments to supportive parents and strong Scout leaders who took a special interest in him and encouraged him every step of the way. "It was a lot of effort and towards the end it became a race against time," said Scott, "But it was one of the most worthwhile things I have ever accomplished." Bryce, the youngest brother says, "I never expected though that

Scott and I would complete all 121 merit badges. Once we got going we didn't want to stop until we earned them all."

In addition to numerous trips within the state like Galveston, Austin, and Dallas, the family likewise made trips to Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. Among other things, their experiences included archaeological and geological digs along the Brazos River, cross country skiing in the Rocky Mountains, sail boating on Lake Cheney near Wichita, Kansas, producing a full length movie for a Troop Court of Honor, building a scale model of their home, participating in a mock trial, meeting labor leaders at a United Steelworkers International union hall, operating a diesel locomotive, landscaping a local church, building and sleeping in an outdoor shelter constructed from tree branches and limbs, and learning to bugle.

Bryce says that he is not finished with the Scouting program; he is just starting to work towards the Distinguished Boy Scout Hornaday Award for Conservation. Together, these three boys have squeezed a lifetime of experiences into several years of the Scouting program. Their father Gary Vaughan says, "They are being very modest about it and just glad to finally take a rest from the near constant pace of working on requirements; their mother and I are very proud of them".

For over 90 years, the Sam Houston Area Council has been dedicated to leading youth to lifelong values, service and achievement. The council serves the southeastern area of Texas including the following counties: Austin, Brazos, Burleson, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Grimes, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Robertson, Trinity, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton and Western Chambers. This service area encompasses 1,600 schools in 72 school districts and has grown to serve more than 98,000 youth annually through 2,604 Scout units. The Scouting program is values-based leadership training for youth that encourages them to pursue their special interests, make new friends, and give back to their community. Learn more about Scouting at www.BuildingStrongValues.org.

###

Note: Austin, Scott, Bryce, and their parents are available for interviews.