

Times Record News

LOCAL

Troop 11 Eagle Scout earns every merit badge

Staff reports

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A local Eagle Scout recently made history by becoming the first and only Scout in the Northwest Texas Council to earn every merit badge.

Braiden Eccleston, a longtime Scout with Troop 11, became one of only 459 Scouts to earn all badges since Scouting began in the United States in 1910.

The Scouting BSA program offers a total of 137 merit badges. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, an individual must earn 21 merit badges, among other requirements.

Eccleston began in Cub Scouts and earned the rank of Eagle as a senior at Burkburnett High School.

“I was always called an over-achiever by fellow Scouts when I would earn 10-plus badges at each Court of Honor. As I started to earn more, Allen, my stepdad, brought it to my attention that I could actually go ahead and try to earn all of them. So, that is exactly what I set out to do,” Eccleston said.

The dedicated Scout attended merit-badge events, camps and most recently, Zoom classes with counselors from all over the United States to gain all the badges.

Some of Eccleston’s favorite badges to earn include scuba diving, surveying, whitewater rafting and small boat sailing.

“It’s easy to say that I like being in the aquatics area whether it be underwater diving or on the water in a boat, but I still have just as much fun doing things out in the fields of camp,” he said.

At least 110 million youth have been involved in the Scouting program since it began in the U.S. more than 100 years ago. Of those, 2.5 million achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

The merit badge program allows Scouts to learn about a variety of topics including science, business, crafts, trades and future careers.

Scouts can earn any of the badges at any time by scheduling their start date with a registered counselor.

For more information on Scouting or to learn how to join visit www.beascout.org, www.nwtcbsa.org or call the local Scout Office at 940-696-2735.