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Ellettsville scout earns all 138 badges

Michelle White

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Andrew Francis proudly displays badges earned while in Boy Scouts.

What does it take to earn all 138 merit badges in Scouting BSA? This guy could tell you. Andrew Francis of Troop 119, Ellettsville, crossed this personal finish line before his 18th birthday with a couple days to spare. 138 merit badges in just under 7 years. How impressive is that!

Many times Andrew had to reach way outside his comfort zone and dig deep to accomplish the tasks required for completion of each merit badge. Of the 138 merit badges Andrew completed, he says Scuba Diving and Automotive Maintenance were his favorite. Andrew is

extremely proud of this accomplishment. Although, Andrew has aged out of Scouting, he has chosen to remain with his troop as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

There are only 450 confirmed Scouts out of 110 million youth participants that have made this journey within the past 100 years. Andrew makes number 451. Andrew did not make this journey alone. It took a father, Don, mother, Terri and sister, Annie, supporting him, standing behind him, motivating him in a lot of different ways. It took a lot of Merit Badge Counselors, summer camps and merit badge days. It took learning to plan and having to adjust that plan when needed. It took support of his friends, family and troop. A lot of Assistant Scoutmasters helped him along the way and each of those adult leaders have a favorite story about Andrew as they personally got to see this young man grow into this guy you see in the picture. It's an incredible example for the other 23 boys in Troop 119 to be inspired that they can continue on past Eagle Scout and have fun doing it. It's been an exciting experience for his 3 Scoutmasters, 12 Assistant Scoutmasters, 50 Boy Scouts and multitude of Merit Badge Counselors to see Andrew accomplish task. Well done, Troop 119 is proud of you Andrew!

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