



## Eagle Scout Carl Freeman earns all 134 merit badges

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By Reader, Debbie Freeman

*One of Scouting's Rarest Achievements*

Eagle Scout Carl Freeman has been in Scouting since first grade. He joined Cub Scout Pack 262 out of Prince Frederick, Maryland, as a Tiger Scout. He earned his Arrow of Light and crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 903 in Huntingtown, Maryland, in March 2006. Carl excelled in his leadership abilities, serving as a Troop Guide (Mentor to the new scouts) for two years, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for one year, and then he was elected by his troop to be the Senior Patrol Leader –a post he held for six months. The Scoutmaster appointed him Junior Assistant Scoutmaster for his remaining two months as a scout.

On July 27, 2012, Carl earned the highest rank in scouting, Eagle Scout. However, he did not stop there. He decided while at summer camp, early that July, that he would attempt to earn all of the merit badges that the Boy Scouts of America had to offer. At that time, he had 46 badges with a remaining 88 to go. (Only 21 Merit Badges –12 specific badges like Camping and Citizenship in the Nation, and nine of the scout's choosing – are required for the rank of Eagle.)

Despite being the Senior Patrol Leader for his troop and a senior at Huntingtown High School, taking two AP classes, being a part of the National Art Honor Society, and volunteering with Cub Scout Pack 903, he managed to find time to work on his merit badges.

Carl worked with several merit badges counselors in different troops throughout Calvert County. He, attending several merit badge workshops, and having exhausted many of the local resources, traveled as far as North Carolina with his mother and a good friend in search of every opportunity to complete some of the more challenging badges, like Scuba Diving, Life Saving, Horsemanship, Welding and Bugling. Carl was so determined to accomplish his goal that he even went water skiing on the Patuxent River in March. Despite the frigid temperature he got up on skis his first try.

As time ticked down, a new merit badge (Game Design) was released one month before his eighteenth birthday, so Carl quickly recruited a counselor and added it to his list. He finally achieved his eight month long goal by completing the Golf and Small Boat Sailing merit badges three days before his eighteenth birthday.

Carl would like to thank all the people that took the time to help him achieve his goal!