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Subject: Re: Scout Earns Every Merit Badge - others
From: David Eby <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>
Reply-To: David Eby <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>
Date: Tue, 11 Jul 2006 02:41:47 -0700
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We have a father and son in our council who both earned every merit badge. They are suppose to be the first tandem to ever accomplish the feat. According to what he was told at the time by the BSA, the father was the 12th Boy Scout in national BSA history to achieve it, completing all 114 merit badges by September 16, 1971 and his son was the 40th Boy Scout to accomplish it, completing all 119 merit badges available by January 17, 1999. Between them they earned 233 merit badges. I know another man in another state who was a Scout in the 1940's who also earned every one of them. Where he falls on the list I do not know. My guess would be that less than 60 Scouts have earned them all since 1911.

The very first merit badges earned and awarded within the Boy Scouts of America took place in 1911. There were a total of 83 earned that year in the nation by 30 different Boy Scouts from around the country. Going by information printed in the Second Annual BSA Report presented on February 8, 1912, the very first Boy Scout to have been awarded merit badges through the National Council was a Scout from Waltham, Massachusetts. He earned six of them and they were Swimming, Life Saving, Cycling, Firemanship, Personal Health and Public Health. The first BSA Honor Medal was also awarded in 1911 to a Scout in Cuero, Texas. The first adult to receive an Honor Medal also took

place in 1911 and was presented to a Scoutmaster from Rutland, Vermont. It was the 10th medal awarded in 1911.

Dave Eby
Erie Shores Council Historian
Miakonda Scouting Museum

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