


Kaysville Boy Scout earns all 132 merit badges

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KAYSVILLE — One Kaysville teen helped another join the exclusive Boy Scout's merit badge club by teaching him how to play the bugle.

Thirteen-year-old Jackson Reynolds decided he wanted to earn all 132 merit badges offered through the Boy Scouts, but when he was almost finished, he ran into a little obstacle.

"I've never played a musical instrument," he said. "The merit badge I needed to earn was the bugle badge, but I didn't know anything about music."

That's when he turned to Kaysville resident Isaac Loveland. Last fall Loveland, 15, earned all of the merit badges offered by the Boy Scouts. When Jackson's sister Baylee told Isaac that her brother was trying to earn all of the badges as well, Isaac offered to give him bugle lessons.

"He had me come over to his house, and he taught me lessons every week," Jackson said. "It was really cool of him to do that for me."

Jackson said he got really interested in Scouting when he was 11 years old.

"I went to Scout camp that year, and I really like it," he said. "I started earning merit badges, and I decided I wanted to earn all of them."

While earning his merit badges, Jackson hung his father and grandfather's merit badge sashes on his bedroom wall for inspiration.

"My dad really helped me a lot. He made me do everything, but he really encouraged me," Jackson said.

His mother, Michelle, also helped by driving him to all of his events, he said.

Out of all the merit badges he earned, Jackson said the scuba diving badge was his favorite.

"We had to do some book work, but then they took us out, and we had to dive," he said. "It was a lot of fun, and I learned a lot of important things."

The hardest badge he said he had to earn was hiking. To earn that badge, Jackson had to do five 10-mile hikes and one 20-mile hike. His 20-mile hike ended up being done during a freezing rainstorm.

"We woke up to pouring rain," said James Reynolds, Jackson's father. "He didn't change his mind about going at all, though. About four or five miles of the hike was a freezing, soaking event."

For his surveying and metal-working merit badges, Jackson was able to find two strangers in those professions who were willing to help.

"They were both Scouts and jumped at the chance to help him," James said. "It was really inspiring to see these two strangers step up and offer to help Jackson."

There are currently 201 youngsters who have earned all of the merit badges offered in the Scouting program, according to meritbadgeknot.com. Earlier this year, South Ogden brothers Landon and Addison Weeks earned all of the badges. Landon is also the only physically disabled special-needs Scout to earn them all.

Jackson said he's glad he took the time to earn his merit badges in addition to his Eagle Scout.

"It was hard work. I pretty much played soccer and worked on merit badges, but it's really rewarding in the end," he said. "It provides a lot of help in life, and helps you in school. I would really encourage others to go for it and try to earn all of their own merit badges."

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