

Scout earns all the merit badges

At age 11, Christopher began the adventure that covered nearly 15,000 miles across seven states, 60 merit badge forums and attendance at multiple summer camp sessions and high adventure camps. Troop 222 out of Overland Park, Kansas is proud to announce the Christopher Sternecker after becoming an Eagle scout, has completed all 139 possible BSA merit badges. Although there is no official list, only 520 scouts have been recorded by www.meritbadgeknot.com as having completed this goal.

After reflecting on which 3 merit badges were the most memorable, Christopher chose, Scuba diving, Backpacking, and Skating. A group of nine scouts from his Troop supported Chris and went through the classes and open water check out with him for scuba diving. Backpacking was completed at Philmont Scout Ranch with his older brother which was a special bonding experience. To earn the skating merit badge, he took lessons which were interrupted by COVID-19 quarantine. A few friends and family helped him with tips and practiced with him to accomplish this merit badge.



Christopher at his Eagle Court of Honor



Chris's Merit Badge Sash

Over the years, many friends and family lent their expertise on different topics and by answering questions about their professions to complete requirements for merit badges. Not to mention the adult leaders and parents of Troop 222 supporting and helping to create opportunities to complete requirements he needed.

During his quest to achieve less common merit badges, he had the opportunity to participate in many unique activities. Christopher got to learn blacksmithing in a period correct blacksmith shop. The surveying merit badge class allowed him to run a bulldozer and excavator with an instructor. He also got to fly in a small personal aircraft for the aviation merit badge.

Many challenges had to be overcome in trying to earn all the merit badges, including the BSA adding 2 new ones at the end of 2021. The same year he learned to ride a bike; he completed the 150 miles needed for the cycling merit badge.

Three years of trumpet lessons were needed to earn the Bugling merit badge due to lessons being shut down for a while during the quarantine in 2020.

It is a big accomplishment to earn the rank of Eagle scout these days, but it is by far a rarer achievement to earn all 139 of the BSA's possible merit badges.