

19', 21' & FSH Series Boats

0 DOWN | **2.99%** APR

DESERT VALLEY POWER SPORTS

YAMAHA *Rev Your Heart!*

ALL-STATE FENCE & SUPPLY
YOUR COMPLETE FENCE SUPPLY CENTER

CLICK HERE FOR INFO

July 22, 2016

Email Alerts Online Edition Subscribe **Welcome!** Login

85°
Clear



E-*Edition*

SUBSCRIBE

- News
- Editorial
- People
- Sports
- Community
- Marketplace
- Weekly Specials
- Customer Service
- Classifieds
- Careers

DON'T MISS: E-EDITION MULTIMEDIA: PHOTOS AND VIDEO OIL & GAS NEWS: IN THE PIPELINE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Home People Lifestyle

Local scout earns all merit badges

Eagle Scout Charles Acker has all 142 badges as member of Troop 34

Story **Comments**

Print Font Size:

Recommend 460 Tweet 0

1

Eagle Scout Charles Acker

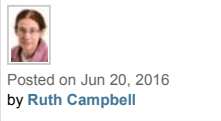


Edyta Blaszczyk|Odessa American

Eagle Scout Charles Acker poses for a portrait Wednesday outside of the Boy Scouts of America Buffalo Trail Council building. The Permian student has accumulated 142 merit badges and did a fire safety project at the City of Odessa Fire Station 6.

Posted: Monday, June 20, 2016 5:45 am

By Ruth Campbell rcampbell@oaoa.com



During his career in Boy Scouts, Charles Acker had two goals — to become an Eagle Scout and earn all 142 merit badges available.

More Information

- St. Luke's Odessa.
- Boy Scouts Merit badges.

Having obtained Eagle Scout status at age 14, Acker reached his merit badge objective in May.

Acker has been a member of Troop 34 of Odessa, which was sponsored by St. Luke's Methodist Church and is now sponsored by the First Christian Church, since age 11.

The last merit badge Acker got was for scuba diving and he said it proved one of his favorites. He trained with PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) instructor Darrell Rhyne, whose dive shop is across the street from the Balmorhea State Park.

As a youngster, Acker said the badges he enjoyed most were wilderness survival, metalwork and welding. For the welding, he said he got to use an 1880s forge.

When scouts earn the ultimate number of merit badges, Acker said their name is placed on a website and the scout is sent a knot patch for their uniform.

"I was a bit shocked. When I was 11, it just seemed so far away and actually getting to that goal. ...," said Acker, who is now 18. "It took about three days until I finally got it and everybody repeating it. ...Finally, I just smiled and started crying because I was so happy from it."

Just before he netted Eagle Scout, Acker said his great uncle, Roy Charles Johnston, whom Acker was very close to, was diagnosed with cancer and died.

"He passed and he didn't get to see me achieve Eagle and get all the merit badges, so getting eagle and getting all the merit badges I wish he was there to see it, but I know he was looking down on me seeing all these great things that I've accomplished. It meant a great deal to me," Acker said.

Acker's Eagle Scout project was at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on 42nd Street.

"My original plan was to put in automatic door openers for the church, because they had a lot of older people who went to that church. So I installed that. While I was at it, they said, 'Can you repaint our parking lot and move some of the handicapped poles?' So I did that," Acker recalled.

Then the church asked if he could install benches. The whole venture took more than a year, but Charles' father, Kevin, said by the time the projects were complete there were probably 30 people involved.

"Don't ever sell yourself short with just one thing. Ask if there's anything else for you to do. Not only does it benefit you and benefit them, but it also looks really good on your resume," Charles said.

Kevin Acker and his wife, Beth, have five other children who are all girls. Charles is the baby and the only boy.

"They really cheered him on too, all the girls," Kevin said. "To me they've encouraged it along the way, too. I think they've been a big help."

“The other thing about scouting for me (is that) it was a way to get out of the house full of girls. There’s also a father son bonding. It gave us a lot of bonding time to get close,” Charles said.

Kevin said he also literally watched his son grow.

“It was like watching a sapling go to a big tree because that’s exactly what happened. We have a picture of him at the scout ranch standing next to the pond. Now he’s a much bigger kid,” Kevin said.

He noted that Charles learned how to shoot guns, ride horseback and learned a lot of useful survival information.

“Earning all the merit badges has been a really good thing,” Kevin said. He added that a lot of people have stepped up to help him earn the merit badges.

Since he turned 18, Charles has been serving as an adult leader in scouts.

Barney Barnes, a former adult leader and now an assistant scout master for Troop 34, was Charles’ scoutmaster. Barnes has known Charles since he was 11.

“I knew him while he was super active in the troop,” Barnes said. “When he took a leadership position, he took it very seriously. I watched him work with the younger boys. He encourages them to set their goals high.”

Charles will be a senior at Permian High School in the fall. He is in Kantorei, the school’s varsity choir, and serves as an officer at-large. He also is involved in theater and serves as an officer and plays lacrosse with the high school’s club team.

Charles, who lives in Monahans, takes voice and piano lessons. He plays guitar, the bugle sometimes, and when he’s bored, the violin.

Ruth Campbell covers education for the Odessa American.
Reach her at 432-333-7765 or 432-333-7765 or rcampbell@oaoa.com

Recommend 460 Tweet  0 1

Discuss Print

Posted in Lifestyle, Local News on Monday, June 20, 2016 5:45 am.

Sponsored From Around the Web Paid Content ?



New Video Could Force Hillary To Give Up White House Dreams



It Seems Like An Ordinary Photo But Take A Closer Look



This Drink Recipe "Scrubs Away" Alzheimer's Disease



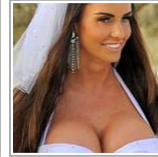
Can Ivanka Hide From The Rumors Any Longer?



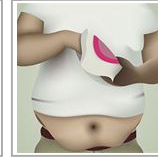
(1) Easy Method "Removes" Your Eyebags & Wrinkles In Minutes



Toenail Fungus Destroyed My Life, Until I Found This



The Wedding Photographer Captured More Than Expected



Do This Before Bed And You'll Never Need Gym (Once Daily)



Trump's IQ Will Shock You



3 Foods Surgeons Are Now Calling "Death Foods"

Stories You Might Like



Enter Your Name, Wait 15 Seconds, The Results Are Instant Checkmate



New Sleep Aid Takes CVS by Storm The Clever Owl



Breaking: Use This Trick Every Time You Connect To The Tech Advice



Forget Social Security. If You Own a Home, Do This! (It's Live Smarter Journal

Recommended by

Promoted Stories

- American Residents Born Between 1936 and 1966 Are In For A Big Surprise
LiveSmarterDaily
- The One Service Curvy Women Need to Try in 2016
BuzzFeed
- People Looker Locates Almost Anybody in Just Minutes
PeopleLooker
- 15 Reasons Why 'Long Island Medium' Is A Fraud
LifeDaily
- Few Simple Clicks Will Help To Fix Your Windows
www.techbitbox.com
- Cigarette Costs the Year You Were Born
Consumer Price Index (CPI) - Inflation Calculator and Rates

Trending Now

- The walking dead Zombie preparedness goes a long way
- Bexar County inmate found dead in 4th suicide in a month
- Basilashvili beats Lajovic to reach 1st final in Kitzbuehel
- Midland men arrested, accused in Odessa Home Depot robbery
- Witness to police shooting says he tried to warn officers
- Search for Flight 370 will be suspended, possibly forever

Recommended by

0 Comments

Sort by **Oldest**



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

Get CenturyLink® High-Speed Internet

Speeds up to 40 Mbps
\$29⁹⁵ /mo
 for 12 months

with a 1-year contract. AutoPay and Paperless Billing required. Speed may not be available in your area.

LEARN MORE

Site Web

Search

Advertising Info

Adv. Contacts
Place An Ad
Co-op Advertising
Rate Cards

Subscriber Services

E-Newsletters/Alerts
Missing Paper
Subscribe

Online Services

RSS Feeds **RSS**

Odessa WebSites

OAVarsity.com
BasinJobs.com
BasinHomes.com
BasinMotors.com

Copyright © 2016
Careers | Autos | Homes | Jobs | Classifieds



AIM Media TX LLC