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News 

"Super Scout" Earns 121 Merit Badges

Tuesday, April 24, 2007 | 9:45 PM

 By Wayne Freedman

Apr. 24 - KGO (KGO) -- We have a young Boy Scout you need to meet -- he's a young man with some rather exceptional goals.

Have you listened to the Boy Scout pledge lately? They make a lot of promises...

From a kid like Brandon Chapin, it means he does what he says...

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ABC7's Wayne Freedman: "You didn't have to."

Brandon Chapin, Boy Scout: "No, but I set a goal for myself, and I'm going to do it."

He's talking about merit badges. Earning and counting them is a bit of an obsession for Boy Scouts.

So, how about earning 121 merit badges?

Boy Scout: "Wow, that's a lot of merit badges."

Yes it is, and guess who decided to earn every single one of them?

ABC7's Wayne Freedman: "Was there ever a moment when you said why did I give myself this assignment?"

Brandon Chapin: "Every second of every single day."

We could call Brandon's commitment a long shot. Only a handful of Scouts have ever achieved the feat, because they must do it by age 18.

Early on, Brandon wrote up a year-by-year schedule, determined to follow it.

Jim Chapin, father: "Well, you saw the chart. There were times when he was almost a year behind."

ABC7's Wayne Freedman: "What are you going to do with basketry?"

Brandon Chapin: "Probably nothing. I gotta make a basket? I make a basket!"

Same with metal working, bird feeding, animal science, sculpture...

ABC7's Wayne Freedman: "What was your inspiration for a Neanderthal man?"

Brandon Chapin: "It was actually from a kit."

With three months to go, 36 merit badges remain in areas like water skiing. It came right down to the wire. His last one? For making models.

ABC7's Wayne Freedman: "What is it?"

Brandon Chapin: "A spaceship."

It's a fitting finish for a kid who aimed so high --121 Boy Scout merit badges...

ABC7's Wayne Freedman: "You know a little about everything."

Brandon Chapin: "I wouldn't say everything, but yeah. Some stuff ... 121 things."

And keeping a promise to yourself -- the most important of them all.

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abc7 News Team



[Wayne Freedman](#)

ABC7's Wayne Freedman has written and reported for most of his life....

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