



Local Boy Earns Every Boy Scout Merit Badge

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An 8th grader from Winterville has done something that less than 1-percent of Boy Scouts in the United States have accomplished.

Elijah Connell has 137 Boy Scout merit badges.

That makes him one of only hundreds out of millions to earn them all, and he did it in just two and a half years.

With the help of his parents, especially his father, who is an Eagle Scout himself, Elijah said he is proud of his accomplishment and told us why he wanted to earn these badges.

"My dad one day showed me a picture of someone who had earned every merit badge, and once I saw that sash, I said 'that's what I want to do, too,'" said Connell.

Elijah, an 8th grader at Indian Creek Middle School, said his favorite badge to earn was his Aviation badge, where he got to learn how to pilot a plane as well as the physics of flying and what to do in case of engine failure.

The nearly 140 badges range in topics and activities from agriculture to fitness and everything in between.

"Most of the merit badges were very hard and some were a little bit easier, but overall the work is very hard and when I first started this I didn't know how hard it was going to be," Connell added.

Elijah said his next goal is to become an Eagle Scout and help other Boy Scouts earn as many merit badges as they can as well.

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