

THE TRIBUNE

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Magnolia ISD holds Rodeo Art Show.

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Magnolia Boy Scout William Lang earns rare scouting honor



William Hunter Lang

William Hunter Lang, son of George and Cecilia Lang of Magnolia, has recently achieved one of Boy Scouting's rarest achievements - he earned every merit badge currently offered by the Boy Scouts. This includes all of those currently offered for a total of 137. On November 21, he completed Signs, Signals and Codes and Animation, Boy Scout's newest and his last remaining merit badges.

According to the website www.meritbadgeknot.com,

there are only 271 scouts in the history of scouting to accomplish this goal. Only 0.002 percent of Boy Scouts earn every merit badge offered. And the Boy Scouts are not making this any easier since they have been recently adding merit badges at the rate of about four per year.

Lang, currently a sophomore at Magnolia West High School and member of Tomball Troop 471, joined Boy Scouts at age 10 and earned his Eagle Scout rank

at age 14. His service project was building a nature center for Joy Ride Equestrian Center in Magnolia. It consisted of two bat houses, two duck nesting boxes and 12 bird-houses.

21 merit badges are required to become an Eagle Scout, but that wasn't enough for Lang. Early on he set his goal to complete all of the merit badges. He accomplished this by work-

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ing on them individually, at summer and winter camps, at local venues such as museums and at special merit badge universities.

For example, he got to fly an airplane while earning the Aviation badge and received his scuba diving certification while earning the Scuba merit badge. Challenges have included a 50 mile bike ride for the

Cycling badge and a 30 mile backpacking trek for the Backpacking badge. It helped that Lang attended many summer and winter camps and Boy Scouts' high adventure camps at Northern Tier in Minnesota and Philmont in New Mexico. Next summer he will complete Scouting's "triple crown" of high adventure camps by sailing at Sea Base in Florida.

Lang is also a

Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts honor society and has earned other awards including the Centuries of Service award, Mile Swim, God and Country award, Texas award, World Conservation award, Take Care of Texas award and the 50 miler award.

Lang has held several leadership positions in his troop including Librarian, Scribe, Order of the

Arrow Representative, Troop Guide and Senior Patrol Leader.

Lang earned his first merit badge, Fire Safety, his first week in Boy Scouts. Some badges only took a day, others took weeks, months or even years. Lang states that earning all these merit badges has given him an introduction to so many topics that he can converse on just about any subject. The most com-

mon question asked is "What are your favorite merit badges?" His answer, "Scuba Diving and Shotgun Shooting are my favorites."

Lang stated, "I am grateful for all the opportunities that earning merit badges has offered me." He plans to continue in scouting and earn more merit badges as they are introduced until he goes to college at Texas A&M or the University of Texas.