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Eagle Scout earns Every Possible Merit Badge

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Eagle Scout Ross Luna, with Troop 346, was recently recognized for the achievement of earning all 135 Merit Badges currently offered by the Boy Scouts of America. Few accomplish such a feat nationwide.

Annually, only three to five Boy Scouts across the country achieve this goal.

Along the way, Luna attained Eagle Scout rank - the highest recognition in scouting - in April 2011.

"The reason it is so rare to earn this distinction is that to earn the highest recognition in scouting, Eagle Scout, the minimum requirement to achieve that rank is the successful completion of a minimum of 21 merit badges," Luna said.



"So, most Eagle Scouts do not have the desire or will to earn them all."

One could say scouting has long been in Luna's blood. He started with Cub Scouts as a first-grader, and entered Boy Scouts in fifth grade.

"My dad was in scouting when he was growing up and he wanted me to be exposed to see if it was an activity that I would enjoy," he said. "I fell in love with all aspects of scouting from the very beginning."

Troop 346, sponsored by St. George Episcopal Church in Castle Hills, recognized Luna's achievements in an August Court of Honor ceremony. Head Scoutmaster Jim Causey and Lead Assistant Scoutmaster Anne Specht, at the ceremony, lauded Luna's initiative.

"It was never his goal to earn all the merit badges when he first started - rather it just evolved," Causey said.

"Ross was never told he had to do his merit badge requirements. He saw it as a way to be exposed, learn and participate in so many activities that the various merit badges exposed him to. It made him such a well-rounded young man."

Luna had tallied 75 merit badges when he was inspired by fellow scout Ben Ficke who three years ago achieved earning all the badges. Luna made earning all merit badges a goal. He became the second scout in Troop 346 to have achieved this honor.

Luna described many of his merit badges as fun and challenging but one particular favorite was small boat sailing, which he did in the Gulf Coast off Corpus Christi.

Another particular favorite earned badge was for rock climbing, which he accomplished in the Davis Mountains in West Texas.

"The most challenging merit badge for me was cycling. I had to do two rides of 10 miles each, two rides of 15 miles each and two rides of 25 miles each. The final cycling ride was for 50 miles," he said.

Luna earned Eagle Scout rank with a community service project in which he worked with SAMministries.

He coordinated previously non-established volunteer efforts through his troop, and raised money to feed all volunteers throughout the SAMministries' "Empty Bowls" fundraiser held in March at the Southwest School of Art.

"It was such a success that my troop still actively participates in the event each year since my project in 2011, and plans to participate going forward as it is such a worthwhile community project," he said.

The Health Careers High School senior can also be found active with several campus organizations, including Health Occupation Student Association, Mu Alpha Theta and the National Honor Society.

He's also involved with his church, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, volunteering with the Mobile Loaves and Fishes program, helping to feed the homeless.

Luna is also interested in serving his nation. He is seeking a nomination into the U.S. Naval Academy in 2014. If that does not come through, he said he would major in biomedical engineering at Texas A&M University.

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