

New Jersey Herald

Scout completes 137 BSA Merit badges

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SPARTA -- Ryan McQuillan completed all 137 merit badges currently offered by the Boy Scouts of America, plus one that is now retired. Approximately 420 scouts have been confirmed to have achieved this since 1928 when it was first recognized and at which time only 89 badges were required.

McQuillan set this goal shortly after bridging from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts when a homeschooled Scout in his VA troop was recognized for this achievement. After completing the 21 Eagle required badges and as a result of the total badges completed, he also earned 23 palms.

Along the way, McQuillan had many new experiences in finishing the badges from American Business to Woodwork. The oceanography badge was earned at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station in Maryland with work done in their lab and on the research vessel. The inventing badge was accomplished at the Patent Office in Washington DC and the geology badge in Acadia National Park in Maine. Scuba diving was a new skill learned and thoroughly enjoyed to where McQuillan has now set a goal of scuba diving at the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

An Eagle Scout, McQuillan has been active in Troop 95 in Sparta. He is a member of the Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow, scouting's national honor society, and of the Youth Executive Council for the Patriot's Path Council. He completed the National Youth Leadership Training program and was also named a Scholar-Athlete by the Patriot's Path Council in 2016.

McQuillan has participated in several Boy Scout summer camps at Goshen in Virginia, Rodney in Maryland, and Somers in New Jersey. He also enjoyed the Florida High Adventure Sea Base in 2018 and National Jamborees at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia in 2013 and 2017.

He is entering his senior year in the STEM Academy for Engineering and Design at Sparta High School. He plans to pursue a degree in chemistry or chemical engineering upon graduation in 2020.