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Colt Reynolds Takes All 120



"First I got my Eagle, and that made me decide to keep going on all my merit badges," began Colt Reynolds, the latest Scout to earn all 120 merit badges.

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At age 12, Colt stripped the old roof off of the Hurricane Search and Rescue building and replaced it with a new roof for his Eagle Scout Project. With 80 merit badges already earned, he decided to keep on going. After all, he only had 40 left. His goal was to have all 120 before his 14th birthday. He did it.

"One of the things that was kind of funny about him," began Colt's mother, Alison, "was that he didn't want to go to Cub Scouts. I said, 'Just go for a month. Give me a month and see how it is.' Luckily, he had a really good leader. That was David Blair. He got him off to a good start, then he couldn't stop him. He wanted to earn every single belt loop."

And he did. Colt earned everything he could in Cub Scouts and was ready to move on. At the age of 11, he went on his first weeklong campout with the Scouts. Then he began attending merit badge classes at Hurricane High School.

He took his first 10-mile bicycle ride from the high school to Sky Ranch for his cycling merit badge and that was followed by a 50-mile ride from Kolob Reservoir to Hurricane.

The hardest of all the merit badges was Citizenship in the World, which included hours of study, an essay and a test.

His favorites? They were too numerous to list, but included railroading, coin collecting, stamp collecting, fly-fishing, cycling, climbing and swimming.

Colt built a to-scale working train, complete with scenery for his railroading merit badge and entered it in the Washington County Fair. The project took several weeks and the help of a friend and his older sister, Chelsea.

"It's a lot of fun," said Colt. "It teaches you a lot of things."

Colt learned to bugle for his bugling merit badge and played along with a neighbor who plays the trumpet.

"He had to be a bugler for three months," said Alison, "but it actually took him six months to get the lips."

He enjoyed the bugling so much that when he completed the merit badge requirements, he turned his bugle into a lamp and presented it to his counselor.

So intent was he on earning all 120 before he turned 14 that Colt spent every day of the summer working on at least one merit badge. When told that his whole summer was passing him by, he responded simply, "It's okay. I'm learning so much."

Colt made a basket and fixed a woven chair for basketry. He went scuba diving, sailboating and swam a mile at the Hurricane City Pool. He traveled to Moab to go white water rafting and went backpacking for five days, hiking in excess of ten miles per day.

But Colt didn't do it alone. His parents stood beside him and supported him in every merit badge he earned. His sister participated in dozens of them with him, and his counselors were fantastic. Trace Allen earned high praise in the Reynolds household. "He just drops everything for you," said Colt.

Allen spent hours at the Reynolds', explaining aviation maps to Colt and again to show him how to use a flight simulator.

Tyson Gubler assisted the Reynolds with finding merit badge counselors. Since Tyson was the first in the area to earn all the merit badges, he has resources to help others who are trying to follow in his footsteps.

"Everything that he's done has made him want to pursue something even more," said Alison. "He wants to go even further. There's probably at least a hundred hobbies that came out of all of this. He's had a lot of fun."

In addition to learning new skills, Colt has met many people who have helped him along the way. Colt would like to thank all of his merit badge counselors, his parents, his sister and the Knuckles for helping him with this achievement. He still plans to move forward, earning the pins and other awards that are available as he moves into Varsity Scouts.



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