

EAGLE SCOUTS IN ACTION

EAGLE SCOUT CLASS OF 2020



John Rongish

It was at the Cosmosphere gift shop in Hutchinson that a 12-year-old John Rongish spotted a fellow Boy Scout whose sash was covered entirely in merit badges. It spawned a thought in the young Scout's mind: What if he could earn every single Scout badge available? John spent the next five years of his life working toward that goal, earning his 139th badge at a ceremony in August 2022.

It's a feat that only about 400 Boy Scouts worldwide have accomplished, requiring two regular sashes sewn together to hold all of the badges. "I don't think it's too super difficult to accomplish. I think earning one merit badge isn't very hard, so it's doing a fairly easy thing a ton of times," said John, a junior at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School. "Every badge requires a different amount of work. You learn something new with each one, which is why I like doing it."

Some of his favorites to earn were badges for small boat sailing, scuba diving, electronics, basketry and nuclear science. A few have even been life-changing: The Rongish family now has a dog thanks to John's dog care badge. Communication was

another impactful badge. "That changed me a lot and put me on a different course. I wasn't a great speaker and I had to actively practice; I still do," said Rongish, who is poised and pleasantly verbose.

John's goal was to earn one badge a week, a time commitment of around five to ten hours. Today, with various levels of leadership within Boy Scouts, he spends 15 to 20 hours a week on Scouting endeavors. Having earned his Eagle Scout badge in 2020, he now participates in BSA-sponsored Sea Scouts, earning that program's highest rank of Quartermaster. He is also a Lodge Chief for Order of the Arrow, Scouting's national honor society.

"Scouting is the best thing a youth can do," he said. "There are a lot of things you can learn through sports and clubs at school, but there's a whole lot you'd be missing out on if you didn't do Scouting. It prepares you for every situation in life. It is a ton of fun and you get to learn really useful things. It will change your life no matter what."

Quivira Council and Morgan Stanley are proud to bring you Eagle Scouts in Action, a monthly showcase of community leaders who are banding together to make a difference in our community! If you are interested in joining Scouting or have an Eagle Scout in Action you think deserves honoring, call us at 316.264.3386.



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