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Area Scout Earns All 138 Boy Scout Merit Badges

By TAPINTO SPARTA STAFF
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ANDOVER, NJ- Stephen Rozek completed work on the last merit badge that the Boy Scouts of America currently offers on June 8, 2018,. Stephen, an Eagle Scout since age 13, completed the Scuba Diving merit badge after becoming SSI Open Water Diver certified this week. This badge marked the 138th and final merit badge currently available in the BSA.

Rozek had set a goal for earning all the merit badges before becoming an Eagle Scout; having already earned 75 by the time he became an Eagle Scout in 2013.

Since 1912, more than 2.5 million young men have attained the rank of Eagle Scout. In that same time period, only several hundred have successfully completed the requirements to earn all of the offered merit badges.

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Rozek continues to be active in many aspects of the Boy Scouts of American programs. Since becoming an Eagle Scout Rozek's continued involvement in the BSA program has enabled him to earn 16 Eagle Palms. He has served in many leadership positions within Sparta Troop 150 and Byram Venturing Crew 276 on the unit level. Additionally, Rozek has been the President of the Patriots' Path Council Venturing and Exploring Experience as well as President of Northeast Region, Area 5 Venturing Officers Association or NER Area 5. As NER Area 5 President, Rozek is the youth leader responsible for the Venturing program in 11 Councils in New Jersey, Eastern PA, Puerto Rico and Trans Atlantic.

Rozek has also earned the Venturing Bronze, Gold and Silver Awards and has been recognized for his leadership contributions on the council, area and region levels, being awarded the Venturing Leadership Award for each. Rozek is also a member of the Order of the Arrow, scouting's national honor society, serving as treasurer for two terms as well as being an active member of the Order of the Arrow ceremonies team.

Rozek has also found time to earn a William T Hornaday Award. This awards program was created to recognize those that have made significant contributions to conservation. It was begun in 1914 by Dr. William T. Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological Park and founder of the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Stephen completed several advanced leadership courses including the Kodiak Challenge, Powderhorn and National Youth Leadership Training programs.

Other noteworthy achievements that Stephen has earned include the 50-miler award in each discipline of backpacking, canoeing and horseback riding.

Since becoming a Boy Scout, Stephen has attended programs at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Florida High Adventure Sea Base and the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia: three of the four National High Adventure Bases. He has also participated in a variety of programs at Camp Guajataka in Puerto Rico and many other east coast scout camps.

Rozek is a homeschooled senior and will be attending Norwich University in the fall. As a member of the Norwich Corp of Cadets, Rozek will be majoring in criminal justice and participating in the Naval ROTC, Marine option program.