

In 2010 when Jacob Sedlacek crossed over into Boy Scouts, he established a goal for himself. Jake was inspired by an older scout with a sash full of merit badges. He turned to his mom, and said, "I want that to me someday. I want to earn all the merit badges."

Over the next 6 years, Jake traveled to many colleges and events for merit badge days. He has been to Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and all over Illinois. Phil Reis, Program Director with Lewis and Clark Council, said it best during the recent Awards Night: sometimes there are no counselors for particular merit badges within the council and a scout has to travel to events that offer those badges.

On August 30, 2016, Jacob was awarded merit badges #141 and #142 for backpacking and animation respectively. This signifies all the merit badges currently offered by the BSA, including the four historical badges brought out in 2010 for the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts. To finish the backpacking merit badge, Jacob went to Philmont Scout Ranch, the BSA National High Adventure Base located in Cimarron, New Mexico, in June 2016. The crew was a combination of Troop 1043 from Highland and Troop 273 from Germantown led by Frank Schroeder.

His favorite scouting memory was going to the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base located in Key West with Troop 557 from Arnold, Missouri, in June 2014. He spent the prior year earning the scuba merit badge. This expedition was led by J. J. Jones, Scoutmaster of Troop 557.

Jake earned his Eagle Scout rank on February 14, 2013, which is the highest rank awarded to youth scouts in the Boy Scouts of America. His Eagle project was color-coordinating all the fire hydrants in his hometown of St. Jacob. He also provided the Fire Department with maps of the location of these hydrants which are currently displayed in their communications room for easy visibility and access.

Jacob is a junior at Triad High School in Troy, IL and belongs to Troop 1043 sponsored by the Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland, IL. According to the records at the Lewis and Clark Council, Jacob is the first scout in this council to earn all the merit badges. Jake would like to thank all the counselors that gave of their time to help him achieve this goal.

