

Springville Scout becomes learning enabled



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SPRINGVILLE -- Try and see Jumper hidden in his terrarium of plant and light and you may not find him, but Wesley Stulce can show you.

The 17-year-old got the little green anole lizard as a pet while earning all merit badges offered by the Boy Scouts of America.

He began working on merit badges when he was 12. His mother, Vicki Stulce, has been his best champion.

"She helped me along the way, oh yeah," he said.

At age 13, he had earned 48 merit badges already, at a time when only 21 were required for obtaining his Eagle Award.

"We were on my six-month wait and we just decided 'what the heck, let's just go for all of them,'" Stulce said. He only had about 98 merit badges to go.

Earning them all wasn't easy for the 17-year-old. You see, Stulce is dyslexic. Teachers would mark his hands to help him know left from right. He also has battled the challenges of ADHD.

"He has overcome most of it in the way that he no longer takes his medicine, and he is labeled learning disabled because of these things," Vicki Stulce said.

As a mom, she hasn't let those stumbling blocks stop her son from having a full life. Through his trials, she discovered Scouts.

"Scouts gives boys something positive to do instead of going out and getting into trouble," she said. For this reason, she said she loves the Scouting program.

"She does -- 100 percent," Wesley Stulce said and nodded.

Working on all the badges definitely took up much of her son's time. His pet lizard alone takes time and care. To feed Jumper he also houses tiny, pale crickets.

By far the most fun Wesley Stulce had was in earning the aviation merit badge, he said.

"I didn't get to fly. I wish I did, that would be awesome," Stulce said.

By "fly" he means pilot the plane not just ride as a passenger. He wants to fly as a pilot.

"I wish I did," he said. "That is what I'm hoping to do in the near future."

Instead of learning to fly, he visited airports and studied aviation which he said was fun too.

"We visited Hill Air Force Base, the museum up there and he is interested in flying," Vicki Stulce said. "He wants to go to flight school. I don't know if he will be able to. If that doesn't work out, we'll find something else for him to do."

He said the hiking merit badge caused them the most worry. They had to hike 30 miles in five days. They began their hike at Cascade Springs and ended up at Canyon Glen Park after several side treks to complete his hiking requirements.

He worried about this accomplishment the most he said because there was a lot of hiking involved.

"It was fun. We did a good job. We went up hills, down hills," he said.

He took a deep breath and sighed. "Oh, it's a long journey," he admitted.

His mother kept pace right along with him. His two sisters stayed home.

"We walked down Provo Canyon road and walked along the railroad tracks. I backpacked with him," she said.

The task of getting all the badge work done provided them a basic understanding on a wide variety of subjects. The mom and son duo toured a sewer system for his water and soil conservation badge, in addition to Namify, Longview Fiber, the Utah County Health Department, the Family History Center and Channel 2 News to complete other merit badge tasks.

The most difficult badge to earn by far he said was the bugling merit badge. Wesley Stulce borrowed a bugle and learned the required songs by ear. He spent eight months getting the bugle sounds down.

"I was actually pretty good at it," Wesley Stulce said.

"He really did quite well considering he did everything by ear," his mom said.