

Local 

Scout earns every merit badge possible

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LAPEER COUNTY (WJRT) -- (12/20/10) -- A Lapeer County boy scout has done something few scouts have ever done before.

Lance Teeter has earned 129 merit badges, and he's only 14 years old.

Lance is a percussionist with the Lakeville High School band. He's also on the honor roll. For the past two years, he's worked on his merit badges whenever time allowed. Just last week he reached the maximum, 129, having set that goal after earning his 80th badge.

"I was so close. I just decided why not go for all the merit badges instead of stopping."

"We've always told him, once you start something, you finish it to the end. So that's what he's doing," said Lance's mother, Darlene Teeter.

The Boy Scouts used to offer 121 merit badges, but, this year, because of scouting's 100th anniversary, four historical badges were added. Scouting then created four new ones, like geocaching. Lance soon checked them off his to-do list.

"It's an extremely rare occasion when a Boy Scout earns all of the merit badges," Troop 214 Scout Master Wayne Morey said.

You might say Lance's mother also earned those badges. He doesn't have a driver's license, so Lance has had to rely on Mom's taxi. "He would decide where he wanted to go and what he had to do. He would say, I need to go here, Mom, and okay, let's go," she said.

"I would even plan my vacations around them," Lance said.

"He's self-motivated. He's a real great inspiration for the other boys. They look up to him," said Morey.

Lance gladly shares his knowledge and experience with other scouts in his troop. His mother thinks Lance's ambition will serve him well in the future. "It's given him not only more information of different things that are out there but it's also giving him more confidence in himself.

While working on his architecture merit badge, Lance discovered how much he likes that field, and that's the career path he's considering.

By the way, Lance started out with a youth-size sash and soon filled it up. He got the adult-size sash, but it also quickly filled up. He had to add an extension to make room for all 129 merit badges.

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