

Local Scout earns all 138 merit badges

Submitted to FCN

John Thede, a 16-year-old Junior at Alliance Academy for Innovation, has achieved a remarkable milestone in his Scouts BSA journey – he earned all 138 merit badges offered through the program.

Thede was inspired as a Cub Scout when he saw his older cousin, Braden, sewing merit badges onto his sash. Thede quizzed him about each badge and what it represented. That conversation left a lasting impression, and it was then that Thede decided he would someday earn every merit badge once he became a Boy Scout.

"I was so fascinated by all the badges my cousin had," Thede said. "I remember asking him about each one, and that's when I decided I wanted to earn all of them."

When Thede crossed over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts in fifth grade, he joined Troop 39, chartered by VFW Post 9143 in Cumming.

Over the years, he has worked diligently to complete the requirements for each merit badge, ranging from traditional outdoor skills like hiking and camping to more specialized areas like scuba diving, salesmanship, and metalwork. Each badge has provided him with the

opportunity to develop new skills and expand his knowledge.

Now a Life Scout, Thede continues to enjoy the challenges that Scouting offers, focusing on community service and leadership opportunities. While earning all 138 Merit Badges is a significant achievement, Thede remains focused on the experience.

"I like to learn about all kinds of new things," he said. "Each Merit Badge has taught me something different, and that's been the best part of the journey."

Thede's next goal is to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

... provided him with the rank of Scout.



Photo submitted

John Thede, 16, has earned all 138 Boy Scout merit badges.