



BADGES OF SKILL

Eagle Scout joins his brother in earning every merit badge

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Lucas Tipton loves being a Scout. So much so, he earned every single merit badge offered by the Boy Scouts and then some. There are 130 available merit badges, and he has 131.

Lucas began his scouting journey almost 12 years ago, when he was 7 years old. He started as a Cub Scout, and slowly worked his way up to the ranks. He reached the rank of Eagle Scout on Feb. 13, 2008. He was 13.

"I love the scouting program because it shaped a lot of my personality and a lot of who I am," Lucas said. "It taught me so many things about myself and about what I can do. It's taught me to challenge myself in aspects of my life."

Lucas seemed to be cut out for the Scouts. His brother, Logan, was also in Scouts and also earned every merit badge offered.

It is very rare for a Scout to earn every merit badge. It is even more rare for a pair of siblings to have done it.

"We've done a little bit of research to see if any other siblings had done this," said Michael DePollo, Buffalo Mountain district executive. "A



Eagle Scout Lucas Tipton earned every merit badge offered by the scouting program. Lucas didn't set out to get all of the merit badges at first. When he first achieved Eagle Scout, his brother Logan was finishing up getting all of the merit badges.

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set of triplets have done it, but they are the only set of brothers who have done it. It's an impressive accomplishment."

Lucas didn't set out to get all of the merit badges at first. When he first achieved Eagle Scout, Logan was finishing up getting all of the merit badges. As with many siblings, there was a healthy competition.

Lucas' brother would constantly push him out of his comfort zone. One day, Lucas got sick of Logan pushing him.

"I come into his room and he was sitting at his desk, working on some paperwork for college or something, and I go, 'Why do you push me so hard?' " he said. "He said, 'It's because I see the potential. You have potential and I'd hate to not see you live up to what you could be.' "

That was when Lucas decided to

go after all the merit badges. He credits Logan and the support of his family for setting that goal.

Lucas had his challenges with some of the merit badges. The most challenging badge for him to get was the water sports badge, which is basically water-skiing.

"I have very little balance," Lucas said. "It was a rough week. I took that at summer camp and it was a rough week. That one was hard for me."

He was also challenged with citizenship in the community, which consisted of a lot of paperwork. Some of the technical badges, like surveying and drafting, were also challenging because he had to shadow professionals in the field and learn how to do the technical part of it. Scheduling was the most difficult part of those badges.

Lucas' favorite badge to earn was his scuba diving badge.

"It was a new experience," he

said. "It was adventurous. I don't really know how to describe it. It was just something I had never done before."

The most memorable experience for Lucas doesn't involve a badge he earned. It was getting to spend time with his dad, Ron, at Scout camp. The event was called "Fun with Son" and it allowed Lucas and his father to shoot BB guns, canoe and swim. It was his favorite memory because it was with his dad.

Lucas will be attending East Tennessee State University this year, and he is leaning toward dentistry, although he hasn't ruled out becoming a medical doctor.

Compared to earning every merit badge, college should be easy.

"Earning every merit badge is extremely difficult," DePollo said. "It's almost like double majoring and getting your master's degree at the exact same time."