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Local Eagle Scout Soars Above the Rest

A local Eagle Scout has accomplished an incredible feat, earning every single merit badge possible, plus one more. Marshall Whitley, 17, has earned all 129 merit badges possible, plus one more he had to re-earn when it was re-released.

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Reporter: Chiara Lotierzo

Email Address: clotierzo@kktv.com



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A local Eagle Scout has accomplished an incredible feat, earning every single merit badge possible, plus one. Marshall Whitley, 17, has earned all 129 merit badges possible, plus one more he had to re-earn when it was re-released.

There are no other scouts like him in all of the Pikes Peak Region. Out of 10,000 scouts locally, Marshall is the only one to have this many. And few, in scouting history, have ever achieved what he has.

Marshall originally decided he wanted to earn 100 merit badges to celebrate 100-years of Boy Scouting in America. But when he achieved that, Marshall says, "my Scoutleader, and my parents, and my grandparents and everyone (said) 'oh, just go for the rest! You might as well, you're so close!'"

Marshall took on the challenge, earning every single badge that was left, including one that was just released three weeks ago. He has learned about everything from basket weaving to nuclear energy, canoed 50 miles down the Green River in Utah, and sailed for days off the coast of Florida.

He was appointed to "Order of the Arrow," a very prestigious, by nomination-only, honor. He has letters from former President Bush, and the Pope.

His Scoutmaster says Marshall is a soft-spoken leader, who encourages the rest of the troop to try new things and overcome new challenges, and when we asked him if Marshall was the greatest scout ever, he replied, "there's been a lot of great scouts over the years, Presidents, Senators, Neil Armstrong himself who walked on the moon - Marshall has the potential to really take himself

further to be anything he wants to be".

Marshall, however, just thinks "it was really, tough, a lot of work, but it was fun".

Marshall will turn 18 years old on Wednesday, meaning his days as an Eagle Scout will be through, but he plans to continue with scouting as a leader to other, younger, scouts, and will be the youngest Assistant Scoutmaster at this year's Boy Scouts Jamboree.

It took Marshall a total of six years to earn all of his badges. His mom sewed each one onto his sash, which had to be lengthened, as well as have special permission granted to sew more on the back.

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