

Scouting America

National Capital Area Council

Dear Supporters of Scouting:

September 9, 2018

I write as one who has benefited from Scouting his entire life, from age 12 on. I am an Eagle; my son is an Eagle and an Army cyber NCO and my grandsons have benefited from Cub Scouts, as well. While we are all bombarded daily about this important cause or that, few groups in our nation can offer and deliver training and challenges to young people that reinforce American values like the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). For over 100 years we have shown that we develop young people of character, citizenship, leadership and fitness as our legacy of Scouting!

I stumbled into Scouting by accident at age 12 in 1955 and have never left. As a young man, that gave a nerdy student kid the chance to learn to take care of himself out-of-doors and the self-confidence that comes with those adventures. I learned that I needed to do my share as a member of a patrol and, later, try to build that same teamwork when I was a patrol leader. I had some of the greatest team adventures imaginable at Philmont Scout Ranch when I was 16 and worked at summer camp three summers before six years on the staff at Philmont. Can you imagine how good your first job is when you are surrounded by other Scouts and Scouters every day?

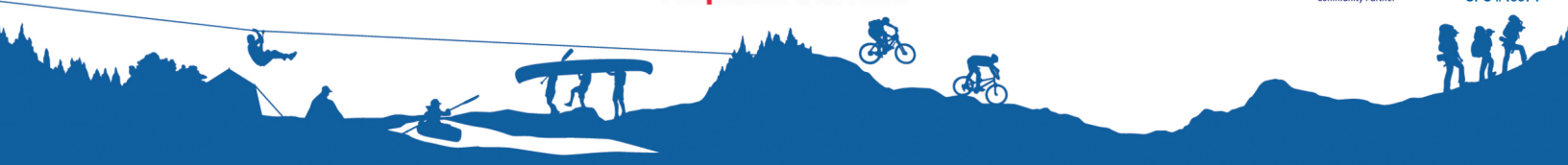
Scouting offers a tried and true program that has worked for over 100 years because it is geared to the preferred learning model of most young people today--learning by doing, not by sitting and listening! Most of our boy members do not have good organizational and planning skills, but rather than tell them they have "failed," we keep working with them until they succeed. We help young people develop and grow every day by learning from their mistakes. I have observed that no other program can begin to do anything like this--as Scoutmaster I watched it happen at every meeting and every campout. Caring, positive adults and older Scouts take shy and self-centered eleven-year-olds and within three years turn them into leaders, responsible young people committed to serving others. In my opinion no other organization does that for young people with the backdrop of hiking and camping!

The end result for me was moderate success—retired from the US Department of Defense as a GS-15 manager and progressed through the ranks of the Army Reserve after serving in Vietnam to retire as a full Colonel. Earning a PhD in history helped me think about information and how people work together, things I first started in Scouting. It allowed me to write several history books about Scouting telling its successes with the Order of the Arrow and Wood Badge Training Program.

So, what do I see as a future for the Boy Scouts? —it will remain the premier program for giving life training to young people for years to come. We are developing Eagle Scouts who will go on to college, be President and walk on distant planets. But we have also influenced the lives of millions of youth who will become small business owners, professionals, teachers and soldiers—all making their way in the world, raising their children and paying their taxes. These young people have been the backbone of our nation since 1607 and Scouting can continue to make a huge difference!

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In recent years the National Capital Area Council has paid more and more attention to its Endowment Fund, to build a firm foundation that will make Scouting available to all youth. As I am sure you know, our Endowment offers continuing funds that support all sorts of Scouting programs and the professional support needed to make Scouting work. I have been pleased to contribute directly to this effort and ask you to join me investing in our youth. Better endowment assets in NCAC will ensure better Scouting opportunities, leadership and citizenship for our nation for future generations!

Please consult www.NCACScouting.org for further information or call me soon!

Yours in Scouting,



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