

SCOUTS-L

HONOR SOCIETIES

Date: Wed, 10 Jul 1996 22:37:53 -0700
From: Alan Houser <troop24@EMF.NET>
Subject: Another success story

I have another bright spot from summer camp to share with you. We have a Scout I'll call Ben. Ben has been in the troop 3 years now, and he has always been a real likable kid. He's never been one to stand out in front and make himself visible just for the sake of being visible. He's not the athletic type, and has some physical limitations that keep him from going on our high adventure trips.

But he's a very conscientious sort of guy, someone you can depend on. And he has a very patient, caring demeanor that has served him well as a Den Chief the last couple of years. It was for these qualities that I selected him to be Troop Guide for the next year.

Now, in Troop 24, we encourage advancement by providing opportunities and letting the Scouts take advantage of the opportunities as they like. I was shocked a few years ago (before I became SM) when a couple of new Scouts felt that there was too much pressure for them to advance and quit. Thus, I'm not fond of the First Year, First Class emphasis, but we have been doing pretty well at getting most of our Scouts there in the first year & a half. And we do very well at keeping them, regardless of their advancement.

After First Class, it's easy to spot the self-motivated, "Type A" ones who want to advance quickly. For the others, I tend to let them find their own level of momentum. And so, I was pleasantly surprised to find several this year, after a year or two of being First Class, who decided it was time to start moving up.

Ben was one of the latter. He quietly accumulated the merit badges for Star, and with two years of excellent Den Chief service, approached me for his SM conference and easily passed his board of review.

At our summer camp, there is an honor camping society called the Wolfeboro Pioneers. Similar to the Order of the Arrow in that there are rank and camping requirements to be eligible and candidates are elected by the other Scouts in the troop. In elections for SPL, OA, and Pioneers, I have not been disappointed with the way my Scouts consider the candidates and

cast their ballots. We had five Scouts eligible for the three spots we could elect. Two were Life Scouts and active in the Venture Crew, and two others had a certain amount of popularity in the troop.

Ben was the fifth and he was one of the three elected by the Scouts. There is an induction ceremony comparable to but not the same as for the OA. The morning after the induction I met Ben on his way back to camp, and he was beaming. In chatting with him briefly, it was clear he was on top of the world. Later I spoke with one of my ASMs who was also inducted

that same evening (adults are elected by a vote of the Pioneers in camp) and he told me that Ben had said, "I never thought anything like this would ever happen to me."

So, now I have a new Troop Guide who is filled with new confidence about himself and who knows that his peers respect him enough to award him this honor.

I can hardly wait for this fall....

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Date: Fri, 12 Jul 1996 07:25:26 -0700
From: Alan Neuburger <alsan@TELEPORT.COM>
Subject: Dan'l Booner Organization

Anyone out there remember the old Dan'l Booner organization that was a part of the Scouting movement mainly in the 30's until the early 60's? I am looking for any info that anyone might have on a nationwide basis. I was the last Booner Chief in my troop in the early 70's and have recently restarted the old organization in my troop now. The kids really enjoy the program since it isn't overwhelming in the "cheerful Service" department like the O/A.

>From old records that I have found here, the group was bigger than the O/A, but could not get national support like the O/A does. That's part of the reason it died.

If anyone has any of the old neckerchiefs or patches out there and would like to do some possible trading, I would like to enhance my collection.

e-mail me at alsan@teleport.com with your comments.

YIS

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