

SCOUTS-L

**CHALLENGE
STORIES ABOUT
SCOUTING'S
IMPACT**

From mfbowman@CapAccess.org Fri Aug 25 03:54:49 1995

Well folks, Sue started something with her free CSP offer. John Oakes set a laudible tradition into motion of having the winner come up with a new challenge question for a CSP. I like the idea of passing a changing CSP along this way and will honor this new tradition, having just been notified by John that I'll be getting on of his, by putting up a Special Activity, numbered National Capital Area Council CSP for the person who posts the best response to the following CSP Challenge:

A free CSP will be awarded to the individual who posts the most heart-warming story of how a Scouter made a difference in a Scout's life. Conditions: The story must be about a Scouter other than yourself and be a true-life story. If it would avoid embarrassment change the names, but indicate you have done so. Judging will probably be difficult so I am ready with a tear meter and thermometer. The winner by entering accepts the challenge to continue the tradition of offering a CSP for an answer to a Scouting question. <g>

Unless Jon objects, I'd rather see these posted to the group because of their value to all as examples of service that we can be proud of.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

From: Jim Carter - HCI Project <hci@CS.USASK.CA>
Subject: Re: FREE CSP CHALLENGE #3

Here's a brief shot at your criteria: It's about Ken (known as Smoke) Blacklock who's still Scouting in Alberta Canada. Back in the wild '60's in a far northern community (Cold Lake, Alberta) that was and still is known for its (rough bo be polite) Airborne forces base six young lads (in their late teens) were up before a judge for various difficulties with the law (details ommitted and left to your vivid imaginations) instead of sending them to jail he introduced them th Smoke Balcklock and to Scouting. His sentance was that they were all to become Rover Scouts (a senior age of Scouting beyond and not equivalent to Explorers) and that Smoke Blacklock would act as their Rover Leader (in this case aka parole officer). Now Smoke being a military man on the base was well up to the challenge and over the years only one of these involuntary Scouts ever had another mess with the law.

And if that isn't warming enough, I'd just like to add that in good Rover tradition Smoke's Rover Crew usually had a den (cabin used as a center of Rover activities) except when their dens got too WARM (two of them burnt down over the years). I know this and many more stories about the Apache Rover Crew because a good friend of mine, Terry Ward, was a member of Smoke's Crew - although he always insists that he was part of the second wave - the first voluntary one of many to follow.

Jim Carter <hci@cs.usask.ca>

From: Scott Killen <SKILLEN@SRC_FS1.AUTOTESTER.COM>

Subject: CSP contest

Hmmm,

A heartwarming story of how kids are affected by Scouting? Here is a great one.

It was told to me some time ago by the scoutmaster to which it happened. He still carries the piece of paper around with him in his billfold. Unfortunately, my memory will fail to relate this story exactly correctly. But in all essential facts it is accurate.

The man involved was a scoutmaster for two years, active in his troop for several years before that, and a cubmaster and Webelos den leader before that. He has been to Wood Badge and served on Wood Badge staff, Supports the 50 mile hike every year and on and on. He related this story once when asked why he devoted so much time to scouting.

He also has a young son that was born with some sort of congenital defect. This is not a subject that he speaks much of. (The boy now lives in another city with his mother.) In any case, at the time he was a Webelos den leader and Cubmaster. The young boy (about 4) had to have surgery and the Webelos leader had spent weeks of worry leading into it.

On the day of the surgery, his older son's den meeting was scheduled and another adult filled in. Surgery lasted all day, and the leader spent from sunrise till late at night in the waiting room and at his son's bedside.

That night after arriving home after many hours of worry and a successful report on the surgery, he found on his bed 46 cents and a note written on a ragged scrap of paper.

The note said: "Hope Tom gets well. Everybody chipped in to help you with the cost."

The stand-in leader knew nothing of this action by the boys. They did it on their own!

Those Cubs not only showed scout spirit, but by that simple action inspired a leader to devote a lifetime of service to help hundreds of other kids.

From: Rodger Morris <rodger@FISHNET.NET>

Subject: Re: FREE CSP CHALLENGE #3

In our council, we have a man namde Glenn Simmons, aka "Swabby". He has 46 years in Scouting. He has about 38 years consecutive as Scoutmaster. About 13 years ago, he became Scoutmaster of a second Troop when it was about to fold for lack of adult leadership. He has been the Scoutmaster of both Troops ever since. Both are strong Troops with about 30-35 members each. One is located in Oak View, the other in Ojai, about 10 miles apart from each other.

Judges have sent Swabby many boys in trouble with the law over the decades. Many of them have become Eagle Scouts. Some of them have entered the military, and a few of them have been admitted to the military academies. All who have entered the military academies have graduated and become commissioned officers.

Swabby has also worked for over 40 years with the Order of the Arrow, much of it as chapter advisor.

If this entry wins, I'll give the CSP to Swabby.

From: Ed Johnson <Troop362@aol.com>

Subject: Re: FREE CSP CHALLENGE #3

This is a story about my SPL, Chris, who loves to fish. He loves fishing so much, on any given fishing outing he will be up before dawn and still fishing late into the night. What makes this scout so unique is the fact that on most fishing outings instead of enjoying himself fishing, he takes the younger scouts and spends his time teaching them to love fishing. On a recent trip to San Clemente Island while all the scouts were fishing, he spent his time diving for bait and teaching the less experienced scouts how to tie hooks and bait their line.

On one of our trips to Philmont he would catch trout and then invite the camp staff to dinner (having already cleaned and cooked the fish).

Chris spends so much time working with the younger scouts that he ends up with very little time for enjoying himself. He just wants other to experience the joy of something he himself enjoys.

From: Sent Privately

Subject: FREE CSP CHALLENGE #3

There's only one scouter and scouting story I can relate on this topic. It involves me, but I was the scout not the scouter. I didn't have a lot of self-esteem as boy. I was clumsy, not athletic and definitely what would now be called a nerd since I was among the intellectually gifted and didn't hide it.

When I joined my first troop there was a retired long time scouter that was an ASM of the troop. He was (may still be but I doubt it) Floyd Ringer. Floyd adopted the younger scouts. Taught them the basics. Totin' Chip, etc. Told some of the best stories. And generally made the new scouts feel welcome and wanted. Floyd had no scouts in the Troop, but he was the leader with the time to go to every activity. Floyd made a difference to me. He had the patience and believed in the boys. He always had a minute for a boy. I knew I wanted to be a scout and helped me to set my objective to be an Eagle Scout. I can't remember the Scoutmaster from that Troop, but I sure remember Floyd. I invited Floyd to my Eagle COH. He came and presented me with a neckerchief slide. I still have it.

From: SFC=Daniel=Pickens%DCSOPS%MDW@mcnair-emh2.army.mil

Date: Fri, 20 Oct 95 09:16:15 EDT

Subject: Fwd:Something to ponder....

Don't know if you all saw this through Scouts-L or whatever. I thought it was unique for someone in the press to side with an organization that is considerably less than liberal.

YiS, Dann

**Comments by: MAJ Paul Smith@DCSOPS@MDW
Originally To: Multiple, recipients, of, <Pax-List@hst-popb8.gsfc.nasa.gov>
Original Date: Thursday, October 19, 1995 at 10:49:04 pm EDT
Originally From: Robert Barrentine <100014.2347@compuserve.com>
Comments:**

Though y'all might find this interesting...

-----[Original Message]-----

>From the Scouting Forum, Pollitical Issues Section of Compuserve:

**Subj: Boston Globe Columnist
Section: Political Issues
From: Larry Fiehn/MN, 74211,1735 #3192 To: all
Thursday,
October 19, 1995 4:58:27 PM**

I saw this on one of my mailing lists and thought it would be of interest here:

**DON FEDER COLUMN (THE BOSTON HERALD) *
[Don Feder is a syndicated columnist with the Boston Herald.]**

<<"On my honor I will do my best to promote sexual diversity...to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and politically correct."

If gay activists have their way, that could become the revised Boy Scout oath. With a compulsive need for affirmation, militants have targeted a national symbol of moral rectitude.

A single member of the Chicago Human Rights Commission recently found the Scouts in violation of the city's anti-discrimination ordinance for refusing to hire a homosexual man. The Boy Scouts of America has until Oct. 23 to appeal the ruling to the full commission.

"There is nothing associated with the hiring of an openly gay man which would require the Scouts to alter anything other than its discriminatory policy," hearing officer Jeffrey Taren blithely proclaimed.

Nothing need be changed - other than its fundamental character ("duty to God" and a commitment to be "morally straight," among other trifles).

Harvey Grossman, an ACLU official, gloating over the potential impact of the ruling, noted that 130 cities and 9 states have human rights codes that include sexual orientation. The Scouts could come under fire in each.

Activists of various stripes want to remake the organization in their image. There are two suits against the Scouts pending in the California Supreme Court.

One challenges its policy on homosexuality, the other - brought by atheists - objects to the requirement that Scouts profess a belief in God.

Internationalists, who could take issue with the oath's allegiance to country, have yet to be heard from.

Separate appellate courts in the state have ruled that the Boy Scouts 1) most assuredly are and 2) clearly are not a public accommodation for civil rights purposes. The inherent contradiction aside, only a torturous reasoning process

could equate a voluntary organization whose animating purpose is the inclusion of values with Motel 6.

Few parents will entrust impressionable juveniles to a social organization in which they could be supervised by flagrant homosexuals. In the schizophrenic

universe of gay politics, there's both a compulsive need for the perceived legitimacy that comes from affiliation with respected organizations and an in-your-face drive to reject normalcy.

Writing in the Jan. 31 Village Voice, gay author Michael Warner sees something

fundamental in the swing back to unprotected sex among homosexuals. "The appeal

of queer sex, for many, lies in its ability to violate the responsabilizing frames of good, right-thinking people."

encourage us to take care of ourselves through safer sex also invite us to pretend that our only desire is to be good and proper."

Quaint as it may seem to some, that is the function of the Scouts - to promote decency and propriety. It would be nothing short of criminal to compel the group to condone those who flout its ethics.

Eventually, challenges to the Boy Scouts will be heard by the United States Supreme Court, where - it is hoped - they will encounter the cool, bracing logic

of the court's reasoning in the St. Patrick's Day Parade case (decided last June), where a unanimous bench ruled that organizers could exclude a homosexual contingent.

Despite its use of city streets, the parade isn't a public accommodation, the justices held, but a "form of expression with which government may not interfere." Justice David Souter explained, "One important manifestation of the principles of free speech is that one who chooses to speak may also decide what not to say."

In other words, organizers had every right to rebuff the message of homosexual marchers ("that people of their sexual orientation have as much claim to unqualified social acceptance as heterosexuals"). If a parade is expression, how much more so an organization that exists to advance an ethical perspective?

That code has served the Scouts and their families well for most of this century.

In an age of drugs, gang violence and social disintegration, the 4.2 million boys who participate in Scouting need it more than ever - but they need it with its principles intact, unsullied and uncompromised.>>

***from: THE BOSTON HERALD**

1 Herald Square, Boston, MA 02106-2096 (Send letters to the editor to the above address or E-MAIL: <heraldedit@delphi.com>) (NOTE: Boston Herald will consider

letters to the editor from outside the Boston area only if they are commenting on something published in the paper.)* [Note: This column also appeared in the

Avalanche-Journal, Box 491, Lubbock, TX 79408 -Fax 806-744-9603, print run 68,444)]

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 1995 04:09:20 -0500 (EST)

From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>

Subject: The Payoff - Scoutings Rewards :-)

The payoff, Scoutings best reward, comes with perhaps a tear in the eyes, a deep feeling of pride and a broad smile as we see young people making giant strides that change their lives forever and as we see a young one suddenly much more mature doing things he never thought he could do, maybe even living out his or her dream.

Tuesday night I had the honor as part of the organizing committee to attend the National Capital Area Council's annual Eagle Career Dinner where over 225 Eagle Scouts were recognized and matched with a sponsor in a career field that the individual Eagle wanted to pursue. The dinner began with a formal flag ceremony by a crack Air Force ceremonial unit. After an invocation the gathering was entertained by the USAF Singing Sergeants. The high point was when each Eagle was announced with his Sponsor

and both were asked to stand and be recognized by a local TV personality of some note.

What this meant was that over 225 community leaders and people of all walks of life had taken time to give to these Eagles to explain their career and to invite each Eagle to spend time with them as a mentor on the job for a real experience. You could see enthusiams and excitement all over the room with excited discussions, budding friendships, and invitations to special activities. There were airline pilots, business executives, military personnel, government leaders, and many more each

sharing.

To cap off the experience the group was treated to a challenge by Senator and Eagle Scout Sam Nunn to live the Scout Law.

One Eagle's experience in particular touched me. The young man had his heart set on being a Marine Corps Officer. His sponsor, a Marine Corps Major and Cubmaster in the inner-city, arrived in dress uniform with medals and all. Three hours later the young man's eyes were still wide with awe and eagerness. He'd been invited for a day at Quantico with his dad and also to Marine's Birthday Parade to see the silent drill team perform, something I've seen and can tell you is inspiring. Whether this young fellow ever becomes a Marine, he will forever remember this special time and what follows. And the same story will be true for most of these young men. You have to imagine what excitement there was as these young men were given opportunities to do things most of us as kids could only dream about. It is hard to capture in mere words the magic played out in that hotel ballroom, you had to be there to feel the electricity.

It is moments like this when you know that it is all worthwhile and that it does make a difference.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
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