

SCOUTS-L

INSPIRING STORIES

Date: Fri, 27 Sep 1996 15:58:16 GMT
Reply-To: Ken_DeVilbiss@stkamer.stortek.com
Sender: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List
<SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
From: Ken DeVilbiss <Ken_DeVilbiss@stkamer.stortek.com>
Organization: StorageTek Corporation
Subject: Re: A Scout is Trustworthy
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:

On the way home to Colorado from Atikokan Canoe Base several years ago, we were coming up on dinner time and driving down the Interstate in S. Dakota. I finally see a sign for McDonalds approaching Aberdeen. As we pull in the signs of just completed construction are all around. There are still a lot of people inside and eating, so we stopped to get our first "fast-food" in two weeks. As we get to the door we were met by an Asst. Manager. He explained that the official opening was not until tomorrow. The people eating are the families of the construction workers and new employees. This was there test run. We could either go into town or back to the interstate. As we were all turning around a very tall man in a western suit (boots, bolo tie and jacket) came out and asked us were we were from and where we were coming from. After telling him our story, and I'm sure looking at the long faces, he explained that he was the owner of this McDonalds franchise. "Since you have come this far, why don't you come in and order anything you want on me." After picking my jaw up off the parking lot we gladly accepted and thanked the gentleman. Yes it turns out that he had also been a Boy Scout and had done his share of High Adventure trips. He knew exactly how hungry the Scouts were.

Ken De Vilbiss Byte Bear NC-171
SM T63, CM Pk-80, Arapahoe Dist.

**2ed Asst. SM Jambo '97 OA Ordeal 6/96
Cub Training Staff, Klondike Chair
Louisville, CO**

**StorageTek Corporation
2270 South 88th Street
Louisville, Colorado 80028**

**Date: Wed, 9 Oct 1996 08:03:00 -0500
Reply-To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List
<SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Sender: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List
<SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
From: "Todd N. Tingblad" <tingbltn@UWEC.EDU>
Subject: Another Lost
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:**

Dear Scouts-L Community:

Last night, the members of Cub Scout Pack 463 and Boy Scout Troop 460, both of New Richmond, Wisconsin, learned of the passing of Scout Matt Bryant. Matt lost his over two year battle with cancer.

Matt had a great impact on the Scouts and Leaders of both units. Even though Matt was only 11 years old, his example to the other scouts was of true Eagle Scout level.

As a Unit Commissioner, you don't get to work with the boys like the Den Leaders, Cubmasters, and Scoutmasters. However, you do get to watch what happens to a unit as a whole. This past January, when Matt and his Webelos Den visited Troop 460 for their Arrow Of Light Award, I saw something very interesting. Throughout the meeting, all the Webelos stayed together as a group. Matt was always in the middle of the group, his den forming a circle around him at all times. All these other boys of the den would follow

Matt...maintaining this protective circle around him. Some of the boys in Matt's already know about the troop from their brothers and friends in the troop and could have gone over to visit with their troop friends. But throughout the hour and a half meeting, not a one moved away from Matt's side.

It all seemed very strange until after the meeting that I learned of Matt's cancer and which Webelos Matt was. Throughout the remaining months of Matt's life, his new troop also started doing the same types of things. When Matt spend almost three month in the hospital, adult leaders as well as scouts visited him weekly. Special arrangements were made to have players from the different pro sports teams in Minnesota come and visit him. It all was great to see and be part of all this Scout Spirit.

Matt did as much as he could with his friends and with Scouting. Matt had his good days and he had really bad days. When those good days fell on Scouting days, Matt was at the troop meetings or visiting on a campout.

Please remember Matt and his family in your prays this week. The Scouts and leaders are also hurting a lot too because of the lost and because this is the second member of the troop to pass away in the last three years.

YiS,

Todd Tingblad -- tingbltn@uwec.edu

**Date: Wed, 6 Nov 1996 14:37:05 -0600
Reply-To: golden cliff <c60clg1@corn.cso.niu.edu>
Sender: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List
<SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
From: golden cliff <c60clg1@corn.cso.niu.edu>
Subject: The Courage of Eagles
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:**

If you're not already tired of hearing my stories, here's another. It's about two Eagle Scouts from different troops and different states.

You may remember Chris Hardesty of Troop 40, Louisville. His illness has

been reported on Scouts-L. Chris passed away on October 6 from brain cancer at the age of 14. I first knew of him through a Scouts-L post a few years back when they were soliciting cards and letters to cheer him up.

At that time I had someone from my troop with advanced cancer, 19 year old Eagle Scout Brent Scarbrough. Doctors didn't expect Brent to survive.

I sent Chris Hardesty, then 11, encouragement through e-mail and letters. I told him about Brent and also told Brent about Chris. I thought this new Scout and this older Eagle could help each other since they were fighting a similar battle. They corresponded with one another. At Loyola Medical Center in suburban Chicago, Brent was undergoing radiation therapy and chemotherapy. At Children's Memorial Hospital in Louisville, Chris was going through chemotherapy and eventually a bone marrow transplant.

I learned of two miracles about a year later. Both Chris and Brent were declared cancer free. It was too good to be true.

Brent, now 22, has been active in Scouting activities and continues to get stronger. He must go in for routine MRI tests to make sure his cancer has not returned.

During his remission Chris Hardesty became one of Troop 40's most active Scouts. It was extremely rare for a Scouting activity to take place without Chris in attendance. He set a goal for himself, to earn the Eagle Scout Award.

Unfortunately for Chris, his cancer returned. He planned his Eagle project from a hospital bed this past summer. He always made an effort to attend every campout, if only to visit for an hour or so. "Be active and cheerful, rather than withdrawn and tearful" was his motto through all of this.

On October 20 our troop held a Court of Honor for two new Eagle Scouts, Patrick McLinden and Timothy Marten. I told several stories that night. One about a boy who hadn't stayed in Scouting and one month earlier had been shot 5 times in a gang related shooting (I've already shared that with the list). I also told the story of Chris and Brent. I tried to focus on the lessons of personal strength, courage, and determination.

Later in the program I told stories about our two newest Eagle Scouts, which were much lighter and happier to tell (by then we needed something to laugh at).

We have a tradition where we read the names and year of each Troop 33 Eagle Scout (which dates back from the 1930's). As we read the names we light an "Eagle Spirit Candle" for each Eagle. It is impressive to see nearly 60 candles brightly burning on the stage. It was after this that I told the story of Brent and Chris. I prefaced the story by reading the dictionary definition of the word "courage". After the story I introduced Brent who came forward to light a special "Eagle Spirit Candle" for Chris Hardesty; Eagle Scout of Troop 40; Louisville, Kentucky.

Chris died less than 48 hours before his own Eagle Court of Honor was to take place, so we dedicated a part of our Court to honor him. Since he died before my letter of congratulations reached him, I read that letter at our Court of Honor as well. I had a tough time reading it.

None of us had ever met Chris. We only know of him because of Scouts-L and through additional e-mail and letters.

I thought members of this list might appreciate knowing how Scouts-L touched the lives of two courageous Eagles.

YIS, Cliff Golden
Scoutmaster Troop 33; DeKalb, Illinois
Three Fires Council BSA

>
Date: Fri, 10 Jan 1997 09:59:07 EST
Reply-To: jonaht@JUNO.COM
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: Jonah Triebwasser <jonaht@JUNO.COM>
Subject: Thoughts of a 60 year Scouter
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:

In preparation for our upcoming Scout Sabbath Service, a nearly 60 year Scouter (nearly 60 years as a Scout and Adult Leader) wrote the following remarks for inclusion in the printed program which we will distribute. I

found them so inspirational that I asked his permission to share them with you. He agreed, but has insisted on anonymity.

YiS, Jonah Triebwasser, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 128

Boy Scouts of America Rhinebeck, New York, US of A

I used to be an Eagle; NEII-83

mailto:jonaht@juno.com

Troop Home page: <http://www1.mhv.net/~jbrowne/troop128.htm>

We leaders of the Boy Scouts of America do solemnly pledge our efforts to achieve the aims of Scouting. We will bend our full efforts to reach out and touch every Scout, knowing in our hearts and minds that if we but touch only one boy this beloved country of ours will be a much better place to dwell.

Then the day will dawn, when our country will have a new birth of freedom, and every person born in this country, will have as their birthright those self-evident, God-given rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Midst all the fun of Scouting, a serious note is heard: the Scout oath and the Scout Law. This is the foundation upon which the Boy Scouts of America rests. Thus, every single act of the Scout program must have as its aim character and citizenship development. If this is not achieved, you have nothing but boys playing games.

A few examples as to how we achieve the aims of Scouting: The Scout oath: On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country, and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

I) Duty to God. Give meaning to the Golden Rule: What is harmful or hateful to me, I will not do to any other.

II) To help other people at all times. Color of skin has absolutely no meaning. We are all equal before god.

We have but to live by the above two statements, and what a new world could be created. Racism would disappear from our country, and at long last humane people would dwell upon this land. Democracy would flourish at last. This can and will happen, if the aims of Scouting are achieved.

Another example of achieving the aim of Scouting: There are those in the troop who are going to advance. Point out to this Scout the following: look back, my Scout, as you climb the advancement slope, to see if anyone is following you, seeking also to advance. If so, go back and help him to advance. If this is done, you will have achieved the greatest advancement in Scouting.

There are many other ways to turn our boys into humane beings. We have mentioned only two.