Scoutmaster's Moment
Fall 2019 Troop 150 Court of Honor
Written and Delivered by Scoutmaster Todd G. Bolick
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Scout Law

Setting: The Scoutmaster stands at the lectern and without hesitation or prompting, a Scout rises from his patrol seating and walks toward the lectern. He turns to the troop, makes the Scout sign, and says, "I am Trustworthy" and shows the written point he is carrying. He then moves to the right of the lectern. Subsequently, 11 other Scouts rise, one at a time, make the Scout sign, recite the next point of the Scout Law, and show their placard. Six Scouts line up next to each other on the right of the lectern and six on the left, with the SPL holding the 6th point of the Scout Law and the ASPL holding the 7th point.

"In all of this, it is the spirit that matters. Our Scout law and Promise, when we really put them into practice, take away all occasion for wars and strife among nations." That is one of my favorite quotes recited by the founder of the Boy Scouting movement, Lord Robert Baden Powell. Scout spirit is the way of life that you, our Scouts, embody. It is the demonstration of actively living the principles set in the Scout Oath and Law, both when in uniform, in our troop, and out of uniform, with family, friends, and peers. It'll transcend your time as Scouts and indelibly become engraved upon your personal sense of honor as adults and leaders in our society. No pressure about this, by the way…you're with good company with over two million other current Scouts in our nation and millions more around the world, as you saw at the World Scout Jamboree this summer.

As our Scouts know, since I have become our Scoutmaster, I have dug deeply in to one point of the Scout law for 2 out of 3 of my Scoutmaster's moments. I still have two left to go. Each of these have explored a deeper meaning to that point of the Scout oath. For instance, not only is it important to be

brave when facing the scary feeling of anticipation prior to jumping off a 35 foot high cliff in to a river, but to also be brave in the face of negative peer pressure and adversity, in order to do what is right. I have also illustrated how the points of the Scout law are all parts of the same fabric. They all rely upon each other to make the foundation of a great person. For instance, if you are helpful to a friend, but it is at the expense of being unkind to another, then you still have not adhered to the full law.

Everything that we do in Troop 150 is at its root designed to instill you with a greater ability to utilize and demonstrate your Scout spirit. The lessons of the Scout law can be found in everything, from when you are struggling to find wood to light a fire for your first breakfast at Goshen while trying to avoid getting in trouble for being late to your first merit badge. Sound familiar? To when we are embarking in to the thick fog of Lake Merriweather during our Pirate's breakfast at Goshen. It may not be evident then, but the experiences you have during those times will later result in your ability to use the well-practiced tools that you're arming yourself with now, the Scout law and oath. Those tools, when put in to effect, will make you stronger and greater than nearly any hardship you may face.

The 12 Scouts standing before you are nicely illustrating that they are the embodiment of the Scout law. I ask you now to think about this, how are you going to strengthen your Scout spirit by practicing the Scout oath and law? How can we build upon these precepts better in our troop? How will you stand for these values when you're with your friends, family, and peers? You have these tools, I know that through the experiences you have in our troop, you will contribute to the ideal of peace among nations that Robert Baden Powell envisioned. Thank you!