Scoutmaster's Moment
Fall Court of Honor – September 14, 2020
Written and delivered by Troop 150 Scoutmaster Todd G. Bolick

Change the World

Setting: One Scout from each patrol is prepped ahead of the Scoutmaster's moment with a brief message on how they will change the world. These five Scouts will be standing on either side of the lectern. The Eagles Patrol and PLC members are prepared to shout "release the fury" at the right moment.

There may never have been a time in our lives where we have been more connected across our globe than now. Just looking across this amphitheater, I see each of us wearing a mask to protect each other from a global pandemic. People across the entire planet are under the same threat of this virus and we are individually responsible for protecting not only each other here but the billions of global citizens who could be touched by the ripple effects of our individual actions.

With that in mind, I like to wonder about how else we can change the world and be good world citizens. You often hear that you can make that impact, but it is always seems like such a lofty and un-achievable ambition, so why even try? How especially would a boy younger than 18, one of you, change our world?

Through much of the first half of this year, during my Scoutmaster's Moments, I have shared the stories of young people around the globe who have made a world impact. The leaders I have highlighted have included Greta Thunberg, Billie Eilish, Mark Zuckerberg, and others. The list of global influencers goes on to include well known leaders like Anne Frank, Louis Braille (who created the Braille alphabet by age 15), and Malala Yousafzai. These are all amazing examples of world changing young people, but I only highlight them

because they are leaders you have heard of. However, they may not necessarily be relatable to you.

So how do we do become a world changer and be the role model of planetary citizenship? The "Citizenship in the World" Merit Badge Pamphlet [hold up the pamphlet] says that, "How good a citizen you are depends on your willingness to understand and appreciate the values, traditions, and concerns of people in other countries-in our world." That rings very true today.

Less well known boys who have changed the world through that advice have included; Ryan Hickman, who started a recycling business at age 7 and Yash Gupta, who has distributed over $1.5 million worth of eyeglasses to children in improvised nations, starting when he was the age of 14. Looking at fellow Scouts, there has been Bryan Fencl, Jr. who started a club to get classmates to look out for and care for peers who are bullied for being different and Keerthin Karthikeyan who won the silver medal at the GENIUS olympiad international project competition by discovering a method to recycle Styrofoam.

I share these stories for inspiration as you think about how you will change the world. It does not have to be a grand or monumental task. Moreover, I know that as members of Troop 150, you are already changing the world. By being apart of our troop's 92 year heritage, you have joined an organization that has done an uncountable number of service projects all over our nation benefiting areas ranging from the environment to starvation. We have completed literally well over a hundred Eagle Scout projects which have all enormously helped a community. Even just in the last several months, as our SPL mentioned, we have written letters to the elderly and packaged food for the needy. Just by exemplifying Scout Spirit

and being the embodiment of the Scout Oath and Law, in your everyday life, you can be a positive force and role model for your peers, in many ways you may never even know.

Lets now hear from a few of our Scouts about how they are going to change the world. [Five pre-selected Scouts say what they will do to change the world]

Thank you Scouts! I know each of you has the ability and drive to change our world to make it an even better place. As I told our, PLC and youth leaders, [PLC members shout the following] UNLEASH THE FURY! and be extraordinary world citizens! Thank you.