Scoutmaster's Moment
Fall Court of Honor – September 12, 2022
Written and delivered by Troop 150 Scoutmaster Todd G. Bolick

Duty and Service

Setting: Have 3 or 4 pre-selected Scouts ready to talk about the cool things they have done in Scouting.

"Scouting is a global force for good…In this country and around the world, Scouts are helping others and making the most of their lives." That is a quote from Queen Elizabeth II regarding the Scouting movement. Much as the President of the United States of America serves as the Honorary Chair of the Boy Scouts of America, the monarch of the United Kingdom serves as the patron of their Scouting Association. However, unlike the BSA, where our Honorary Chair changes with each sitting U. S. President, the Scout Association in the U. K., as well as Scouts Canada and Scouts Australia, have had the honor of having Queen Elizabeth as their patron since 1952. Over that time, the Queen, who herself had been a Girl Guide as a youth, met many Scouts who earned their equivalent to Eagle Scout, the Queen's Scout, she attended large Scouting gatherings, including during our movement's 50th and 100th anniversaries, and even launched a Royal National Lifeboat Institution vessel called, "The Scout."

The Queen's remarkable life of service and leadership presents a perfect example of how you can conduct your life as you display your Scout Spirit and practice the tenets of the Scout Oath and Law. Queen Elizabeth was only 21 years old when she declared to her people that she would dedicate her entire life to service for them. As Scouts, each time you recite the Scout Oath and Law, you are likewise dedicating yourself to those principles. It is up to you on how you will fulfill that obligation.

You can see further examples of former Scouts, leaders who once were members of our movement, just like you are today, who have dedicated themselves to representing the values of Scout Spirit. Some examples include Apollo 13 mission Commander Jim Lovell, sports hero Michael Jordan, journalist Walter Cronkite, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., and so many more! These leaders each represent what it means to live significantly displaying Scout Spirit.

Right here, in our troop, you have the opportunity to fine tune your own path in how you will represent the spirit of Scouting. Every campout that you attend gives you another opportunity to put your values to the test. Each Merit Badge that you complete gives you a deeper and more diverse background and a greater opportunity to find a new passion. Every leadership role that you fulfill gives you greater experiences in serving others. Each new Scouting opportunity that you undertake, whether it be in the Order of the Arrow, or earning a rare Scouting award, or joining a high adventure expedition, or joining a National Jamboree contingent, or much more! There is truly no limit to what you can do, achieve, and experience in Scouting and it will all benefit how you will represent Scout Spirit.

[Ask Scouts about unique things they have done in Scouting]

As Bear Grylls, the Chief Ambassador of World Scouting said near the conclusion of his memorial of Queen Elizabeth II, "Let's take great solace and comfort in her warm-heartedness towards young people, her devotion to her duty and most of all her kindness. In memory of our great Patron, let's show that same sense of kindness and respect to each other. A great book has closed - not just a chapter - and a new one now begins." Dedicate yourselves to those values and you will have no limit of success!