Scoutmaster's Moment
Spring Court of Honor – September 30, 2024
Written and delivered by Troop 150 Scoutmaster Todd G. Bolick

Success

Setting: three Scouts will be notified in advance of the Scoutmaster Moment to have ideas ready on what were successes for them in the troop from the last summer and what they are looking forward to accomplishing in the next year.

It is the last evening of our recent week at Camp Bowman, and I am standing with the Assistant Scoutmasters, behind the Scouts, in their patrol files, as the Camp Director asks for a drum roll in preparation of declaring which troop will earn the coveted title of Troop of the week. We had already earned the demanding Goshen Camptime Adventure Award, Remsen and ASM Vanderbilt had just captured the top place in the Scoutmaster/SPL shoot-off, but now the intense moment of the drum roll is ending [drummer briefly rolls]. The proclamation is…Troop 150 is the Troop of the week, for the second time in five years [cheers]!

Separately, on the evening of July 31st, as I am sitting on a bench in Ely Minnesota, at the basecamp of Northern Tier High Adventure, the two crews from Troop 150 are receiving the numerous patches signifying our successfully completed 10-day expeditions in the remote Quetico Provincial Park. Our crews had paddled and journeyed over 100 miles, traversed in deep mud with amazingly heavy gear, and exemplified outstanding camping skills in the extremely primitive landscape, countless miles away from roads and cell phone signal.

We have a lot of successes to cheer and celebrate in our troop. Just look at this Court of Honor! 11 more Scouts earned a merit badge this year than last year, and as a troop, 30 more Merit Badges were earned than at last year's Fall Court of

Honor. More significantly, last year, we had just 8 Scouts advance in rank, in contrast, this year, we have an incredible 28 Scouts earning a rank advancement!

How did our troop achieve these successes? Well, to consider that, I think about times like when we hiked to the Goshen spillway hill for our astronomy hike, and as an entire troop, sat silently gazing at the forest full of lightening bugs and at the countless stars seen from the pristinely dark camp sky, or the time our Eagles patrol spontaneously made a thoughtful and fun paper towel award for each of the 42 Scouts at Goshen, or when a Scout had an opportunity to abandon his 50lb pack on our excruciating one and a half mile long portage through waist-deep, concrete like mud, boulders and other obstructions, but instead, he summoned his inner Scout determination to finish, refusing to neither let himself nor his crew down!

With that in mind, the answer is clear. It is our dedication to Scout Spirit that fuels our successes. Living by personifying Scout Spirit will always lead to great achievements. However, a problem presents itself when we consistently keep achieving Ws. It creates an expectation for constant continued success. There will be a demand for us to reclaim the Honor Oar and earn the Camptime adventure award once again next year, there will be an expectation that you will continue to work hard learning and earning more Merit Badges and advancing in rank. Achieving success comes with the heavy burden of needing to continue attaining it.

I'd now like to hear from three Scouts about what their success was from the last summer and what their next successes will be.

Thank you ____, ____, and ____! Now, lets get out there and keep aspiring to earning more amazing successes by living the Scout Spirit! Thank you.