Scoutmaster's Moment
Spring 2019 Court of Honor
Written and delivered by Troop 150 Scoutmaster Todd Bolick
May 20, 2019

Legacy

Setting: The Troop's staff simultaneously stand as the Scoutmaster Stands to deliver his Scoutmaster's Moment. Each member of the staff holds a wooden signing board on either side of the lectern. The lectern is flanked on either side by the SPL and ASPL each holding our Eagle Scout plaques.

"To those that have come before and those yet to come!" Those are striking words that I first read, painted inside of the lifeguard office, at Forest Hollow Swim Club. That statement refers to the legacy of those currently involved in an important organization to honor its past and to leave a significant future for those yet to come.

Troop 150 has a legacy of significance now spanning 91 years! Our troop was founded in 1928, when Annandale was little more than a farming community, not yet even considered a suburb of Washington, DC. During that time, a group of men who were leaders in Annandale, and associated with what was then called the Annandale Methodist Church, decided to establish a Boy Scouts of America Troop, for boys in their community to learn about the outdoors, become successful citizens, and to make themselves greater. At that time, in 1928, the Boy Scouts of America was only 18 years old, Annandale High School and Justice High School were over 25 years away from opening, and all of the surrounding communities, where most of us live today, were decades away from even being constructed.

Our troop's legacy began with an early group of around 12 Scouts and a handful of adult leaders. The first animal that our troop observed, back then on an

early campout, was a turtle. A turtle then became our mascot and has been a prominent component of our troop since.

In the 1970s, a group of Scouts, that I like to imagine as being rambunctious and creative, put together a long bunch of letters to form a troop cheer. That cheer became our official Troop 150 cheer and is recognized as one of the most unique, fun, and exciting troop cheers! It was even featured in a Washington Post article in 1990.

During our 65th anniversary, in 1993, some original members of the troop challenged the community to establish the Mercer Fund. This fund honored our first Scoutmaster. It is our troop's endowment fund that has helped to send countless Scouts on high adventure trips and continues to be of incredible benefit for us today.

In 2005, our troop was invited by then President George W. Bush to perform a flag ceremony at the White House, and in 2010, our troop marched in the Boy Scouts of America's centennial parade in Washington DC. Just last year, in the fall of 2018, our troop was featured on WUSA channel 9 for our incredible efforts in our Scouting for Food campaign.

We have had 26 Scoutmasters and 24 Committee Chairs since 1928. Since 1996, when records began, we have had 36 individual Scouts serve as our Senior Patrol Leader. Most preeminent though is the number, 103. That's the number of Scouts who have earned the elite rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 150 since 1951, when records started for that.

In our troop, our legacy is inscribed here on blocks of wood. Throughout the decades, each fall, Scouts, leaders, and their families have signed these boards and become part of our legacy. Chief among these are our Eagle Scout plaques that forever honor and enshrine our Troop's Eagles.

You are a part of an unparalleled legacy! What are you going to do to honor the history of our troop? How will you increase our legacy for the future? How will your name be remembered? Will you be inscribed on our Eagle Scout plaques and become extraordinary by joining the 103 Troop 150 Eagles who came before you? Be proud of our legacy and seek to advance it.