Scoutmaster's Moment
Spring Court of Honor – May 20, 2024
Written and delivered by Troop 150 Scoutmaster Todd G. Bolick

Summit

Setting: Three Scouts, each of varying age range, will be pre-selected to come up near the end of this Scoutmaster Moment, to share what their personal Scouting summit is. After, the Scoutmaster Moment, the PLC will pass out a small paper, printed with a writing prompt, for each member of the audience, asking them what their Scouting summit is.

29,032 feet above sea level! That is the highest point of land on Earth, the soaring summit of Mount Everest! Mount Everest has long captivated my imagination and curiosity due to its sheer geological magnificence and due to the stories of those who have endeavored to summit it since Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first reached it's zenith on May 29th, 1953, almost exactly 71 years ago, today!

Mount Everest straddles the border of Nepal and China and sees climbers from around the world embarking on expeditions to summit the mountain, each year. Climbers trekking on the more popular Nepal route start their journey with the most dangerous terrain, right out of Base Camp, the Khumbu Icefall, a constantly shifting, literal frozen glacial waterfall. This section includes traversing over nearly endless crevasses on ladders lashed together with line. From there, they climb the remaining of the 11,434 feet, through four camps along the mountain, ultimately to the iconic Hillary Step and on to the summit. Once arriving at the summit, after nearly 12 hours of climbing from Camp 4, and surviving on barely any oxygen and sleep, in truly some of the most harsh

conditions imaginable, the climb is not yet even over. These adventurers need to safely descend back down to Base Camp, which many say is even harder.

As I speak, there are expeditions working on their acclimatization and summit attempts at Mount Everest. These next couple weeks of May are the only time each year when the weather is safe enough for successful climbs. Only 6,664 people have successfully climbed Mount Everest since 1953. I recently got to meet Ben Stern, who last May, was the 750th American to summit this great mountain. He shared his experience climbing Mount Everest and it was awesome to hear about just how incredibly hard, in every sense, it is to reach that landmark. His striking story of achieving his dreams was riveting and inspiring.

I could talk much more about Mount Everest, but for your sake, and to get to my point, I'll explain what all of this has to do with Troop 150. We may be setting our sights on lower mountain summits, like the iconic Viewing Rock at Goshen, but we each need to set just as lofty of a vision of our Scouting summit as those who successfully reach Mount Everest's pinnacle! Your Scouting summit, that great Scouting dream that each of you should have, needs to be something that you need to work hard for, despite daunting challenges, that when you achieve it, your sense of pride will be overwhelming, and something that will contribute toward building your Scout Spirit and making you a leader! I now ask _____, _____, and _____ to come up and share what their Scouting summit is. [allow each to share]. Great, thank you! Now, our PLC leaders are going distribute a paper for you to think about and share what your Scouting summit will be. I challenge each of you to think hard and then to write it down and share it with your parents and leaders. Thank you and let's seize that summit!



Answer Scoutmaster Todd's question, what is your Scouting Summit? Share this with your parents, friends, leaders, and Scoutmaster Todd!

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