Scoutmaster's Moment
Spring Court of Honor – May 12, 2025
Written and delivered by Troop 150 Scoutmaster Todd G. Bolick

Imagination to Reality

Setting: The Scoutmaster Moment starts with the screening of "2025 Annandale, VA Troop 150 Trailer III," created by M.M-W. The lights will be dimmed until the end with faint nature sounds playing in the background. Possible next SM Moment: https://abcnews.go.com/International/read-pope-francis-final-easter-address/story?id=121006377.

On the homepage of our Troop 150 website, www.troop150va.org, there is a trailer that shows the great adventures that our troop embarks on throughout a year. I asked last term's Historian, Maxton Molina-Weir, to create a new Trailer to show the current reality of our troop. We will start my Scoutmaster's Moment tonight with the premier screening of the "Troop 150 Trailer III." [Have Maxton play the trailer. When the trailer ends, applaud.]

You just watched a great video exhibiting the amazing things Troop 150 does. Whether you have been on a Troop 150 adventure or not, you can now picture, in your imagination, the great journeys of our troop. Close your eyes. I'll let you know when to open them back up, but don't fall asleep. Now, with your eyes closed, imagine that you just hiked through Camp Bowman for our annual troop astronomy hike and are now sitting on a beautiful grassy hill at Goshen Scout Reservation. It is about 10:00 at night so it is nearly pitch dark and the Senior Patrol Leader has just instructed the troop to silently observe the evening for the next 10 minutes. Being hundreds of miles away from the nearest major population center, no city light sources are penetrating the darkness of Goshen. Not all is dark though, because as you slowly scan around the perimeter, at the surrounding familiar, yet now, in this night-time setting, seemingly different deep forest, that

we are calling home for the week, you see that it is filled with the countless blinking lights of innumerable fireflies. Their beautiful natural blinking makes the entire forest appear as if it has come to life and has been lit with the most grand Christmas lights imaginable.

Next, as your gaze rises to the horizon, you see the surrounding mountains standing out pitch black, against the night sky. The dark mountains stand out because as you lay back on to the soft grass and stare straight-up, you observe a most glorious picture, a night-sky filled with a moon so bright, that you can make out the craters on it's face. All around the sky are millions of twinkling stars and bright planets. While watching the stars in awe, you take a deep breath…and as you inhale, your nose fills with the scent of freshly cut grass from the hill you are laying on, and of course, the faint odor of bug spray. You feel a pleasant light breeze streaming over you on it's traverse through the valley, and you hear the gentle waves of Lake Merriweather lapping on the shore some feet away.

While enjoying this most sublime moment, your mind starts to wander as you contently think about all you have accomplished and all you still have to take on while at Goshen. You think about how your patrol not only lit a fire during a rainstorm two days prior but how an amazingly delicious dinner was even cooked during it. You also smirk thinking how you worked so much harder than the Scouts at Camp Olmsted across the lake, with their dining hall. You next think about the arduous Merit Badge your Assistant Scoutmaster and parents encouraged you take at Goshen. It started out as a concern for you, but now, after several classes, you are well on your way to earning the merit badge and think that maybe this will be a new hobby for you. Your successive thought is on waking up in just seven hours to make the cold hike to the waterfront for one of the highlights of the

week, Pirate's Breakfast. This may be your first Pirate's Breakfast so you wonder if your alliance with the Dragons will hold firm in your plot to tip Scoutmaster Todd's canoe. After that, you quietly laugh, thinking about how your greatest fear on the first night of Goshen was the spider you watched crawl on the top of your tent. Now, you know it was just a funny worry, because you have thrived in harmony with nature for the last few days.

With some of your best friends lying on the soft ground all around you, you know that with them, you can achieve anything! You remember the sheer excitement of screaming the Mahe Maha a few hours earlier when the troop earned the Honor Oar and start hoping the troop will rise to the task of earning the Troop of the Week honor. You then go on to dream of your next Scouting adventures and triumphs. The thought of already not being able to wait to come back to Goshen next year, hopefully as a troop leader, the excitement of dreaming of a backpacking trek in the backcountry of the Northern New Mexico mountains, at Philmont Scout Ranch and of a journey through the pristine boundary waters in Canada at Northern Tier flash in your mind. The picture of you rising to earn the summit of Scouting, the rank of Eagle Scout even crosses your imagination!

Okay, open your eyes [the ASM turns the lights back on]. What you just imagined can become a reality. Those dreams that you imagined are not only possible, but reachable. You can't just let it be a dream though. You need to work hard and strive to make your dreams become reality. As we approach the summer, I challenge each of you to make your greatest Scouting imaginations and dreams, become your reality. Share those dreams with your friends, family, and with our Scoutmaster Corps, we will help you! Thank you!