Scoutmaster's Moment
Winter Court of Honor – December 16, 2024
Written and delivered by Troop 150 Scoutmaster Todd G. Bolick

Year-End Challenge

Setting: four Scouts will be picked and called up to talk about each of the following topics and what was important in that topic to them this year respectively. The topics will be camping, Merit Badge, advancement/leadership, and community service.

It is amazing what our Scouts accomplish! If you would imagine 40 Scouts being told to cook 2 and ½ turkeys in dutch ovens, six side dishes that can feed at least 20-30 Scouts and leaders each, six desserts that can feed 20-30 people each, and to do all of that in about 3 hours in mid-40 degree weather, you would probably imagine utter anarchic disasters with the only output being dry under-cooked turkey and a burnt kraft macaroni and cheese. That's not Troop 150! Every year at our annual Thanksgiving campout, our Scouts work together in their patrols and in the troop to put on an extraordinary feast with perfectly moist cooked turkeys, fantastic sides made from scratch, and decadent desserts all shared together. More impressive is the KP, or clean-up effort, that occurs after it, which seems to go more quickly and efficiently every year!

That's just one example of how amazing our Scouts and troop are. I'd like to share some numbers with you:

- First, service hours, something that is very essential to Troop 150! We completed 218.5 hours of recorded service hours. That doesn't even include each Eagle project and probably some other events! That is a $7,319.57 value to our community!
- We completed 788 nights of camping between our Scouts and adults!

- We sent two Crews on 10 day expeditions to Northern Tier High Adventure and completed treks in the extremely remote Quetico Provincial Park of 100 and 125 miles for each crew!
- Our Scouts earned 247 Merit Badges this year, learning incredible skills in so many arrays of career and interest fields!
- 76 rank advancements were earned by our Troop Scouts, including 4 Scouts who earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout!
- 77 youth were members of our troop this year, including the 65 current Scouts in our troop!

The numbers are important and exhibit the power of our amazing troop and what our Scouts achieve! The numbers aren't as powerful as actually hearing from the Scouts directly though, so I'd like each of these Scouts to share one experience they had from respectively, a service project, a campout, a merit badge, and a rank advancement. [Listen to each Scout]

I am looking forward to what we will accomplish next year, in our troop's 97th year! There is no limit for our Scouts. To you, our Scouts of Troop 150, I challenge and urge each of you to push your horizon. Plan to reach for the next rank, earn a Merit Badge that will teach you a new skillset, excel on a campout that might be hard and uncomfortable, serve the community as much as you can, and have fun learning what it is to be a Scout in Troop 150. Thank you all. Have a great and Happy New Year!