# Scoutmaster's Moment
## Winter Court of Honor – December 15, 2025
## Written and delivered by Troop 150 Scoutmaster Todd G. Bolick

Centennial Vision

*Setting: speak grandly on our future and on our accomplishments this year to stress that they can be even greater! Ask the SPL, an Eagle Scout, and a younger Scout to be prepared with what their vision for the troop could be.*

When we next meet again, as a troop, we will be celebrating our 98th anniversary since our troop was founded, in 1928! In just a little over two years from now, we will be in our centennial year, and that is a titanic milestone!

Now this year, Troop, we accomplished a ton! 71 rank advancements were achieved. 270 Merit Badges were earned. If you put each member of our troop's camping nights together, that is 5,289 nights of camping, and that doesn't even include any indoor overnighters, over 30 members of our troop embarked to Sea Base, 56 members of our troop had adventures at Goshen this Summer, we earned the Honor Oar, the SPL and SM Shoot-off, and Troop of the Week at Goshen Scout Reservation, and with Pack 150, we collected 9,049lbs of food for Scouting for Food. Further, we performed 4,813.4 hours of community service!

However, in celebrating those accomplishments my thoughts are already turned to how we will formulate our vision for our centennial year and beyond because it will be here before we know it!

The vision statement of our movement is that Scouting America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law. That is a very lofty vision but

one I know every Scout, Scouter, and supporter of Scouting is committed to doing because we all know the unparalleled value of Scouting for the youth of our communities. But how do we bring that vision to Troop 150 and incorporate our vision for our centennial and beyond? Why is it even important to set a vision for something that is years out anyway?

Well, to answer that, I did something that I truly don't often do, and asked Google's AI for a little help. The AI answered, "a vision is crucial because it provides direction, motivation, and purpose, acting as a mental map for your life or organization to filter distractions, set meaningful goals, and inspire focused action towards a desired future, preventing aimless drifting and providing resilience against obstacles." Wow, almost could not have phrased it better myself!

Now that we are on the cusp of celebrating this monumental anniversary of our Troop having provided the galaxy's leading Scouting program to the youth of the Annandale region for nearly 100 years, I want to set our vision for what is upcoming (and thanks to Committee Member Kayser for helping me to establish these). That vision will include things such as, the practical events that we do to celebrate the achievement. That could include a grand gala where we celebrate our current Scouts, alumni, and community, it will hopefully include an event, perhaps on our own at Goshen, where we celebrate with the current troop at our summer camp, and perhaps with other smaller events throughout the year to connect our troop with our alumni, community leaders, and beyond.

Our vision could also include serving 100 youth in our centennial year. That's only 17 more than now and think of the impact our troop could make at that size accomplishing huge projects! Imagine if we gathered financial gifts from 100

different donors for our Mercer Fund to increase it's principal so it can benefit even more Scouts. That could help to better financially sustain the troop for decades and more. What would the impact be on our community if we endeavored to perform 10,000 hours of community service over the next couple of years through our 100th anniversary year? I envision our troop to be our region's preeminent youth character and citizenship building organization that can be called upon at any time to provide ultimate service and leadership. We will launch a committee of about 12 members that will consist of Scouts, parents, leaders, alumni families, and community leaders to organize our centennial celebration but they will need our vision to do it!

This vision for our centennial is not just for me to form though. The Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) training that many of our higher-ranking Scouts will take next February will challenge our Scouts to come up with their vision of our troop. [invite the three Scouts to come up and share ideas of their vision]. I challenge each of you, our Scouts, leaders, families, and friends to envision what our troop will look like through it's 100th anniversary to start early on designing your vision so we can align them and put them together.

I am excited for what we will continue to accomplish! Happy holidays to each of you. Have a safe winter break. Take time to work on some Scouting requirements and ideas for your vision for our troop. Thank you!