

TROOP 266 NEWSLETTER

December 2009

Scoutmaster Minute

We Still Need Heroes

By Barry Kirk, Scoutmaster

The scarcity of heroes has troubled me for years. It seems society spends enormous effort in looking for personal flaws that are used to discredit those of notoriety, causing what we know now as the fallen hero syndrome. A malaise of fear over finding some hidden fact that discredits the one being admired has robbed the trust one placed in others.

Still, I am convinced we need heroes. The imperfections of humanity notwithstanding, our hearts hunger to be stimulated by examples of great character being modeled in everyday life. We are fortified by exemplary lives, especially those who have earned the right to be respected by their character, sacrifice, patience, and ability to press on in spite of hardship, injustice, pain, and failure. Our heroes don't have to be perfect. They must, however, be courageous, authentic, clear-minded and determined. We need heroes of integrity and consistency. Finishing strong is a vital part of standing tall.

Growing up, I had, and still do have 3 heroes: President Abraham Lincoln, actor John Wayne, and baseball hall-of-famer Willie Mays. Each had personal struggles in their lives.

Abraham Lincoln suffered with Depression, had a wife who struggled with mental illness, and had a cabinet of men he selected to work in his presidency who were to become his worst critics during the Civil War. He wasn't perfect.

John Wayne, recognized as "An American Icon", whose real name was Marion Morrison, was publicly criticized for holding true to his politically conservative convictions. He was also an adamant supporter of the Boy Scouts. He wasn't perfect.

Willie Mays had to overcome the color barrier as a black man and played centerfield in the 50's and 60's for the New York (and then) San Francisco Giants, was perhaps (in my opinion) the greatest centerfielder to play the game, and struggled with short-term memory - he couldn't remember names. As a result, when he wanted to get someone's attention, he would beckon them by calling out, "Say Hey!", Thus he became known as the "Say Hey Kid". He wasn't perfect.

Finally, my most recent heroes are the 4 Lakewood and 1 Seattle police officers who were assassinated serving their communities. They gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving their fellow man. They weren't perfect.

They were just people, with human weaknesses, like you and me. Still, they persevered even when it wasn't it wasn't popular to do so.

You, as Scouts, are called to be heroes. Your families, friends, and community need you to be heroes. They need someone and something to believe in, to count on, to be inspired by. Sure, you have weaknesses and imperfections. But so did my heroes, and so do I. Be a hero to someone. That's what you'll be most remembered for.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Troop 266 Scouts accept challenge

Recently our Scoutmaster Emeritus, David Workman, contacted the troop to request the recruitment of a Scout to become a Den Chief for the new Cub Scout Pack 299 that he is assisting in forming a Gull Harbor Lutheran Church. Michael Wertz of the Scorpion Patrol accepted the challenge. Reports from the first meeting Michael attended indicate that he did a great job representing Boy Scouting and taught the Cub Scouts how to tie some knots. Also assisting the new Cub Pack was Matt Hahn of the Sea Turtle Patrol who led the color guard and helped the Cubs learn the proper way to present the colors. Dave Workman has passed along a big "Attaway" to Michael and Matt and the Scouts of Troop 266. – Dave Bartruff

Winter Camping

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell the founder of scouting was once asked what he meant by the motto to be prepared. Lord Baden-Powell answered by saying that a scout is prepared for anything. The question is how does one know if they are actually prepared for winter camping. How does one know if the sleeping bag and pad or pads they are planning on using will actually be adequate? One way is to test them out. This cold weather is a perfect environment to test out your sleeping system. Just pitch a tent in your back yard and have a sleep out. This will tell you if what you have will work. You want to be comfortable but not sweating in the bag. Do you need thicker long underwear, face mask, a liner bag or over bag? Do you need to attach some straps to your bag so that it doesn't slip off the sleeping pads as you sleep? These are all questions you can answer by using God's gift of cold weather with no wind or snow. Has your winter bag been rolled up tight for a long time and can no longer expand to what it was when new, and become a heavy summer bag? The great thing about doing this in your back yard is that if things just don't work you can go back into the house take a hot shower and crawl into your bed. You will then know that you are prepared.

I have done the once this week already testing out some different systems. If you can it is best to have the tent and sleeping bag out for a few hours before you will go to bed as this will give you an idea of how long it takes you to get warm. Believe me it is better to test it at home and know then to discover that some part of it doesn't work when you're on a campout. – Jan Skoropinski

Toys for Tots

Oorah All! Just a quick note that due to a large generous donation, we will have some funds to go out and buy some toys for those children in need this year. **The toy buy-up date has been changed to December 19th** and will take place at the Walmart in Lacey. Since there are other things taking place on the 19th as well, all who want to be a part of this must be at the Walmart **No-Later-Then 0800** or 8:00am for a quick photo and then quick shopping spree to spend around \$18,000 on toys. Walmart has already been notified, we'll have the **State Troopers trailer** there to load the toys and then move them to our distribution point on the westside of Olympia. I know it sounds early but the price to you is only your time, ideas and gratification on what you're doing to help others. Once the toys are purchased and moved to the distribution point, another quick picture is required showing all the toys gathered and then the separation frenzy takes place. I expect this between 11:00am to noon and then we start pulling toys for each child and family until completed.

Thanks and Semper Fidelis! HOHOHOHO!!!! – John Sager

CAPITAL DISTRICT NIGHT HIKE 2009

DATA SHEET NOV 20,2009

SCORES FOR HIKE TEAMS

TEAM NUMBER/TROOP/SCORE (MAX OF 10 POINTS PER STATION)

TEAM B/T268/26

TEAM A/268/69

PHILMOUNT/T266/NONE

SEARCH AND RESCUE / NO SCORE

TEAM 1/T268/69

TEAM 2/T266/86

TEAM 3/T519/68

TEAM 4/T14/92

TEAM 5/T123/NO SCORE

TEAM 6/T325/87

TEAM 16/T692/90

TEAM 17/T90 &T 48/101

TEAM 18/T310/95

TEAM 19/T560/97

TEAM 20/T560/84

TEAM 24/T245/72

TEAM PK CHK/T266/74

-Jan Skoropinski

Wreath Sale Update

Good work scouts, you sold a total of 714 wreaths this year. We didn't quite reach our goal, but you put out a great effort. Our top sellers this year were:

Ryan Williams

AJ Davies

James Icenogle

Caleb Hou

Justin Henry.

We will have our Bowling party on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at the Westside Lanes at 2:00 PM. Please RSVP if you plan to attend (Sue Drinkard 357-8428 or sadrinkard@aol.com) The following scouts qualify to attend the party by selling at least 7 wreaths and having all of their orders and money turned in by the due date:

Alex Burruss

Sam Moreno

Ian Culhane

Kyle Oplinger

AJ Davies

Eli Pong

Julian Dizon

Coty Rohr

Josh Drinkard

Leno Velez - Kraft

David Drinkard

Michael Wertz, Jr.

Grant Dunn

Ryan Williams

Matt Hahn

Ben Williams

Justin Henry

Zane Wolf

Caleb Hou

James Icenogle

Bryce Inglin

Taeus Janssen-Madden

Brent Knutzen

Aaron Lingor

Brett Lundmark

Mick Mauritzen

Kyle Miller

Eagle Articles:

Kyle Selstead achieves Eagle Scout rank: On December 23, 2008 Kyle Selstead achieved the highest rank in Boy Scouts, the rank of Eagle. Kyle accomplished this feat after being a member of Troop 266 for almost seven years. Kyle became a First Class scout one year after bridging from Cub Scout Pack 211. He then advanced to Star five months later in July 2003, and Life in November 2004. Kyle served his troop as a Project Leader and has also served the Badger Patrol as a Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader and Chaplain's Aide. In addition, he provided leadership to Cub Scouts in Pack 211 as a Den Chief for two years, and earned the Den Chief Service Award. The highlights of Kyle's scouting activities include attendance at four summer camps (Black Mountain, Fire Mountain, Fife and Easton), canoeing at the BSA Northern Tier Sommers High Adventure Base (where he earned the 75 miler award), hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (earning the Pacific Crest Trail Challenge), and numerous troop and patrol activities, including camping, canoe trips, and whitewater rafting. These outdoor activities helped Kyle to complete 51 nights of camping and log 60.4 miles of hiking and backpacking. Kyle has supported his fellow Scouts by working on eight Eagle Service projects, accumulating over 54 hours of service. For his Eagle Project he oversaw the donations for and preparation of personal hygiene kits for the clients at the Olympia Union Gospel Mission, He also gathered donations for and supervised the preparing of a special dinner and distribution of the kits at the mission as well. Kyle continues to volunteer at the mission to this day.

Kyle has been very involved with his high school youth group at Calvary Chapel of Olympia. He went on a mission trip to Mexico with them, and worked at a village in Baja, California. He also helped with numerous service projects and church events.

Kyle plans to graduate from New Market Skills Center (Computers) and Running Start in June of 2010. His future plans include attending Ecola Bible College in Canon Beach, Oregon, where he heard there is lots of good hiking...

Erik Meyers achieves Eagle Scout rank: On September 18, 2009 Erik Meyers achieved the highest rank in Boy Scouts, the rank of Eagle. Erik accomplished this feat at age 15 after being a member of Troop 266 for just 4½ years. Erik made First Class eight months after joining the troop. He then advanced to Star eight months later in July 2006 and Life in July 2007. Erik has served the troop as a Librarian, Historian and Project Leader, and has also served the Leviathan Patrol as a Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader.

The highlights of Erik's scouting activities include attendance at four summer camps (Easton, Fire Mountain and Meriwether twice) and numerous patrol activities, including bicycling, boating and whitewater rafting. Erik has been on 21 camping events completing 45 nights of camping. For his Eagle Project he built a fishing dock for the Cascades Camp & Retreats Yelm. A member of the Crossroads Community Covenant Church, he was baptized in the same lake where his Eagle project dock now floats.

Erik is a sophomore with the Insight School of Washington, a distance education, on-line academy. Erik just turned 16 and got his driver's license. He enjoys playing his electric guitar, hanging out with friends and playing computer games. College and career are a few years away, but his future will likely involve computers.

ADVANCEMENTS

The following Scouts advanced in December. Congratulations!

Jake Blakeslee Life
Kyle Bell Eagle BOR

TROOP 266 CALENDAR 12/01/09 – 03/31/10

	<u>Type</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
December			
12/19/09	Serv Proj (3.0 Hours)	Thurston. Cty. Food Bank	Sort Holiday Food Donations
January			
01/05/10	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC
01/11/10	Cmte	Room 115	Committee Meeting
01/12/10	Troop Mtg		Merit Badge Wrap-Up, Class #6
01/19/10	Troop Mtg		Winter Camping - Training
01/26/10	Troop Mtg		Court of Honor
February			
02/02/10	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC
02/07/10	Event	GSLC	Scout Sunday
02/08/10	Troop Cmte	Room 115	Committee Meeting
02/09/10	Troop Mtg		Merit Badge Class #1
02/13/10	Camping	White Pass	Snow/Winter Camping
02/16/10	Troop Mtg		Klondike Prep, Pioneering Skills
02/23/10	Troop Mtg		Merit Badge Class #2
02/27/10	Event	Stampede Pass	Trollhaugen Snow-Fun Weekend
March			
03/02/10	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC
03/06/10	Camping (1 Night)	Location TBD	Troop Klondike Campout
03/08/10	Cmte	Room 115	Committee Meeting
03/09/10	Troop Mtg		Troop & Patrol Elections
03/16/10	Troop Mtg		Merit Badge Class #3
03/20/10	Event	GSLC	Life to Eagle Workshop
03/23/10	Troop Mtg		Summer Prog.-Seekers Welcome
03/27/10	APC	Camp Delezenne	Spring Planning Conference
03/30/10	PLC/B		PLC/BOR/PAC (Special Date)

Please submit your stories, items of interest, and any other contributions for upcoming newsletters to the Newsletter Editor, Kerin Kirkmire, at kgkirkmire@msn.com.