



Scout Executive's Corner Jeff Stout, SE

Quality Program

The new year has just begun and we, as Scout leaders, need to reflect on our past Scouting year. We need to focus on the "main things"; recruitment, retention, quality program, trained leaders, and the promise of an ideal year of Scouting.

How is your unit or district doing on achieving these items? Our Scouts deserve our very best, they are the future of our program, our communities, and our country. We can only achieve this goal by providing a quality program.

A quality program begins with your commitment. All leaders must attend training. Training will make your job easier to do, it will provide you with resources and a network of leaders to bounce problems and ideas off of. Organized and well planned meetings provide excitement and new experiences for our youth. The outdoor program is essential for all Scouting programs. Day camps, webelos woods, summer camp, camporees, hikes, and many other outdoor activities help to keep the Scouts interested and having fun. Recognition is key to a boy's longevity in the program. All boys want to advance and like to be recognized in front of their peers. Frequent award ceremonies can help to encourage other Scouts to work towards their advancement goals. How are you doing so far?

To provide an ideal year of Scouting you must have the resources to fund this program. The Lincoln Trails Council provides you that opportunity with our annual popcorn sale. Your unit benefits with 25% - 30% profit from this sale. Was your popcorn sale total enough to fund your Scouting year? If not, we need to evaluate your sale and determine how we can improve it. Your success ultimately determines what your Scouting year can or can not be.

I am looking forward to working with you to provide a quality program and an ideal year of Scouting.

The Good Turn

All day long London had been in the hard grip of a dense, heavy fog. Traffic crept cautiously and slowly. Street lights had been ordered on by the police before noon, and now night was coming. Danger lurked at every corner, because "going" was difficult even for the native.

William D. Boyce, Chicago publisher and traveler, was seeking a difficult address in old London. A boy approached him and asked, "May I be of service to you?" Mr. Boyce told him where he wanted to go and the boy saluted and said, "Come with me, Sir," and led him to the desired spot. Like the typical American tourist, Mr. Boyce reached into his pocket and offered the boy a shilling. The boy promptly replied, "No, sir, I am a Scout." "What did you say?" The Scout repeated and then added, "Don't you know about the Scouts?" Mr. Boyce said, "Tell me about them." The boy did and added, "Their office is very near, Sir. I'll be glad to show you the way."

Mr. Boyce had to complete his errand first. The lad waited, however, and then led him to the office of Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the British Boy Scout Association, where information about the Scout movement was gladly given. Mr. Boyce was tremendously impressed and gathering all available information, brought it back to the United States.

On February 8, 1910, Mr. Boyce and others interested in boys and citizenship, formally incorporated the Boy Scouts of America. This day is observed each year as the birthday of Scouting in the United States. This "Good Turn" to a stranger brought Scouting to the United States and to millions of American boys.

On May 1, 1926, at Washington D.C., the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America honored this unknown English Scout with the award of the "Bronze Buffalo", a large statue in the form of a buffalo similar to the Silver Buffalo Award, for distinguished service to boyhood. On it is this simple inscription: "To the Unknown Scout Whose Faithfulness in the Performance of the "Daily Good Turn" brought the Scout Movement to the United States of America." The statue is set up in Gilwell Park, England, and was received by the Prince of Wales on behalf of the British Boy Scouts.

This "Good Turn" is in no way unlike millions of "Good Turns" done daily by the Boy Scouts of the United States and the world.

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