

Why Scouting?

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Council President

I often get asked why I continue to volunteer with Scouting. My son has been out of Scouting for 17 years. Friends and acquaintance's wonder what in the world I am doing going on a campout, planning a district dinner or helping Cub Scouts launch rockets! Let alone serving as Council President! There is nothing more important than being a part of this great organization and giving my time to insure that all youth have the opportunity to be a Scout. Why? Because Scouting changes lives. Our Scouts are prepared for life.

In my garage I have two shelves of left over Scouting projects. Most folks would think of the stuff on my shelf as junk. The reality is most of it is junk. I have left over film canisters from making first aid tie slides. Left over colored rope so Webelos could see how to do a square knot. And I have lots of scraps wood, weights and wheels from years of pinewood derby races. I think you get the idea of what is on my shelf.

That "stuff" really is not junk at all. Those film canisters that were used to make first aid tie slides were the start of many opportunities Scouts had to learn about first aid. From learning to simply wash off a boo boo to how to handle a broken bone Scouts are learning how to be responsible and helpful. We hear in the news all the time of Scouts using their first aid skills to help someone who is seriously injured on a hiking trail. Our Scouts have saved lives too. That film canister really is not junk.

I have lots of rope on my shelves. I love the colored rope pieces I have that I use to teach square knots. I also have lots of rope left over from making Scouts staffs. The excitement of a Webelos when they finally get that square knot right and did it by themselves is priceless. And that Scout who finishes making his or her Scout staff complete with 25 feet of rope (do you know what it is for) is building confidence. Working together on these projects our Scouts are learning to be helpful and courteous. Whether teaching a square knot or practicing their pioneering skills Scouts are learning skills that they can use over a lifetime. My rope is a valuable commodity on my shelf!

One of those things on my junk shelf is MY pinewood derby car and lots of excess supplies. Every new parent needs tips and tricks on how to help their Scout build a pinewood derby car. At those pinewood derby shop nights, you have an opportunity to chat with family about what the pinewood derby is really all about. Learning that winning is not everything is an important lesson that Scouts only experience in Scouting these days. We are teaching a very valuable lesson about being courteous and respectful. That box of pinewood derby supplies is a keeper for me.

Everything we do in Scouts: every activity, every requirement, and every merit badge has a purpose. What may seem like we are teaching scouts First Aid or Knots we are really teaching a Scout to become more confident, to serve others, to be responsible and work as a team. Scouting teaches our youth to become leaders and to be of strong character. Most of all by using the Scout oath and law we are teaching our Scouts values that last a lifetime.

For me it is about the opportunity to impact the lives of our youth. It is about the legacy Scouting leaves behind. Our Scouts are Prepared. For Life. Why Scouting? It is about changing lives. And now with Family Scouting and Scouts BSA we have a greater opportunity to serve more youth. I'm in! Are you? Let's go hunting for more scouts!

