

# The Call to Volunteerism

Kevin Nichols, Scout Executive

The Mount Baker Council is gearing up to put an increased focus on attracting and recruiting volunteers as our 108 year-old Scouting program continues its goal of providing all youth a life-changing experience they can't get anywhere else. We have always understood that volunteerism is one of the key things that sets Scouting aside from other youth organizations – it could even be called our “core competency”.

Any Cubmaster or Scoutmaster or Committee Chair knows that volunteerism is critical. At this time of year, units are focusing on recruiting and training new leaders for the summer activities and upcoming program year. The unit leader and the committee focus on asking parents to sign on to share leadership roles. If too few parents participate as a member of the parent committee or a summer camp leader, the unit program suffers and our youth may miss the opportunity to develop lifelong leadership skills, acquire character-developing values and enjoy the fun and adventure of Scouting.

Have you ever struggled to get more volunteers to help? Here's an old ditty to read aloud the next time you are getting ready to recruit some new volunteers, as a reminder to them that no matter how busy they are, in the end they will be happier by stepping up:

Because of my child – I found a new job to do.  
I became a Scouter – through and through.

I understand youth better – because of my child.  
It happened through Scouting – Now, that's wild!

Because of my child – I can be more worthwhile.  
Oh! What a reward – to see a young person's smile.

'Tis endless – the pleasures gained from Scouting.  
Because of my child – I seek each meeting and outing.

Because of my child – I've gained friends beyond measure.  
'Tis indeed blessed to me – such a wonderful treasure.

Hours that were less satisfying – are now filled to the brim.  
Because of my child – I enjoy life with them.

Because of my child - I enjoy volunteering.  
I have a better way of life – full of fun and cheering.

Don't spend your time – putting work before all.  
Because of YOUR child – heed the SCOUTING call!