

Focus on Fishers Landing

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Fishers Landing

Meet
**Jourdan
Hale**



Scouting in My Life

Fishers Landing Family
Feature: March 2016

By Jourdan Hale



An Eagle Soars...

Scouting has been a significant part of my life, and it has played a vital role in developing my character. Scouting has shaped who I am as a person and has taught me the value of knowledge, wisdom, leadership, tolerance, responsibility, and accomplishing goals.

Throughout my scouting experience, the quest for knowledge has been a key focus, but even more valuable is what I have been able to do with information I have gained. Through leadership, community service, rank advancement, and the completion of many merit badges I have learned valuable skills, which I have been called upon to use in numerous situations. When I was preparing to perform in my high school's musical on a 90 degree day, a friend suffered from heat stroke and hyperventilation, and then went into shock. I was able to treat him properly, with the help of those whom I directed, until a paramedic arrived. After

he recovered, the paramedic complimented me on how I responded and applied appropriate first aid treatment. Other less critical occurrences have also occurred where I have been able to step in as well, such as treating rolled ankles, minor cuts and scrapes, and nose bleeds. Other skills I have learned, such as painting and woodworking, have allowed me to lead small teams to construct sets for use in school plays. Learning more about communications and public speaking has allowed me to more freely and appropriately address large groups of people.

I can react quickly and appropriately in an emergency due to my experiences with leadership and an enlarged knowledge base. When a friend of mine became stuck 400 feet up on a bluff, I had the rest of our party come down from the surrounding area, gathered information about the situation and had another friend calm him down over the phone while I ran down the beach to radio in the closest responders. After giving the responders the information regarding the rescue circumstances and receiving their professional opinion I ran back and we called the Coast Guard for assistance, and I remained on site and offered assistance until he was safe.

Giving Back...

Scouting has also allowed me to develop important leadership skills. During my eagle project and my time serving in troop leadership roles I learned the importance of sound planning, listening to the ideas and perspective of others, having patience in difficult situations, delegating assignments, looking for solutions to issues, understanding the context of issues, explaining a plan with enough information to create trust and enthusiasm without overwhelming others with information, accepting and giving responsibility, and being flexible when obstacles are presented. These skills have helped me as I have served in my community as the Mountain View Choir president and treasurer, and as the Mountain View Green School's vice-president. As the choir president, I must plan and coordinate activities and concerts for the 211 choir students, and regularly lead the Concert Choir – a group of 83 students. In the classroom I am more inclined to take a leadership role, and attempt to ensure everyone participates and feels included. I have also learned the importance of being a good follower from times when I have not been called to a leadership role. Not only does this help to accomplish tasks in the most efficient manner, but it also sets an example of respect and creates a positive environment in which all can contribute and work.

I have also become more tolerant of others from my scouting experience. I have been in many situations where it would have been easy to give up or leave because of the



actions and attitudes of people whom I work or associate with, but I have learned to move past our differences to accomplish goals which all parties wish to accomplish. This has become extremely useful to me in the classroom, and in my leadership roles. I have learned that even though we have different back grounds, values and perspectives, it is possible to find common ground. Different viewpoints contribute to solutions because they allow a problem to be seen from different angles and find solutions which may not have been found otherwise.

Because of my experiences in scouting, especially as a staffer at Camp Meriwether, I have become more considerate of others and slower to jump to conclusions. Initially, when boys or leaders would act in ways that I would find unacceptable for myself, I would initially think less of them. I often, however found myself to be proven wrong when I discovered more information about them that could explain their actions and feelings.

I have also become increasingly responsible and trustworthy due to the ideals of scouting. Many of my teachers now trust me to the point where they will give me their keys which open secure areas in the school and task me to accomplish important assignments without abusing the tools I am entrusted with.

142...

During my experiences as I have set off to accomplish my scouting goals, such as earning all 142 merit badges, I have acquired the trait of perseverance. There have been merit badges that have pushed me out of my comfort zone. For example, I have never been athletic, so joining a cross country team and training by running several miles a day was an extreme challenge. When I went to the Nike Invitational I placed in the middle of the pack, despite beginning the season at the back of the group. I had never played an instrument before I picked up the bugle two and a half years ago, and I sounded like a dying elephant. I never thought I could earn the merit badge. Now I can play all fifteen bugle calls.



Scouting isn't just something I do. I haven't simply earned the rank of Eagle Scout. I have striven to embody every aspect of it. The principles of scouting are the foundation for the rest of my life. Being a Boy Scout or an Eagle Scout is not a title, it is a lifestyle which you must uphold or it will reflect poorly upon not only yourself, but also everyone else who is held in that distinction. You can never be done with scouting, you can never stop improving upon yourself. This is the true message of scouting, to continue to strive to become better than you are.

Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at: rflaw@bestversionmedia.com.



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