

Do. Or Do Not.  
There is no Try.

# The Gilwell Gazette

Day 6 Monday October 6, 2014

Today:  
I'm gonna work  
my ticket if I can!

## On Leaving A Legacy

By Craig Britt, Course Director SR-966

Being a big aviation buff, I often wish I could meet and chat with some of the great flyers and inventors that, in just over a century, took us from an earth-bound existence to fairly routine space travel. People like the Wright Brothers, Charles Lindberg, Chuck Yeager, Burt Rutan and Neil Armstrong certainly are some with whom I'd like to spend an afternoon. These folks certainly sit atop the list of those that have left a legacy in the world of flight. But what about the countless unnamed others that helped conceptualize, engineer, design, build, and test some of the machines that these pilots flew. Did they leave a legacy as well? You bet they did!

The same is true for Scouting. Certainly, Robert Baden Powell leaves the widest and most far-reaching legacy in Scouting for all he did to create and promote it through his life. Many others have left their own fingerprints on Scouting as well. The unidentified scout that helped

William Boyce on that foggy night in London certainly left his mark on the world and particularly on every scout in the United States. The fact is, each of us, as leaders, will leave a legacy either with a few youths with which we work, with our units, our Districts, or maybe even with the greater Scouting movement. So what will that legacy be? That is up for you and history to decide. Whatever it is though, you can bet that those that left their mark on you will most likely help to shape it.

I see life somewhat like a relay race in a track and field event and the legacy we leave as the baton we carry. We receive the baton from those before us, carry it proudly at our own pace and in our own manner, and then pass it on to those that follow. So, as you approach those that will receive your baton, what is the legacy that it represents? I trust it will be something meaningful and positive. Perhaps it will be that you are a great

leader/teacher and a great role model for our youth. They certainly need these to balance to the "heroes" that popular culture and the media immortalizes.

Think about filling in the blank that follows: I want to leave a legacy of \_\_\_\_\_. I can think of many words that someone could use here. Purpose, Love, Excellence, Integrity and Empowerment are but a few. I can also look at the Scout Oath and Scout Law as a beacon of possibilities as well. Helpfulness, Honor, Friendship, Trustworthiness, and Duty are certainly meaningful legacies. Whatever your legacy becomes, it will reflect you and your values as a human.

In the movie "It's a Wonderful Life", Clarence the angel tells George Bailey "Each man touches so many other lives, and when he isn't around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?" Do your very best to leave a giant hole!



## My Wood Badge Experience

I was never in Scouting as a youth, so when my son expressed an interest in joining Cub Scouts, I thought I should take some adult leader training classes to familiarize myself with Scouting and help us get the most out of the experience, together. I liked what I'd learned and the more I learned, the more I wanted to become a registered leader. Eventually, I participated in Wood Badge and became a certified trainer for our district.

But this isn't so much about my Wood Badge experience or about me as it is about the Scouts we lead and how we teach them to lead each other that makes Wood Badge so im-

portant.

Earlier this year, my son left home to attend Virginia Tech, staying in the Galileo Engineering dorm. One of the many fun, supervised activities they enjoy is Nerf Wars, where the students apply engineering principles to their Nerf weaponry to make it better. This is a controlled combat game where safety is enforced, but as with any activity, accidents can occur. Halloween weekend, after Nerf Wars had concluded for the evening, one young man in my son's hall was enthusiastically leaping out of a stairwell and struck his head on the door frame. Hard. When my son and two

other young men came upon this injured student, they immediately went into action. "Dad, there was blood everywhere, and the guy was starting to freak out," my son relayed to me. One of the three first responders went to call emergency services and guide them to the location of the injured party. My son went to the RA's room to get the first aid kit and when he returned, he and the other young man treated the injured man using first aid skills they'd each learned in Scouting.

Daniel Aunspach - SR501, S7-602-13

## Where There's a Will . . .

As a BSA professional, I think often of the impact that Scouting has on families, communities and our nation. I hear many great stories from volunteer leaders, parents, youth members, Scouting alumni and supporters regarding many ways that Scouting has impacted their loved ones or neighbors or total strangers. I often comment to leaders at summer camp that we all know that Scouting will have positive impacts on each young person with whom we work, but we don't always know how until years later, if at all.

Well, I have to tell you about a recent event in our council that speaks profoundly to the impact that Scouting made on a family that was not even involved in our local program. In August of 2011, Life Scout Will Woodward of Troop 500 heroically rescued his best friend Cole from the rapids in the James River in downtown Richmond. Will witnessed Cole being injured when he struck his head on a rock after diving in the water, and then risked his own life to save Cole who was helplessly being dragged toward some potentially deadly rapids. Will would soon learn

that Cole had severed his spinal cord and had no movement below his neck.

So, it was determined that Will would receive the BSA's highest honor, the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms, for his actions. During the award ceremony at last November's council executive board meeting, Will's friend Cole whom he had rescued, attended with his family. Cole is in a wheel chair and has recovered significantly from his injuries and he wanted to speak to the audience and this is what he said. "I used to kid Will about his involvement in Scouts. I would good naturedly make fun of his uniform or ask what silly badges he was working on, that sort of thing. Well, I want you to know this. On that day when I severed my spinal cord, I was very glad that Will was there and that he was a Boy Scout, because he had learned the skills to rescue me from the river, and then he kept himself and me calm while trying to get medical help. My family and I are very glad that the Boy Scouts of America is teaching skills, values and leadership to the boys in our community!"

Friends, if you ever wonder if your volunteering to work with young people in Scouting is really worth it, consider the story of Will Woodward. When Will spoke at his award ceremony, he was quick to point out that it was the adult leaders and other scouts who taught him the skills of first aid, swimming, lifesaving, leadership, bravery and compassion. The men and women who work with Troop 500 have been through BSA training, including Wood Badge, and through a process of working with Will and other Scouts, week after week, campout after campout, badge after badge, year after year, developed a Scout who was able and ready to act to save the life of another.

We don't know if you have any Will's in your troop, but remember this: you do not know yet how Scouting and the work that you do will impact each young person with whom you work! So, I am glad and grateful for your service to Scouting and young people and for making this Wood Badge training a priority!

*Brad Nesheim, Scout Executive*

### PEARLS OF WISDOM FROM BADEN-POWELL

"A boy on joining wants to begin Scouting right away."

"A fisherman does not bait his hook with food he likes. He uses food the fish likes. So with boys."

"Where is there a boy to whom the call of the wild and the open road does not appeal?"

"It's the spirit within, not the veneer without, that makes a man."

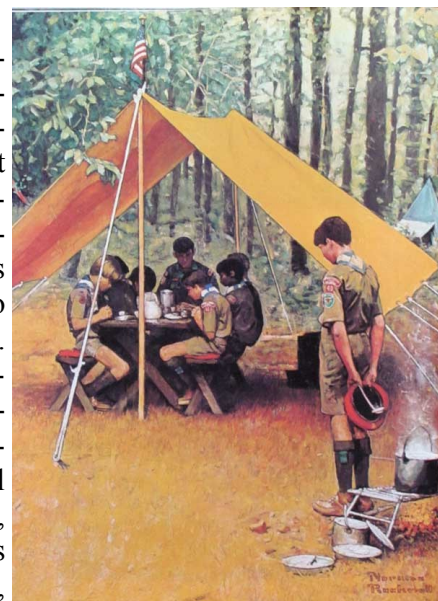
"Teach Scouts not how to get a living, but how to live."

"When a boy finds someone who takes an interest in him, he responds and follows."

"When you want a thing done, 'Don't do it yourself' is a good motto for Scoutmasters."

### Last Point

When asked where religion came into Scouting, Baden-Powell replied, "It does not come in at all. It is already there". Keep B-P's thoughts in mind as you return home to your Scouting roles. Reverence is in everything we do in Scouting. The Scout adventure is a wonderful place to teach, respect, and celebrate God's Creations, God's love, and God's people. The last point of the Scout Law is as important as the first.



*Lloyd Dunnivant*

## Mike Rowe Replies To A Slightly Offended, Not Very Enthusiastic Scout

Dear Mike Rowe,  
Hello, I am a boy scout in Iowa, and I read the letter you sent to a boy who was contemplating whether or not to become an eagle scout. I am sorry to say this, but I am slightly offended by the meaning I interpreted when you brought up taking the path to become an eagle scout, or living a life of predictability and mediocrity. I honestly am not a very enthusiastic scout, I know that, others have told me that, and I doubt I will go for my eagle. But, I am one of the top people in my grade, I am taking two honors courses next year, I maintain straight A's, I am on my school's honor roll, I swim competitively with my local swimming team, and I plan on going to the best college I can. Please explain to me how this seems to be a life of mediocrity, because I work hard, and I stand up for my opinions, and in this case, I disagree. I know you are successful, and I know you are an eagle, but to be successful, must you be an eagle?

With Respect,  
Joshua Wallin  
Troop 24 Illowa Council ( Iowa/Illinois)

Well Josh, that's an interesting letter and a very fair question. And since I'm sitting here at home waiting for my dinner to be delivered, I'll fire off a snappy response. (Pizza by the way, in case you're interested.)

First of all, don't apologize for being offended. There's plenty in the world to be offended by and if my comments hurt your feelings you have every right to say so. Of course it's important to realize the decision to be offended is exactly that – a choice. And since you seem to accept responsibility for the path you've chosen, I assume you'll also accept responsibility for the way you feel. Owing your feelings is a fundamental difference between a child and a grown-up, and though I can't be entirely sure which you are, you seem like a smart guy. So I'm going to respond as though you're an adult. Ready?

The short answer is No – The Rank of Eagle guarantees you no measure of long-term happiness or success whatsoever. The world is full of gifted athletes, academic geniuses, decorated war heroes, and former Eagle Scouts who have gone on to lead miserable lives of failure and regret. Make no mistake about that.

Of course, this is not the message that many adults want me to deliver to their kids. They would prefer a more optimistic form of encouragement, one that stresses the many benefits that often come as a

result of attaining this award. Well, I'm sorry, but you can get that elsewhere. (In fact, you can get that everywhere.) My exact thoughts on the matter can be found here, in a letter I send out to Scouts who have actually made it to Eagle. On this point, I suspect we agree. However, after reading your note more carefully, I was struck by something that doesn't add up. In your own words, you claim – “I honestly am not a very enthusiastic scout, and doubt I will go for my Eagle.”

Given your excellence in school, your commitment to physical fitness, and your desire for higher education, that confession strikes me as a bit out of context. I mean, why would a guy who's so passionate and deliberate about everything else in his life invest his time doing something for which he has so little enthusiasm? And why would he find my comments “slightly offensive”, if he had already determined the achievement in question was of little interest to him?

Do you see my confusion? You've asked me to explain – in light of your many ambitions – how your chosen path might lead to a life of mediocrity. Well, the answer Josh, has nothing to do with your ambition, and everything to do with your apathy. You seem to have embraced both. Your “lack of enthusiasm” is dangerous, not because you feel it, but because you tolerate it. And if you can tolerate a lack of enthusiasm in Scouting, there's no telling what else you'll let yourself become bored with.

Let me step back a moment, (since my pizza is still not here!) and say again how very skeptical I am of this “Everybody-Gets-a-Trophy” mentality. Look around and you'll see symptoms of this condition everywhere. My cousin got a trophy a few years ago that read “Thanks for Participating!” (His basketball team came in second to last.) You can see it in classes where the teachers grade on a “curve.” (Since when is a 75% a B+?)

The truth is, many adults today are more concerned with your self-esteem than with your performance. Too many parents and teachers and coaches want their kids to succeed so badly that they'll drag them across the finish line if they have to. Frankly, I find it insulting to those kids who are willing to do their best. I think we send a really crappy message to millions of kids when we reward them equally, for accomplishments that are clearly unequal. I think we set them up for failure later in life.

Anyway, the letter that offended you

was written because I don't want to see that sort of mentality creep into Scouting. I don't want the Eagle standards lowered just to encourage less enthusiastic kids to “go for it,” or satisfy a parents desire to see their precious little snowflakes bring home another “trophy.” And frankly, I don't think the best way to inspire and motivate kids like you is to blow a bunch of sunshine up your butt.

To be really honest Josh, I don't think you were really offended by my comments at all. I think you're hiding behind this “lack of enthusiasm,” because deep down, you're afraid of failing. That's exactly how I felt when I realized how much work the Eagle rank would require. I wanted to quit, right then and there. But I didn't want to admit that I wanted to quit, so I just pretended not to care. I concealed my fear with apathy, and didn't come clean until my old man called me out. I suspect that's what you're doing now.

Of course, I could be wrong; I often am. But this much I'm sure of – you'll learn a heck of a lot more in life by failing than succeeding. Unless of course, you're unwilling to try, in which case you'll learn exactly nothing.

My advice? Quit Scouting today. Or, quit pretending not to care. Because the short answer to your question goes like this – You can be plenty successful without becoming an Eagle. But you'll never get anywhere by doing things half-way. That will absolutely, positively assure you a life of spectacular mediocrity. Having said that, my pizza is here, and I need both hands to eat it.

Good luck.

Mike Rowe





## WOOD BADGE HISTORY TIMELINE

- 1919: First Wood Badge course held at Gilwell Park in England
- 1936: Gilwell Camp Chief John Skinner Wilson conducts Experimental Scout and Rover Wood Badge courses at Schiff Scout Reservation, New Jersey
- 1948: First official BSA Wood Badge courses held, one at Schiff and one at Philmont. Scouting legend William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt serves as Scoutmaster at both nine-day courses
- 1948-1958: Mostly national courses conducted, all run with oversight of the BSA's Volunteer Training Division
- 1953-54: A few councils allowed to hold their own courses, including one in Cincinnati in 1953 and one in Washington, D.C., in 1954
- 1958-72: Two variations of the course exist: a national one for trainers and a sectional one for Scoutmasters, commissioners and other local Scouters. The courses focus exclusively on Scoutcraft skills, the patrol method and requirements a boy would need to earn First Class
- 1964: The BSA evaluates leadership skills offered in a junior leader-training course from the Monterey Bay Council, Calif., called White Stag
- 1967-72: The BSA conducts experimental courses that add leadership skills to Wood Badge
- 1973-2002: All Boy Scout Wood Badge courses held nationwide move to leadership development format and away from Scoutcraft
- 1974: First weekend courses held (previous courses take place over consecutive days)
- 1976: First women attend Boy Scout Wood Badge
- 1976-1999: Cub Trainer Wood Badge courses held nationwide
- 1997: Discussions begin to revise Wood Badge and offer one course for all programs
- 2000: Two pilot Wood Badge for the 21st Century courses held — one at the Florida Sea Base and one at Philmont
- 2002: BSA requires that all councils teach the course
- 2014: Wood Badge for the 21st Century name returns to simply Wood Badge



### TAPS

Day is done, Gone the  
sun, From the sea, from the hills, from the  
sky. All is well, Safe-ly rest, God is nigh.

### WOOD BADGE Word Jumble!



#### ***Yesterday's answers:***

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ranepoldbolwled | LordBadenPowell |
| Etaosnegnri     | Generations     |
| Palidesreh      | Leadership      |
| Onavoeydadnbe   | AboveandBeyond  |
| Emtenpmedaetvlo | TeamDevelopment |
| Sorobytrek      | OctoberSky      |
| Miucnomictano   | Communications  |
| Vosrcanotine    | Conversation    |
| Ysirvedti       | Diversity       |