

Ben's Story



Benjamin is an Eagle Scout with Troop 56 located in Strasburg. Ben has also earned a Bronze Palm. He joined Cub Scouts as a Tiger Cub in 1st grade and continued on to earn the highest Cub Scout rank, the Arrow of Light. Ben bridged into the troop along with his best friend and has continued his role as an active scout. Ben is currently a senior at Lampeter-Strasburg High School where he is top of his class.

After becoming a Senior Patrol Leader at the age of 14, Ben learned a lot about leadership. He has since taken on leadership positions in school from drum major of the marching band to editor of the school newspaper to President of Model United Nations and Quiz Bowl. He is not sure which college he will attend, but he is looking into several majors including Political Science, History, and Journalism.

Why did you join Scouting?

To be honest, there is no great reason I joined Cub Scouts, other than that most of the neighbor kids were doing it, and my parents took me to a roundup event. And there also isn't a great story behind why I joined Boy Scouts other than that the rest of the kids in my Webelos den did. That said, within three years, a bunch of guys had aged out -- it was a perfect storm for the troop to fade away, and I was not expecting to lead, but I was thrown into the fire, and it all worked out. Today we are back up to a respectable number of members, and on firm footing for years to come.

What activity or adventure stands out the most to you?

They don't call Philmont "Scouting Paradise" for nothing. Although it rained almost every day -- which admittedly gave me some non-heavenly feelings about the place -- as I look back, I realize the remarkable nature of the opportunity. I had to hike in the pristine backcountry with some of my closest friends for 10 days. What an experience! I love camping. Before scouting, I had never camped. Without it, I probably never would have camped. The calmness and tranquility that nature facilitates when one completely disconnects is one of my favorite feelings in the world. It is unbelievable.

How has Scouting impacted your life?

I closed my college essay as follows: "The reward of being an Eagle Scout is not the title, but the internal appreciation that I can truly execute the Scout Oath in my everyday

life: 'On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, and to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.' Because of my experience in Scouting, serving as drum major of the marching band, editor of the school news blog, captain of the quiz bowl team, president of the Model United Nations, and Sunday School teacher for a rambunctious group of second and third graders are all doable tasks. And not just that: they are great joys in my life, joys I can thank Scouting for equipping me to do. So while I will stipulate that Scouting has opened doors for me, I am more excited to explore what is inside than celebrate their opening."

If you could describe Scouting in one sentence what would it be?

Scouting is where experiences from the past meet the youth of today to train the leaders of tomorrow... it's pretty cool.

Describe Scouting in one word:

Gratifying.

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