

I have very fond memories of my years in Boy Scouts, particularly my time with Troop 200. Due to dedicated and energetic leadership, I was able to participate in many enjoyable escapades, including numerous camping and backpacking trips. I was fortunate enough to be a part of several high adventure trips to the Colorado mountains, which included multi-day backpacking trips, canoeing trips and cycling excursions. Those trips to Colorado led to a personal passion for high altitude adventures and eventually had a large part in my relocation to Colorado more than 20 years ago. As a result, I have enjoyed years of skiing, snowboarding, camping, mountaineering, mountain biking, etc. I love telling stories to friends and family about my scouting adventures, especially exploits from a 4 day, 50 mile adventure hike through Nebraska without a tent, sleeping bag, or packed food. Building shelters, acquiring food, preparing meals, and caring for each other on that trip was definitely a unique experience.

However, I would have to say the most important part of my Scouting experience was the installation of personal values that I have tried to implement in my daily life. Good conduct, honesty, integrity, and respect for others are values that I learned in Scouts, and I try to live my life with these in mind. In addition, I have tried to instill these values as a part of raising my children. These values and life skills that were taught in Boy Scouts have served me well, and I believe are part of what keeps me grounded during difficult times.

Becoming an Eagle Scout required extra work and dedication, but I had no idea at the time how important that achievement would become in future years. Many job applications and interviews included discussions about the Eagle Scout award. It clearly carries with it significant importance universally, and I'm always pleasantly surprised how much respect it is given by others.

The most memorable times during Scouts for me personally were not the meetings and merit badges (although they were definitely important!), but the relationships that were made with fellow Scouts and leaders. I was so fortunate to be a part of a great group of boys (and leaders) during those years, and I feel fortunate to still be able to call them good friends. Working toward common goals and projects, learning new skills together, and sharing outdoor experiences as a Boy Scout are great memories that I still cherish and will forever.

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