

## **Passing Scouting onto Your Son – Court of Honor Talk**

Sometime during each Scout meeting I give a Scoutmaster's Minute. The Scouts know that they had better pay attention because I take it very seriously. It's a moments when I talk about the Scout Oath and Law and how it applies to them. It's all about building character. This is my Scoutmasters minute for the day.

Scouting has been a long time activity in my family. My two brothers and I are Eagle Scouts. Some of my best memories as a youth are centered on the camping trips my family would take.

I read the scouting books of today and reflect on the changes that have come about in the past 40 years since I began my journey though Scouting. We earned skill awards, we cooked over campfires, our tents did not have floors or mosquito netting, and we needed to learn Morse code to attain the First Class rank.

But one aspect of Scouting has not changed; the bond that a boy and his parent can form. In a nation where only 23% of all parents ever read to their children, Scouting and this troop encourage parents to become involved in the development and maturing of their son at an age when they are growing into men.

We are now at 17 adult leaders and many other critical volunteers. More are always welcome. To be sure we have adults, like me, that struggle to hike, bike, and canoe but work through it just to make sure they do not miss those moments with their son or sons.

So, now 40 years since I became a Scout, my son and I have gone camping, biking, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. I know Jason knows his Scouting skills but I think he also knows that his Dad helped him become a man of good character. Hopefully he will look back in 40 years and remember me by passing Scouting and its lessons onto his son.

This is what I hope all Scouts remember of their parents and in a small measure; I hope we as leaders also pass onto these Scouts not just the skills of Scouting but also the importance of being a person of good character. So Scouts, leave here today and be proud of your achievements but also know that Scouting is more than rank advancement, it's about building character you will carry with you throughout your lives.