

IFSR Award

Dean Dickinson

In Dean's own words as he was giving his family history to his children:

"I was a Cub Scout as soon as I was age eligible...can't remember what that was...maybe second grade, seven years old. I was in Den 5, Pack 23, sponsored by Franklin School. My Pack Leader was Bill Luedke and his wife, Ginny, was my Den Leader. We met at their home at xxx Loomis Street, telephone number 784-XXXX. My parents and the Luedkes were friends and son, Dan, was one of my good friends. The other boys in the den were Steve Ruud, Terry Mahlum, Dwight Hough, Dave Hegy, Paul Hanson and Dave Colburn. At that point in time the advancement moved from Wolf, Bear, Lion and then Webloes. I made it to Bear before the pack disbanded. A few years later, I joined Troop 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church. Jule Smith was the Troop Leader for a couple of years and then Bill Luedke assumed the leadership. Five of the guys from the Cub Scout Den were members. Paul Hanson moved to Iowa, Dave Colburn moved to the southside and Central High School and Dwight Hough didn't continue...all of the others did. There were guys in our troop that I looked up to; Peter Smith, Tom Nibbe and Earl Jensen were three of them. All became Eagle Scouts and may have earned the Pro Deo et Patria award...Scouting's service to our church award. Dan Luedke and I were awarded Eagle Scout. Dan was more athletic than me and didn't pursue the church award but I did and after three years, and 150 hours of service, I received the award one Sunday during church services. The highlight of scouting at that time was to spend time at Camp Decorah where we were mentored by Sam Hagerman, one of the greatest men I have ever known. By the way, my first merit badge was reading and my second was cooking. Some things don't change much.

After receiving the Eagle I got involved in my high school life and necessarily moved away from scouting. I attended the scout round-up at State Road School when you and your buddies were being recruited into Tiger Cubs. The question was asked if anyone had a scouting background and would become the Tiger Cub Leader...I raised my hand and that changed everything. I recall that the first year we had nine boys in our Tiger Den. The second year, after you guys had moved into the Cub Scout program our den increased to something like fourteen boys. We had fun. Most memorable the first year was the winter camp out at the cottage at Hatfield...completely off the line as you guys were not to be out on that kind of thing but...we reconfigured it into a "sleep over" with you and a bunch of your friends. We had pizza, did a night hike into the park and then played broom hockey on the creek and went for snow mobile rides before we went back to the park for a cook out...melted snow to boil hot dogs. David Fiocco reminded me of that several years later. Well, at any rate, five you guys went on to be Eagle, you, David, Eric, Peter Ruud and Rick Van Every.

Around that same time I was asked to serve on the board of the Gateway Area Council, BSA. That would have been around 1994 or so. I served as Council President in 2000-2002. I attended three National BSA Conventions, at Nashville, New Orleans and at San Diego. I was awarded the Lamb Award from the American Lutheran Church for service to youth and the Silver Beaver Ward for service to the Gateway Area Council. I continue on the board and am involved in the endowment committee.

I've said it, and believe it, that the Scout Oath and Law become a system of morality that becomes a touchstone to living an ethical life. My involvement in scouting all these years has been an attempt to repay all those people who were so important in my life. I wouldn't have been an Eagle Scout without Bill Luedke, Fred Rohrer and Sam Hagerman, among others. At a point in life its important to stop taking and start giving back...thats what I have tried to do for the past thirty or so years.

Thats it...hope is what you were looking for...

Love Ya....Dad"