

August 15, 2014

Letter to Scouts in Nepean

The following is my letter to Scouts in Nepean, adapted from a letter F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote to his child when away from home.

Things to worry about:

Worry about courage
Worry about cleanliness
Worry about efficiency
Worry about effort
Worry about dreams and how to chase them
Worry about being a good friend, sister, or son.

Things NOT to worry about:

Don't worry about popular opinion
Don't worry about the past
Don't worry about the future
Don't worry about growing up
Don't worry about anybody getting ahead of you
Don't worry about triumph
Don't worry about failure unless it comes through your own fault
Don't worry about mosquitoes
Don't worry about getting a certain level in _____
Don't worry about too tall/small/old or young.

Things to know (that I know):

Scouts have courage.

Scouts' love of music is great. Who else can sing in so many keys yet make the song sound good and loud!

Scouts care. Within Nepean, Scouts clean up the Nepean Desert, school parks, campsites and more. Many planted trees in May, sort food at Ottawa's Food Bank and helped in many environment and community programs.

Scouts are smart. Yes you are – socially, intellectually and emotionally. Listen to your heart. It won't steer you wrong.

We hear your dreams even when you are silent.

We are proud of you... Scouts in Nepean and Scouts everywhere.

Scouter Sarah

May 2014

Thank-you Nepean!

Nepean Area thanks the over 170 youth, leaders, service scouters and parents who gave up part of their Saturday to help Nepean become a little greener, breathe a little easier, and have pride in what many hands can accomplish!

With your help, our Scouting community managed to plant over 1000 trees in 4 locations around Nepean.

Please join with me in thanking Scouter Jamie who spearheaded this annual event.

Scouter Sarah

"We make a living by what we get, But we make a life by What we Give." Winston Churchill

April 10, 2014

Thoughts on Woodbadge

When I joined Scouts Canada 12 years ago, I was provided with a uniform. From the first meeting I attended, I found that I was asked many questions by the youth, parents and other scouters. Questions about the program, about life, about the trees, stars, about what we were going to do that year. I felt overwhelmed and worried that I would not be able to answer the most important questions - the ones from the youth in my care.

I was so relieved to find that there was a training opportunity that would:

1. Help answer my questions about safety, scouting motto and laws, and how to run ceremonies.
2. Provide me with concrete program ideas: beaver age crafts, cub games, scout independence skills, etc.
3. Give me a sense of community.

All of us gained contacts - the instructors - and their wealth of knowledge and experience. Most important they often gave us an email or phone number to call when stuck or in need of help. Wow! I appreciate those courses now more than ever. I realize that I have learned so much from those trainers in such a short time. Thank-you trainers!

Wearing Woodbadge recognition (the woggle, the scarf, the beads) marks you as a leader. You are expected to know more, do more, and be more than the average volunteer. The beads (WB2) are not a badge of authority but a badge of responsibility.

- It says to our youth, " Here is someone I can count on."
- It says to our parents, " Here is someone I can trust with my child."
- It says to other scouters, "Here is someone committed to being prepared."

When I meet new leaders, I always highly recommend in-person training courses. Yes they take time but it is time well spent. After all it is time spent preparing to be the best leader you can be for your kids and the youth of others.

Isn't that why we get into Scouting in the first place? For the kids.

Yours in Scouting,

*Sarah Smith
Nepean AC*

February 24, 2014

Scout Spirit

What does Scout Spirit mean? I bet it means something different depending on who you talk to.

- A troop scouter may think of all the 3rd year scouts who helped the 1st years learn to put a tent in the dark at fall camp.
- A Beaver Scout thinks about the hand he held while walking in the woods with his colony.
- An Akela may remember the first time he saw a sixer help a terrified tenderfoot into the grandhowl circle for the very first time.
- A Venturer Scout President wins a challenge a OPE and knows that she could not have done it without the best company in the world - her company!
- Advisors marvel at how the youth of today are eager to learn how to do things for themselves while helping others.
- A Group Commissioner sees the Spirit when her section leaders make Group Camp happen and each section links and learns about the others.

Scout Spirit is that little voice that tells you "Job well done." Scout Spirit means to BE a part of Scouting. Not simply to show up but to BE a scout - no matter what age. BE active in meetings and share a skill or a talent. BE involved in planning programs.

Scout Spirit is being a shining light to yourself, your family and friends, and to your community.

February 22, 2014 " Happy Birthday Scouts!"

"A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances."

[Robert Baden-Powell](#)