

August 2011

An essay by Derek Jensen, Eagle Class 2004, about his scouting experience at Troop 130 for entrance into medical school at the University of Kansas.

Reaching the rank of Eagle Scout was the culmination of an effort at least ten years in the making. Of course, there were obligatory physical accomplishments in scouting, such as backpacking in the Great Smokey Mountains, the Rocky Mountains, and the Chilkoot Trail in Alaska, but scouting also afforded me the opportunity to build a rapport with the community. I helped to sponsor food drives for local shelters and designed, financed, and built an obstacle course for the city humane society. Perhaps most importantly, scouting provided quality mentors and strengthened principles in me I have continued to employ since.

Attaining the rank of Eagle Scout was one of my most significant experiences because scouting played a role in my life for over 10 years -- influencing me during the time I developed into an adult. As I matured, scouting provided a principled framework I could emulate and fortified in me core values I had already adopted. It constituted a significant portion of the time I spent with my father, who worked long hours as a physician, and supplied an extensive network of mentors in the form of adults and older members of the troop who provided examples that I could follow. Additionally, the techniques I learned, from first aid and CPR to wilderness survival, have augmented my success in society by instilling me with confidence to handle any situation. Finally, scouting afforded the avenues through which I completed a multitude of important accomplishments in my life. Standing at 14,000 feet on Long's Peak, CO, retracing the steps of settlers in the Yukon territories, and directing the construction of a dog exercise facility for a local humane society were all achieved through scouting. The path to becoming an Eagle Scout furnished me with some of my proudest moments and endowed me with lessons that helped to shape me during the most formative years of my life.