

The Value of Scouting's Leaders

by Michael Burdo

The backbone of the Scouting Movement is its valuable volunteer leaders. The Scout Movement continues to experience great success based on an outstanding and thriving program geared to meet the ongoing desire of our youth to participate in adventuresome and challenging activities. Whether these activities take place in a camp setting, outdoor field trip excursion, or regu-

I continue to marvel at the level of commitment that these volunteer adults unselfishly dedicate to the Scouting program. Rest assured that leaders devote their energy, time and enthusiasm to this exciting undertaking as a result of their love of youth and their desire to participate in a fun-filled and challenging experience as well. Much akin to the youth participants, there is no denying that the leaders want to participate in and be an active part of the "fun" as well!

We must never take our leaders for granted. We must continue to positively acknowledge the tremendous worth that they bring to Scouting and its vibrant members. We can do this by ensuring that our group committees continue to recognize the value of their leaders by regularly reviewing their contributions and nominating them for suitable honours and awards at the appropriate times. Scouting has an excellent award system in place for this very reason. An ideal scenario would be to have a group committee

lar weekly meeting environment, it is indeed the skill, enthusiasm and dedication of the leadership team that brings forth positive rewards for all the youth membership. As well as devoting blocks of time to long range and short term program planning, leaders give many hours of their time to participating in training to further enhance and develop their leadership skill levels.

member assigned to carry out this very responsibility. In addition, this designated individual would conduct the identical function for the members of the committee who as well give many hours of their valuable time to Scouting, ensuring that our groups operate a safe, challenging and exceptional program. We can never say enough of a Thank You to these highly charged and dedicated volunteers. We indeed need to recognize their worth, their skill set, and their relentless commitment to this spectacular Movement. In this Centennial year of Scouting, I challenge each group committee to review and recognize all those leaders who make Scouting what it is today! \X

– Michael Burdo, Counsellor, 24th Elmdale Ottawa (ON) Troop. "Having participated in Scouting for over 37 years, I continue to marvel at the amazing value that our volunteers bring to this fine Movement. As a trainer and volunteer leader myself, I feel privileged to work with such great folks. Thanks!"



Leaders want to be an active part of fun as well.

Photo: Scouts Canada's Archives