



The Needs of Boys: *Thoughts for Adult Scouters*

The troop is in very capable hands, as each new Scoutmaster and Scouter becomes involved.

I want to leave you with some words that describe what I have tried to do with the Troop: They define some needs of a boy. These goals reminded me of what Scouting is all about, to ensure boys have fun learning new skills, discover high adventures and instill a moral compass that will be with them for the rest of their lives.

1. To climb a mountain, or sit on a river bank, and look afar.
2. To sit around the glowing embers of a campfire with good friends.
3. To test his strength and skill on his own.
4. To stretch his abilities and exhibit his talents.
5. To have a chance to fail and to know why.
6. To have a chance to play hard, just for the fun of it; and work hard, for the thrill of it.
7. To have a code to live by, that is easily understood and fair.
8. To have and to be a good friend, and have a chance to prove both.
9. To be ready to reach out and find the hand of an understanding adult, ready and willing to help or advise.
10. To have a hero and a vision to measure him by.
11. To be alone with his own thoughts and his God.

The successful program balances spiritual needs, outdoor enthusiasm, community responsibilities, and the scouts' goals and personal needs.

Every new Scouter quickly learns that the job takes more than an hour a week. Just as quickly, all Scouters have to start balancing their time to contain this new, exhilarating and all-consuming commitment. It is very easy to fall into the trap of talking and doing Scouting all the time. Scouters must be prepared to create a balance between Scouting, their friends, their social life, their spiritual commitment, their work, their hobbies, their family life, and all the chores in the job jar. Scoutmaster, take advantage of the human resources available, let others put their hands into Scouting's job jar.

-Paul Szemkow
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