



My passion for Scouting will follow me through life, and the core values I have learned through Scouting will resonate and apply to how I carry myself into the future.

BOY SCOUTS KEPT ME ON THE RIGHT PATH

A Scouting Story by Dylan Roberts, Life Scout, Troop 1323

Dylan Roberts gave this speech at the Greater Los Angeles Area Council's annual Business Leaders' Breakfast on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, in front of a crowd of over 300 local business leaders.

The Boy Scout program has had many positive impacts on my life.

I began my scouting career as a Cub Scout in Pack 1922 led by Ms. Vanessa Rickmond-Brown and Mrs. Jasmine Tigolo. As a Cub Scout, I was having the time of my life!! I was partaking many activities that other boys in my neighborhood weren't exposed to or given the opportunity to – like going camping and learning how to start a fire. And you know, there are not a lot of places a kid can go to learn how to start a fire!

I had a pause in my scouting career during 6th through 7th grade as I needed to find a Boy Scout troop. At first, I was hesitant to the idea of joining Scouts again, fearing that my new group of friends at school would feel I was not cool. But my mother, who is a single parent raising three kids, encouraged me to join a troop and give it a chance. She knew it is a great program that will keep me on the right track. Knowing how hard my mother works to take care of us, I realized she wouldn't tell me to be part of a program unless it would benefit me and my future.

During my 8th grade year of school, I joined Troop 1323. To this day I can say that joining troop 1323 was a great decision of mine. Yeah, the summer camps are cool, and the activities are way better than what we did in Cub Scouts! But the values and lessons learned during my time in the program have significantly affected my life outside of scouts.



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My Scoutmaster, Mr. Larry Hooks, constantly reminds us that we are like his kids, he will not treat us any different than he treats his own kids. Growing up without a father present in my life, I knew that I can count on Scoutmaster Larry not only as a mentor and leader, but a father figure. All of the Scoutmasters and parents wish only but the best for us, which evokes a sense of community and optimism amongst all of us.

When I look at many of the problems my peers have faced, I know that:

- Boy Scouts kept me on the right path socially, ethically, and educationally.
- Boy Scouts allowed me to become accustomed to public speaking and making my voice heard.
- Scouting influenced my moral compass, giving me a clear concept of right from wrong and how to act accordingly.

Educationally, I had a zeal for learning. The lessons gained from Scouting also applied to my education, such as Focus and Attentiveness, which led me to be amongst the top 10% in my grade.

Boy Scouts also had an influence on my future goals and ambitions. As I prepare to begin my senior year of high school, I have thought long and hard about what college I would like to attend, and what major would be suitable for me. I hope to attend the University of Southern California with a major in Information and Cyber Operations.

Scouting has shown me perseverance. This enabled me to continue my education, although it might be difficult it is still doable. Boy Scouts has also opened up new doors and ideas that I can use throughout my life. Giving back to my community and being open-minded to new ideas and concept has led me to want to be a part of the diverse field of law enforcement.

In October 2018, I made the decision to join the California Highway Patrol - Explorer Program - to get better insight of a possible career in law enforcement. Now, after eight months of active participation in the program, I have come to the conclusion that I will become an officer with the California Highway Patrol! To protect and serve the beautiful state of California, and to represent my community as a young multi-racial man from South Los Angeles.

Scouting has been a major part of my life since I first joined. It is a magnificent program for any youth to participate in. The Boy Scouts of America allows youth to become a holistic individual.

With all the time I've dedicated to the program, I can say it is worth every minute.

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