



Scouting's Impact on my Life

By Norbert (Nobby) Schnabel

I joined the Cub Scouts in 1949 in Ojai, California. My mom was my Den Mother for my den. I was immensely proud to be a "Bobcat" Cub Scout.

The Scouting program inspired my mother, father, and younger brother to be involved in every possible activity that was listed in the Cub books. My mother went onto become a Den Mother Trainer at the District and Council level.

Scouting meant as much to her as it did to me. When I joined a Scout Troop, my father was also involved and went on nearly every hike or outing.

In 1955, I was selected to be in a Junior Leader Training Troop to be held at Philmont Scout Reservation. We spent 36 days there, hiking over 200 miles. I became close to the other 25 Scouts from the 13 Districts in Los Angeles Area Council.

In 1956, I was fortunate enough to be hired onto the Lake Arrowhead Scout Camp Staff. It became the summer destination for my brother and me every June through September. To this day ... I am still friends with many of the Staff Members that I knew at Lake Arrowhead.

One summer, while being on the Aquatics staff, I taught the son of the Santa Fe Springs City Manager to swim. The City Manager invited me to come to work for the City of Santa Fe Springs that fall. I worked in several city departments, and eventually was hired as a Fire Fighter for the city. I retired some 40 years later as the Fire Chief. Scouting was instrumental in my work with Santa Fe Springs.

My younger brother, Stan – also an Eagle Scout, was hired as a Firefighter for Los Angeles County Fire Department, and unfortunately was killed at a lumber yard fire in Bellflower. At his funeral, there were dozens of former Camp Staff Members in attendance. It meant a lot to my entire family.

I have remained registered and active in Scouting for over 70 years, and I continue to enjoy being involved with some wonderful folks. I cannot imagine my life without Scouting. It has truly blessed my being. I am so fortunate that my wife also enjoys doing everything alongside me, especially up at our Council Camps. She promises to spread my ashes at the camp once I am gone.