

Scoutmaster Minute

I Hope

A former Scouter was serving on staff for a leadership course. She got through her other presentation without a problem, but then came the part where she was to talk about Courts of Honor. Throughout this presentation she became very emotional every time she thought about the boys or heard the word "Eagle Scout." She finally got through it with a very shaky voice combined with a few tears.

Afterwards she said to a fellow Scouter, "Maybe someday I'll be able to do this without showing so much emotion."

"No you won't," he replied.

Her response to him was, "You know, I hope I never do lose this feeling."

With that she wrote this:

I hope I never lose this feeling of sentimentality when I think of all that the Boy Scouts of America stands for and that I live in a nation where I can be part of it.

I hope I never lose this feeling of hope for a better world when I hear those fine young men recite the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan.

I hope I never lose this feeling of joy when I see a young Scout master a new skill for the first time, and watch the beaming smile appear on his face.

I hope I never lose this feeling of giddiness when I look at the Scout who has just re-entered the room after going before a Board of Review; watching him standing there, scratching the sides of his pockets or wringing his hands as he awaits the verdict.

I hope I never lose this feeling of pride when I look upon a new Eagle Scout standing tall in front of a crowd of people waiting for the presentation of his new rank. Where once stood a boy, now stands a man.

I hope I never lose the feeling of shedding tears when I watch his mom and dad pin the medal on his chest and he gives his mom the customary Eagle Scout kiss; I know just how they feel.

I hope I never lose the feeling of accomplishment when that new Eagle Scout gives his final speech and publicly thanks all those leaders who have helped him along the way; knowing I was honored to be one of those leaders.

I hope I never lose the feeling of being a Wood Badger where a simple hug says it all.

I hope I never lose the feeling of needing to cry when I hear the third verse of Amazing Grace "...through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come ..." knowing that God will be there to see me through anything that comes my way.

I hope I never lose this overwhelming feeling of patriotism when I hear the drum roll as the National Anthem begins to play or the feeling of camaraderie when I hear *Back to Gilwell*.

I hope I never lose the feeling of great warmth when I share a campfire with my friends even though the wind chill is zero.

I hope I never lose the feeling of awe when I stumble out of my tent on a brisk morning to see the sun begin to rise and inhale the crisp nip in the air and know that God has granted me another day to be a Scout.

I hope I never lose the feeling or ability of crying because some things are worth crying about; and isn't it better to cry happy tears of pleasant memories and warm feelings than never to have experienced them? You know, in fact, I hope I never stop crying.

SOULS (Sharing Our Unique Love of Scouting)

That concludes this Eagle Court of Honor. I would like to thank you for attending and supporting our troop, its programs, and most importantly – your sons. I would like to thank our special guests for taking their time to attend this ceremony and help us recognize these young men and what they have accomplished. These boys truly are what this program is all about. For the parents in the audience, especially the ones here for the first time, I hope someday you will get the thrill of standing up here and crying in front of an auditorium full of people, when you get to put that Eagle Scout neckerchief around your son's neck. But remember, while the crowning jewel in Scouting is becoming an Eagle Scout, that alone does not define all that your son learns along the Scouting Trail.

To our newest Eagle Scouts, congratulations on your tremendous achievements! After we have retired the colors, you and your families are requested to remain in the foyer to meet those in attendance today as they leave. Once the troop has filed out, everyone is invited to a reception in the cafeteria to congratulate these outstanding young men on their accomplishments. Thank you for coming!

Senior Patrol Leader, you may retire the colors and dismiss the troop.