



# SCOUT EXECUTIVE'S CORNER



*Paul Moore  
Council Scout Executive*

## SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO

On my office wall, there's an old photo of a young boy and a man, both in Scout uniform (see cover). The boy is gazing up at the man with admiration and trust. That photo was taken 52 years ago; the man is my now 93-year old Dad and the new Scout is me at age eleven. I describe it as "Someone to look up to."

We live in an age where people are searching for heroes. Many of those who would once have been heroes, our political and business leaders and our top athletes, have proven not to be so heroic.



In Scouting we speak of the essential need to serve as role models. As adult leaders, we must realize that someone is always watching and that

they will model our behavior, whether it is worthy or unworthy. My preference is to use the term, **SOMEONE TO LOOK UP TO**. In the months to come, I will share some thoughts on this subject, and my hope that we will provide that someone for as many young people as possible.

Have you ever saved a life? We speak in Scouting of preparing young people to be capable of doing so, if the need should ever arise. We teach first aid, we help young men earn the Lifesaving and Emergency Preparedness merit badges. We want them to be ready. My Scoutmaster was also the head of the Ambulance Corps in our little town, and so First Aid merit badge was an ordeal in our troop. It took many months to earn it, but he wanted to be sure we were ready. I wasn't quite sure if I could do what it took, but I knew I had learned what I needed to.

Somewhere in this world there is a 42-year old woman who is alive because of me. When her mother thrust a blue-faced toddler into my arms at age 19 and said "my baby has stopped breathing", the time had come to use what I had learned. There was little conscious thought at the time; I had my girlfriend (now my wife of nearly 39 years) call for an ambulance, and began rescue breathing. By the time the corpsmen arrived, she was fine. When I was able to reflect on what had happened, I knew that my Scoutmaster, always

someone to look up to, had given me the chance to also be someone to look up to. More importantly, he had given me the ability to give that baby a future.

This week I learned of another "someone to look up to", council Board member John Semcken III. John was speaking to a group of business leaders when one of those attending began to choke. Out of all those leaders, John was the one to come forward, determine that the man was choking, and apply the Heimlich maneuver. The man said, "You saved my life." John was asked where he learned what he needed to take that action, and he replied "in the Boy Scouts."

This is very significant work we are doing! We are changing lives, we are preparing people to save lives, and we are filling that vital role of being someone to look up to. These are what BSA National Commissioner Tico Perez refers to as the "psychic wages" of serving as a Scouting leader.

**It's great to walk the Scouting trail with you!**

**Thanks for that privilege.**

*Paul Moore  
- Council Scout Executive*