



SCOUT EXECUTIVE'S CORNER



Paul Moore
Council Scout Executive



We're Looking for 10,000 Scoutmasters!

On May 16th, my son was married in Dallas. Brett is 36 years old and it has taken him this long to find the right woman, but Kelly is perfect for him and we are so pleased.

This is one of those times when parents find themselves feeling sentimental. When I was 36 years old, I'd been married 15 years and had kids 13 and 8 years old. By then, Brett was a Star Scout in Troop 118 in Charlotte, NC.

There he came under the influence of a great man, his Scoutmaster, Stephen Pace. The troop was one of those classics – boys stayed involved til they were 18, there were more leaders than they needed, they camped every month and regularly produced Eagle Scouts.

But the most special thing about Troop 118 was Stephen Pace. He is a land developer, a busy man, a very successful man, someone whose only son is past 40 now – and he is still a Scoutmaster. Every Monday night, he watches and pulls the strings while boy leaders run a great troop meeting, and in his sixties he is still out camping every month.

Stephen had the patience to guide my awkward son along the Eagle trail, and the wisdom to keep him from getting his Eagle too soon. He took him to a National Jamboree

and together they survived Hurricane Bob. Stephen prepared Brett to be part of the council Philmont contingent, carrying a pack that was 60 percent of his body weight.

And Brett went on to spend eight summers on camp staffs, ending up as a camp director in Richmond, VA. Mr. Pace is still one of his heroes. With a very limited guest list, Brett still invited his Scoutmaster to his wedding. He still thinks that highly of a man who was there for him every week for six years.

One of the keys to our success here in Los Angeles will be to find the Stephen Paces of our communities. According to my calculations, based on the number of boys who are the right age for Boy Scouts, and the average troop size, we would need 10,000 men and women.

As another summer of adventures begin, I salute our Scoutmasters – those intrepid souls who in a few weeks will leave job and family behind, and gather up some boys and take them to camp, so they can bring back some men. They are definitely someone to look up to!

Paul Moore
- Council Scout Executive