

Good morning and thank you for being here. My name is Will Scheib, and I am excited to be with you.

When I first joined Cub Scouts, I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. And mostly, I did it because my parents told me to. However, starting after I crossed over into Boy Scouts and started to become more independent, Scouting's principles and members really stood out to me. As I moved up the ranks – Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life – I realized that all of the requirements that I was doing were important.

For example, I started to imagine what I would do if there was an emergency situation, and realized that everything that came to mind I had learned in Scouts. And Scouting doesn't just teach emergency skills either.

One of my favorite things about Boy Scouts is that it teaches real life skills. For example, a newly required merit badge – Cooking— teaches skills that many teenage boys do not know going to college. Also, Automotive Maintenance teaches boys skills that may save them money in the future. In addition, Electricity merit badge teaches skills that may help boys solve small home electrical problems without hiring an electrician. The same is true for Home Repairs Merit Badge.

Scouting teaches citizenship and patriotism. One of my early memories was when my Cub Scouts den conducted a flag retirement ceremony at one of our camp outs. Since then, I've had to visit national landmarks for Citizenship in the Nation merit badge, and attend local government functions for Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

Lastly Scouting teaches boys about health principles through merit badges like Personal Fitness, Cycling, and Hiking.

Don't think from what I've said so far that the only learning that is done in Scouting is through merit badges. Because boys also learn vital leadership skills and cooperation. Leading a group of middle and high school boys is often more difficult than leading a group of mature adults. The Boy Scouts is a great introduction to leadership.

For me, I've had the opportunity to lead a Chapter of the Order of the Arrow, and today I'm one of the leaders of our entire Blue Heron Lodge, which has over 800 members. Do we have any Blue Heron Lodge Members here today? Raise your hands high? Now let me hear you. What you wearing? [[Blue Heron]] Whose so fine? [[349]]

Lastly, I've had experiences in Scouting that were awesome. I've been to the U.S. Naval Academy for Scout day, I've been to an inauguration, to Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. I've camped in cold weather and in rain. I've spent weeks at summer camp having fun with my friends.

In closing, let me thank each of you for being here and for the donation you are about to make to Scouting. You are supporting thousands of Scouts in our area -- like me. And you are supporting all the adult Scouters who volunteer their time to provide this program for us.