

Hello, my name is Logan Duff and I am an Eagle Scout from Troop 78. I have been a Scout since 2016 and a Cub Scout before that since 2010. The road it has taken me on and all the destinations along the way are some of the greatest achievements of my life. Scouts has not only been a huge part of my past, but has affected me as a person and will continue to affect my actions, beliefs, and intent for the rest of my life. From the very start, I have found an incredible program that allowed me as a young boy to enjoy life. In Cub Scouts, I always enjoyed the pinewood derbies and the rocket launches my pack did. Those experiences taught me to be curious and helped begin my path towards engineering which is what I will continue to pursue in my future. In addition, Cub Scouts put me in contact with a group of young boys who have become some of my lifetime friends and allowed me to grow a strong bond with my father. However, I like to think Cub Scouts was preparing me for the journey I have had the honor of taking in Boy Scouts. While I was coming to the end of my Cub Scouting days, my Dad urged me to find a good Troop to cross into, so we looked around. After visiting some troops that didn't really impress me, we found Troop 78 and I knew it was the place for me on my first visit. I truly believe that the troop I represent is an embodiment of what scouting is supposed to

look like and I am grateful I found them. The most influential thing Scouting does for young boys and girls is instill in them values that shape their character as they grow into adults. In my troop, we do this by creating an environment in which boys are conditioned to strive for excellence while enjoying their time with each other. I have found it is crucial this environment is organized by youth leaders because honestly no 12 year old boy wants to listen to another adult boss them around. They want friends and peers they feel comfortable learning from and can look up to for who they want to be in the future. For me, Scouting became a place to detach from the illnesses of society and enjoy what it meant to grow up. Political turmoil and Social pressures were irrelevant when whitewater rafting, hiking, fire building, and camping. This has been my favorite part about scouting. That each and every kid can find a unique way to experience scouting. Some youth give everything they have and become exceptional leaders that propel themselves and those around them into a successful future. Other youth come and hang out with their friends, joke, laugh, and play games. Scouting gives every young boy or girl the chance to find a place in an organization that will give back to their future. Personally, I was the type who gave it everything I had and strove to get the best

out of scouting. When I became a leader, I pushed my Patrol and my Troop to excellence and passed on the knowledge I had acquired in my time. I am positive I wouldn't be the person I am today without the part my troop has played in my life. I have become a better leader, more passionate towards my goals, more organized in my habits, and more collected in my thoughts. It hasn't always been an easy road, sometimes I tripped and fell, made mistakes, or felt that I had to stop. There was a time when I didn't want to go to meetings because I was overwhelmed and wasn't seeing the progress I had envisioned. I received support from my family and Troop and kept going. The worst times I had in my troop were followed by the best. I became a Patrol Leader and took on the challenge of a young patrol as the youngest Patrol Leader. This gave me a reason to want to come to meetings and do my best. The boys in my patrol bonded and worked incredibly hard, pushing each other to raise the whole Patrol to a new standard. That year we won the Chester County First Aid Meet and my Troops Field Day Competition, two of my proudest scouting accomplishments. I will never forget those moments. Victory in of itself is a fantastic feeling, but what made those moments so special to me was how much work had been put in by the boys in my patrol. The fact that the same group

that joked around and drove me crazy every meeting had come together in service to one another. They each understood that the competition was more than winning on their own, it was about supporting each other to make the whole patrol succeed. I could see in each of them how dedicated they were to each other and to the patrol's ambitions, something I was proud to be a part of. I continued my journey down the scouting road and when I became the leader of my Troop, I used my drive to help teach the next generation of leaders, another one of my proudest achievements. This is another crucial thing Scouting can do for the youth who participate. It allows them to experience leadership in all roles. First, you are the young scout looking up at the Patrol Leaders and Senior Patrols Leaders without much knowledge at all. Then, boys find their place in their troop and can build their skills while progressing forward and building bonds with those around them. They become leaders and compete with each other, learning what sportsmanship and struggle feel like. Once they have experienced those first rungs of leadership, they begin to move out of the way to allow new leaders to rise and they pass their knowledge down. They get to see how the Troop they have put their time and effort into changes and grows as their personal influence diminishes.

Finally, they learn how difficult it can be to move on to a new stage in their life and take what they gained from Scouting into their future. That is where I am, experiencing what it is like to be one of the 'older scouts'. I often talk about the leaders of my day with the scouts my age and feel old when young scouts ask who they are. I realize that I am now one of those older scouts. I am moving all too fast towards the day when I have to go college and take what I've learned into a new environment, but I'm not scared. My future is full of unknowns. I know that I want to be an engineer, but I don't know where I want to pursue a career. I know I want to have a family, but I'm not sure what that will look like. I know that I want to keep camping and participating in scouts, but I don't know how I will do it. At one point, unknowns like these scared me desperately. But scouting has taught me that in the face of an overwhelming future with countless unknowns, all you have to do is your best. My experiences have taught me that if I take the values and lessons I learned in scouting and continue to apply them in all aspects of my future, I'll do just fine, in fact, I will excel. The effect this program has had on my life is more than I could ever express, and I am more grateful than one can put into words that I can say with confidence that I am Logan Duff, Eagle Scout of Troop 78, and I am prepared for my

future because of Scouting. The legacy of this amazing program stretches so much further than just my life, my troop, or my community. It is one of the cornerstones of the next generation who will dedicate themselves to the service of each other and ensure that those who come after them can thrive. I am honored to be a part of that legacy. Thank you for your time and to all the veterans: thank you for your service.