

President's Corner Vol. 4
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Vision, Preparation, Commitment. Did you ever wonder about the meaning of these three words? By definition they mean: vision = the act or power of anticipating that which will or may come to be; preparation=a proceeding, measure, or provision by which one prepares for something; commitment=the pledging or devotion of oneself to a position on an issue or question or project. Are not these the essentials of success?

From the time boys enter the Scouting movement as Cubs, lay leaders start teaching their Scouts to have vision, to be prepared, and to be committed. It is a process that continues through Boy Scouts, Venturing and beyond. Consider the vision, preparation and commitment required for the first pinewood derby car, the first water propelled rocket, the first camping trip, rank advancements, earning of merit badges and the planning and execution of unit community service projects. During the journey, the lay leader sees and is energized by the development of the boys under his charge. The boys gain confidence in their own abilities.

This development process culminates for many Scouts in the project required to become an Eagle Scout. The candidate for Eagle Scout must create his own vision of a service project. He must prepare the plan by which the project goes from the vision stage to the completion stage. Finally, he must commit others to the execution of the project plan.

As a Scout stands before his community to receive his Eagle Scout badge, he is the embodiment of all those countless hours of devoted work by volunteer Scouters, family and friends. His success is the proof of a job well done. Through him so go you. My friends and fellow Scouters, he is your gift to the future. And, as I have said before, he is the gift that will keep on giving.

As I was thinking of what to write this month, my thoughts again turned to the new building now under construction at Camp Kootaga. That building is the vision of our own Eric Brady. He could see that we needed a new health lodge to replace the health trailer. Over the past year he developed his vision and worked with others to prepare a plan to bring the project to reality. He stayed committed and encouraged the commitment of others through the laborious process of Board approval. The energy and excitement he brought to the table was contagious.

His vision, preparation and commitment paid off. The new Camp Kootaga log building housing a trading post on the ground floor opening onto the commons before the flag poles, the health lodge on the second floor with ground level access to the road and an area for offices or other development on the third floor is well under way and on budget. You can see the progress made to the date of this publication by clicking on the following link:

http://www.allohak.org/ppt/Camp_Administration_Building.htm

I suspect Eric, being the modest person he is, will chafe when he reads this open letter. I can assure you he did not take on this project for recognition. Nor did our Vice President of Properties, Jim Bennon, join in the project for recognition. Nor did the other volunteers I have not named in this letter take on the project for recognition. All of them took it on because of

their love of Scouting, their recognition of the value of a summer camp experience, and their recognition of the needs of Camp Kootaga.

The work of our Council volunteers lead by Eric Brady epitomizes the Vision, Preparation and Commitment essential to success and embodied in the Scouting program.

At every level of our Council, volunteers with the same type of vision, preparation and commitment are delivering a meaningful Scouting experience to our youth. Such volunteers have been hard at work on preparations for our Council Camporee which will be held at Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio starting Friday, May 21, 2010; for the Highland District Day Camp (Cubs of the Seven Seas) on June 21-June 25 at Camp Mahonegon; and for the Washington District Day Camp (Cubs of the Round Table) at Broughton Farms, Marietta Ohio on June 30-July 2. Others are in preparation for yet unannounced day camps, future pinewood derbys and Scout-0-Ramas. None of these activities could take place without the vision, preparation and commitment of our Council, District and Unit volunteers.

So, while I showcased Eric Brady in this open letter, a debt of gratitude is owed to all of our volunteers. You are the gifts that keep on giving.

Yours in Scouting,
John S. Kaull