

Ben Welling
Eagle Court of Honor
March 10, 2002

I am quite disappointed that circumstances are such that I can not be here tonight at Ben's Eagle Court of Honor. It is my honor to count Ben as a friend and to have been his Scout Master.

I was looking back through my Scout picture album prior to writing this. It brought back many memories to me of Ben as a scout. I remember distinctly the first Campout Ben was on. It was at Shellrock creek up near Mount Hood. The thing I remember so well was how Ben, the youngest of the scouts there, was so thoughtful towards the other scouts. This is a trait that scouts aren't always known for and it really stood out to me.

Those of you who have been around me know I have a great sense of the wonder of the outdoors in our beautiful world and I love to share that with others. A fun thing about Ben to me is his sense of wonder. Ben would never tire of listening to me explain how something worked or about the wonders of nature.

My funniest memory of Ben as a scout was on the Wall Lake campout. Ben wanted to catch a fish in the worst way. The problem was every time he turned around he was tangling up his fishing gear. The line tangled in knots, the line tangled up in a bush, and quite often the line tangled in knots about Ben himself. On the last day we were on our way out and found a very small lake, maybe 40 yards long by 25 yards wide, where several of us were catching fish. Ben was one end of the lake by some bushes in such a way that none of us could really see him. As usual when he cast out he managed to tangle his line up. This time with some bushes that hung out over the Lake. Well, he climbed out on the bushes and was trying to untangle the line when, with a big splash, he fell in the lake. After the splash there was utter silence around the lake for about 3 seconds, during which I'm thinking "oh no" and getting ready to go to the rescue. Then we hear Ben, in a voice that doesn't sound angry, but really more frustrated: "Gosh darn it". The next sound was peals of laughter around the lake from the rest of the boys and I knew Ben was OK.

Ben to me you represent what a young LDS man should be. I'd commend you as an example to other boys any day. I feel it was my privilege to be your leader and salute you this evening for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Your Scoutmaster,

Mike Baird