



Scouting has always been an important part of Jim Ferrone's life. A board member and Cubmaster, Jim started his Scouting journey as a child. He met several good friends and earned many awards along the way. When he earned the rank of Eagle Scout, he achieved the highest honor in Scouting alongside his two best friends, Eugene Field and John Copman. The three friends are still close today and get together a few times a year to catch up and reminisce.

Jim talks fondly about the adults who took the time to mentor him and shape him into the man he is today. When his finished his journey in the youth program, Jim stepped up to mentor other young people. He has volunteered in multiple capacities in Scouting for most of his life so he can make a difference in the lives of youth.

"Scouting teaches teamwork. It's not about who is strongest. It's not about who is smartest. You don't achieve any of these ranks without a team. The program very much teaches how to be team follower and a team leader."

In his life and career, he often relates skills he learned back to a merit badge, leadership opportunity or experience he had in Scouting. Now he is watching his own 12-year-old son, a Tenderfoot, follow in his footsteps.

While father and son both immensely enjoy many aspects of the Scouting program, Jim's son gets most excited when they go camping. The two have taken over 20 trips together and plan on many more.

"He has my undivided attention. It's time I can spend with him." Jim said. Over the years, Jim has watched his son grow in confidence and independence. Although his son is forging his own path in Scouting, he knows Jim is there for him when and if he needs him.

"Scouting was good to me; Scouting is going to be good for many other youth. I want to make sure the program is there now and, in the future," Ferrone said.

To make sure that happens, Ferrone serves as vice chairman of the James E. West Endowment Fund, which was set up to provide legacy gifts that help fund Scouting in the future. The James. E. West Fellowship Award is a national award given to donors of gifts of \$1,000 or more, which can be made over a five-year period, to the Northern New Jersey Council's endowment fund. The purpose of the fund is to preserve and grow the principal, while utilizing a small percentage of the income to benefit Council operations and properties.

In his role, Jim has evaluated the endowment fund and educated other board members about the fund and its potential uses. He also works to grow the fund so that Scouting will always have adequate financial resources in the future.

The James E. West Award may be made in honor of someone, such as an Eagle Scout, or in memory of a loved one, business associate, or a special Scouter. For more information about the James E. West Endowment Fund or other ways to support Scouting in the community, contact Jennifer Tanis, Director of Development.

