

## SCOUT EXPERIENCE



Hi, I'm a boy scout in Troop 680, Truong Son. I am currently a life scout. I have been in scouting for about 7 years. I really don't know what other people think. To me, it has been an honor to be

in scouting this long. The Truong are the only reason this troop is still standing strong. They throw away their Saturday morning just to teach us, have fun with us, and to lead us on to success. They are strict yet kind and caring. They show us the right path to go and make sure it comfortable for us to walk on. Without them, I am not sure what this troop would be like without them.

Every time we go camping, it's like a vacation to me, getting a break from school and stuff. The best part of it is that you get to learn and have fun at the same time. When scouts go camping, they will learn many things there, more than you think! You'll be able to practice the skills you have learned at the meetings, for example, lashing. Camping toughens you up. It is a place where "wimps" can become men!

Back then I was hated, weak, and ignored. When I bridged up to Thieu, I was still the little weakling as I was before. When I heard my mom signed me up for camp, I was scared. I heard rumors that there's going to be bears and all sorts of animals out there. I also heard you have to cook your own food. I immediately thought of making cup noodles for my meals, until Truong said no cup noodles. One of the scouts saw that I was scared of going to camp. He calmed me down and told me that there's nothing to worry about. He told me that we will cook together as a patrol and that the camp is perfectly safe. If anything goes wrong he will be

there. He lied.

When I got there, I was excited ready for some excitement with my new friend. But there was only one problem, he moved to a different state and I didn't know until a few weeks later. Again, I was scared. I slept with some people that I didn't know. When we got there I was to help with the tent. It was hard because I only got in their way. All I could really think of was "Where is he". Later, we got in our tent and started to unpack our stuff. All I really did was throw my stuff in the tent. Christopher was in our tent, he ask if I needed any help unpacking. I said "sure". Soon we unpacked everything, and he taught me how to unpack and place my bags and everything. When everyone was asleep, I was awake, thinking. I told myself, the best thing to do right now is to learn. And with that thought, I fell asleep.

The next morning I woke up feeling better, stronger. During the camp, I learned as much as I could about everything-cooking, lashing, teamwork, and a little bit of leadership. When I got home, I felt different. Something was missing. I checked my bags. Nope, I didn't forget anything. I looked inside my heart. Yup, something was definitely missing. It appears that my old self is gone, my weak self is gone. And now, a new Kevin has replaced it. This Kevin has more confidence, mentally and physically stronger, no hatred and has a thirst for random knowledge.

Kevin T Nguyen  
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