



The Same Family

Though I have only been active in Lien Doan Truong Son for 10 of these 35 years, I feel like I play a huge role in the history of this Scouting Unit. I am Nicholas Ho, a second class Boy Scout at the time of writing this. At first, I did not know what the point of Scouting was. Sure we learned a lot of cool knots and go camping all the time, but what's the point? I learned this when I entered Troop 680 in 2012. Scouting is not something to be taken lightly, nor is it something that should be frowned upon. All those who are involved



Boys Night Out

in Scouting are codependent. We need the leaders and the leaders need us. It is a two-way relationship. Without the leaders, who would plan all the cool events and camps that we go to every year? Without scouts, who will participate in the cool events and camps that the leaders planned out? Just like with nature, the earth and the sky are co-dependent on each other. We will occasionally have our ups and downs, our little arguments, but at the end of the day, everyone is part of the same family, Truong Son.

Nicholas Ho

Feeding The Homeless

By: Stephen Nguyen



How do I start this? Ah, yes. We were just preparing ham sandwiches (to go to LA to feed the homeless) at Truong Khiem's house. There I met Tri, Dylan, Timmy, Dzuy, and Victor. After playing some ping-pong we got into Truong Khiem's van. When we were ready we drove over to Truong Ken's house to meet up with the rest of the group. There we met Chris T., James, Vinh, Alex, Chu Vu, Vincent, and Victoria. After choosing who goes in whose van/SUV, we started the drive to LA!

It took about 1 hour to get there, but we had fun chatting and joking around. I have to admit, the conversation with Truong Khiem and Tri was hilarious! After a while, we finally arrived at our rendezvous, Burger King! It was around 5:30, but we were thirsty and hungry. I ordered some chicken nuggets and a drink (it was delicious). At 6:00 P.M., the medical organization came and helped us make PB&J sandwiches. When we were done, an optimistic woman from the organization gathered all the scouts from troop 680 to play some game, such as ninja, team dance battle, team rap battle, tag, etc. Finally, at 8:00 P.M., the leader of the organization, Mel, gathered us up to tell us about the rules. He told us we were going to one of the most dangerous places in LA called Skid Row. Mel told us, "Stay close. Don't intimidate

them. If you need help ask me or the people here.” He pointed to some people.

I was sitting in the front with Truong Khiem on the way there. First, we had to keep going straight for 5 lights and then turn left on 6th street. Then, we turned right and park on the side. On the way there, I thought to myself what do you think the procedure is going to be like? Probably, we’d go into this center for homeless people that are being taken care of, and we’d pass out the food to them. Boy was I wrong. On the first few lights, there were so many stores flickering in the moonlight, but when we turned right, the whole area was dark with no stores or any kind of business. Along both of the sidewalks were a lane of tents and people sleeping on the streets. Homeless people were in rags and some in wheelchairs.

The tension was high when we arrived. A table was put in the middle of the street for the food to be pun. Our group of 11 Boy Scouts and 1 Girl Scout helped pass out food, chips, and water. First, we were serving chicken and rice with an eggroll (plus chips and water). Then, Mac N' Cheese (plus chips and water). Next, ham sandwich (plus chocolate pie and water). Last, PB&J sandwich (juice or water). There were over 200 homeless people there! When I went into the mission, I couldn't help but gasp. There was just a gate and a huge area filled with people.

As I look at the homeless, I see grief, sorrow, desperation, regret, and longing for friends and family or for food and water on their faces. I could tell these people were very desperate because I saw some people trying to make themselves look different and changing their name to get in line again for food. An argument also broke out in the back of the line.

We felt good to know that the homeless will sleep on full stomachs tonight. Like Wise Truong Khiem said, "We are not here for the service hours; we are here to help.



Thieu's hiking trip with Tr. Marcus, Tr. Bảo, Tr. Tony and Tr. Long