

CREW

Andrew Trinh

APPLYING BOY SCOUT SKILLS



I have not always loved Scouts as much as I do today. When I first joined Scouts, I did not like it because I viewed it as something that took me away from my Saturday morning cartoons. Additionally, I moved between troops often due to drama between the leaders, and this caused me to lose many of the friends that I made in Scouts. When I finally settled in Lien Doan Truong Son, I cannot say that my experience dramatically changed for the better. I came to Truong Son as a Thieu Nam, and because I was new and small for my age, I found myself an easy target to be picked on by the older kids. During this time period, I found it really hard to come to Scouts every Saturday morning, and I was grateful for the days when meeting was cancelled

due to rain. I had come to despise Scouts at this point. However, as time passed and these older kids bridged up to Thanh, I was able to begin progressing up the ranks as well as making friends within the new troop. I began to take leadership roles in Thieu, although I did not try and take any main leadership roles. I always ran for the assistant roles such as Assistant Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. During this time, the assistant leadership roles had very little responsibility, but they still

fulfilled the necessary requirements for advancement which is why I took them. However, I learned to watch how people led the scouts, and I learned to watch how people reacted to being led. I understood what it was like to be the follower, and I felt that I had a pretty good grasp on what it felt like to lead.

By the time that I was just beginning to get used to Scouts and begin enjoying it again, it was time for me to bridge up to Thanh. I remember thinking that Thanh was no big deal, and wondering why I would want to bridge up if it meant that I had to deal with the individuals that tormented me when I was young and vulnerable. I quickly learned that I still would not have to deal with these people yet. At the time, Thanh split the under 18 year-old members and the over 18 members. Looking back, I think that this was a poor structure. When I bridged up, I just stuck to my old friends because I was never given the opportunity to trust the older scouts. I felt no sense of community or connection between me and the older scouts. By now, the older scouts that I had a problem with before had either moved on from Thanh or they had risen to leadership roles within the Truongs (Leaders). I learned to forgive them because their behavior in Thieu was not a fair representation of them in their current state.

Then time passed as usual, with me not taking any direct roles, but again the same process happened again. I saw my peers taking "important" leadership roles while I sat around in passive leadership roles. However, this time it was different. I learned to enjoy the deeper meaning in Scouts, and I learned to cherish the time I spent with my friends. I began to look forward to meetings at the park and outings with my fellow scouts. I wanted to impact my friends' lives for the better. I was already in my first year of college by the time I ran for President. I ran against a null opposition. Still, it was a very big step for me because this would be my first official leadership role in Thanh, and it was the Presidential role. Unfortunately, during the winter of my presidency, the Troop split. It was a chaotic time. I was worried that everything I had built up was going to come crashing down just like

it did in my first few years of scouts. My friends who had left Truong Son asked me to come with them, while my friends who stayed with Truong Son assumed I would stay due to my presidency. I will admit, at a certain point I wanted to leave Truong Son. I came to view this as the easy way out. When I became president, my goal was to run a Thanh Doan so that my friends and I could have a great time. However, I came to realize that they were great people. They would have a great time with or without me. I needed to give the scouts who stayed a great time. During my year as president, I worked hard to merge any gap that existed between the younger scouts and the older scouts. My goal was to make sure that everybody in the Thanh Doan felt a sense of belonging. To this day, I am always striving to help all of the scouts be the best person that they can be. So although I am no longer serving as president, I am honored to be given the opportunity to become a Truong, and I look forward to improving everybody's experience with the Thanh Doan.

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Scouting has taught me the significance of life. One thing I took out of Scouting is cheerful. When you're cheerful, you give off a vibe that makes everyone also cheerful. Also, Scouting gave me the opportunity to go to a lot of adventurous events. Overall, Scouting is a good experience and if I can start all over again to begin the adventure, I would.

HOANG
NGUYEN



Sinh Hoạt buổi sáng của các em Thanh Sinh