

For TS 35th Anniversary

Vinh Thuc Nguyen

"Saturday morning, 9:30 AM, a 20 year old Vietnamese boy was shot and killed in Santa Ana, the boy had ties to gangs. That boy was not me because I was at scout meeting on Saturday mornings. Going to scouts keeps me off the streets so I don't do drugs or join a gang. Instead I'm in another gang, a gang that helps people and goes camping. Scout is dank."

Brian Do

"I join Scouts because it is filled with people who take care of me and the people who I can take care of. Truong Son has helped me grow as a person and develop both my leadership and social skills and I attribute a lot of my success in life to what Scouting has taught me over the past eleven years."

Rosa Nguyen

"My dedication to my fellow scout members, my overwhelming joy when 9:30 am rolls around on the last day of the week and my never-ending list of memories cannot be put into words, fragments, sentences or even paragraphs." I was tossed into Scouting without any motivation or prior knowledge and now, I can't get enough. Scouting has not changed me, but the experiences I've learned of and the people that I've met - they've influenced me for the better. I cannot ask for a better family, for better leaders and for a better group of mentors that are constantly telling me to step outside of my world of stories and into reality (which isn't all that bad).



Kudos to the ever wonderful Thanh Đoàn Bắc Đẩu."

I would like to think that scouting has change me into something better. It's not true though. It's not the act of scouting that has changed me, but it's the people in it. My friends and my truongs have all taught me to be the best me that I can be and I will be forever in debt. I cannot count how many times James has given us a pep talk before the big games, just to pump us up. I cannot fathom into words how motivated I feel when Quan, John and Justin mentor me to be a better board member and to be a better Rosa. It's nearly impossible to list out all of the times I have gone to my closest friends in scouts and found solace in their company. There were numerous times where I wasn't at my best at meetings or at camps and 99.98% of the time, someone is there to give me a big hug and tell me to shake it off and do better next time! Scouts takes up a lot of free time that I could spend reading or writing, but it's definitely worth it. Planning meetings becomes my favorite part of the week. Attending meetings makes the end of the week even more exciting. Hanging out with my friends is always something to look forward to as well. My first bridging camp, it was really a struggle to fit in. Coming from a small school, I didn't know anyone and Vannessa brought me under her wing and made me feel so welcome that I can't send her enough love to make up for the love that she gave me. Over the years, as I get older and my friends get older, life can get in the way. College can lead people to other cities and states, lack of interest may become an issue and even simple things



like busy schedules can prevent people from attending scouts regularly. I can't predict the future and how it will go, but I know that I'm going to stay in scouting as long as I can. Even if I take a break for college or for some other reason, scouting will always take up a large part of my heart and devotion. I'm still the same book-obsessed Rosa in sixth grade. Now I just have a pinch of dashes and dots, a better sense of direction, knowledge of intricately tied ropes and a wonderfully phenomenal sense of sarcasm.

Bonnie Tran

"I have been a scout for thirteen years now. I have matured and grown into a more disciplined and selfless person. At first, I was upset that I constantly missed my Saturday morning cartoons for meetings with strangers, but now I start to wonder what I would have done on a Saturday morning by now if I didn't join Scouting. After all, I would have grown out of loving cartoons sooner or later anyways. Now, I take pleasure in helping people out. I enjoyed volunteering at events such as Toys for Tots, Tet festival, and others. I learned how to plan accordingly through doing my Bronze, Silver and Gold Award. At the end of the day, my greatest reward is someone's smile or appreciation and gratitude for my action."

Kathy Le

"TTX was a great experience for me and I am glad I chose to go even though it was at the last minute. It was my first Thang Tien and first week-long camp, but definitely not the last.

Special shout-out to my mixed team Nong Qua! We may not see each other often, but I definitely see them as a permanent part of my scout family.

The highlight of the camp was how our Lien Doan was able to bond, and it was the first time I could really see scouts as one big, happy family. We were all there to support and of course, poke fun at each other. I even got to make friends with a good handful of Thieu. I saw our campsite not as a group of separate nganhs but as a collective LDHD Truong Son.

Thang Tien was definitely that point in my scouting career that told me why scouts mean so much to me, so it is a memory I am blessed to have! :)

On a side note, I want to give Mimi Pham a shoutout for letting me use her sunscreen. You are the realest MVP"

CREW

