

Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Emilio Esteban

Interviewee: Troy Miller

Topic: "The role of recreation in creating and maintaining community"

Date: June 1, 2007

Location: a relatively quiet dining room

Emilio Esteban: We're here with Mr. Miller. Could you tell us what you do exactly, just so these people know?

Troy Miller: In my professional career, I'm the land and phone system team lead for the United State Geological Survey in Reston, Virginia.

EE: And in terms of recreation?

TM: Oh, recreation. In my extracurricular activities I am the scoutmaster for troop 913 at Saint Joseph's church in Herndon, Virginia and besides that I also coach a youth lacrosse team for the Herndon-Reston youth lacrosse league. And, besides that, I just take advantage of the outdoors as much as I can, with either sporting activities like volleyball, or I like to get out and go boating or waterskiing, and I also hunt and fish. Some other aspects I do are from time to time to take part in community theater, in particular with the Reston Community Players productions. The last show I did with them was called *Forever Plaid*, and so from time to time I take advantage of the community theater scene that's also around.

EE: So, let's start with being a scoutmaster. Why exactly did you decide to become a scoutmaster?

TM: (laughs) Well, I myself was a scout in the area. I grew up in Fairfax county and I was in Troop 1530, which is out of Fairfax, and then when my son was coming up through Saint Joseph's Troop 913, I just sort of naturally followed and helped out wherever I could. Then one day the opportunity presented itself and I figured opportunities are there for a reason, so I went ahead and decided to go do it because I thought I could help continue with the growth of 913 and the boys that are scouts within it.

EE: Okay. Now, this may sound sort of cliché, but how would you say you impact the scout's lives?

TM: Well, it's primarily setting a good example, because Boy Scouts is for boys, it's definitely a developmental cycle, or a developmental place for boys, so I see that as trying to set a good example as a man for the boys to look to to see where one can go in their lives, and then also within the scouting program there's just a ton of different venues and different subject matters that the boys can take advantage of and explore if that is something that they might want to base a career on and things of that nature. And of course obviously one of the scouting methods is the leadership development and letting the guys learn how to lead other scouts and hopefully they'll be able to take that and serve, well, training, for a lack of a better word, in their adult life and to...

EE: And to perpetuate more scouts?

TM: And to perpetuate more scouts.

EE: So, have the changing times really affected the scouting program?