



Scouting Legacies

Serving Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, and San Juan Counties

Tom Eastman: Building Legacy

Admirable. Accomplished. Dedicated. Dependable. Mentor. Leader. Uplifting. Caring. Humble. Those who know Tom Eastman, overwhelmingly agree that he is all these things and much more. But, Tom doesn't seek honor or glory, they will tell you. Instead, he affirms it in the many people he has connected with through his seventy-plus years involved in Scouting. "I've had the good fortune to volunteer and work with many incredible people and develop wonderful friendships," he says. The names swiftly roll off his tongue: Scott, Dennis, Mike, Gabi, Mary Jo, all the while heaping credit and praise on them. Selfless. Another descriptor.

The Journey Begins

Tom's journey in Scouting began when he was just seven years old when he joined Cubs. That was in 1953. He became a Wolf in the early 1950s and kept advancing. In 1964 he earned his Eagle, with a project of mitigating erosion on a well-used hillside near his boyhood home. His father was in the Coast Guard and the family moved often—Scouting was constant and stabilizing throughout his youth.

Scouting Honors

Since then, his involvement in Scouts—spanning decades and coast-to-coast—has been extraordinary by any measure. The honors and accolades kept adding up through his pure and honest



Tom Eastman receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from Troop 91.

dedication to helping others. He was in leadership positions seeing his sons achieve First Class and Eagle Scout. He has held positions at the Pack, Troop, and Council levels. He has been a committee chair and member, assistant Cubmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, and a merit badge counselor.

His myriad Scouting honors include (and are not limited) to: Arrow of Light, Cub Scouter Award, Ad Altare Die Religious Award, Eagle Scout, Scouter's Training Award, Order of the Arrow Vigil, NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout, Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award, Two James E. West Fellowships, and Five (5) President's Excellence in Leadership Awards.

And topping all that and more, Tom received the coveted Silver Beaver Award in 2013. The Silver Beaver

Award, established in 1931, is given to registered adult leaders for their outstanding and distinguished service to youth within a BSA council. Certainly, as one Scout dad noted, Tom is the epitome and, perhaps, the greatest role model for the character and values that are the cornerstones for Scouting's top honor.

Other Service and Accomplishments

Tom's many accomplishments extend far beyond Scouting. He was a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves and helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

Continued . . .

TOM BY THE NUMBERS

- 3** years as Mount Baker Council's (MBC) Senior VP of Development
- 9** cabins built at Fire Mountain Scout Camp
- 23** years served at Troop 91
- 30** summer camps attended
- 37** years as a registered Scout leader
- 91** the Troop he served as Assistant Scoutmaster
- 417** nights (over 1 year!) camped in Scouting

TOM EASTMAN, continued . . .

He is a certified instructor for Scouts and other youth through the National Rifle Association, helps youth with hospital care for the Nile Shriners, and helps youth with speech disorders through the Scottish Rite Masonic Group. He is a life member of the

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. He is a Past Deputy of the Grand Master at the Grand Masonic Lodge of Washington and a volunteer at his church.



Eagle Scout Tom Eastman in 1964

And he did all this while having an illustrious career with Ford Motor Company and raising a family!

His Legacy

Many believe one of Tom's greatest contributions to Scouting was the work he put in to create the Snohomish Camp Site at MBC's Fire Mountain Scout Camp in 2011. He quickly points out, however, that he only played a part and there were many others who made it happen and deserve the accolades. His fondest memory was joining his Scoutmaster Dennis Walters in handing over the "key" to the campsite to then Council President Scott Suchan, who had originated the plan for the site. It's mind-boggling to realize that hundreds of campers have created lifelong memories and friendships surrounding the campfire there.

But what does Tom think is his greatest contribution? He truly does not think in those terms. His reward and joy come from the many former Scouts who make it a point to visit him. One recent visitor is a graduate of Brown University and a physician at Virginia Mason. Another is an actor with a lead role in an Amazon movie. And then there is the Navy lieutenant who gifted him an American flag that flew over his station in Iraq.

Tom definitely had a positive impact on one recent visitor: T.J. Mielbrecht. T.J., who currently works at Boeing on the 777X airliner, reveals that he and his interviewer—both Eagle Scouts—believe Scouting prepared them with the problem-solving skills, preparedness, and perseverance required for successful careers and lives.

T.J. has nothing but respect and admiration for Tom. "He always made time to check in with me, make me feel important, and keep me on track for my Eagle."

"It is an honor to help young people on their journey to becoming excellent citizens."

— Tom Eastman

What about the eighty-plus Eagle Scouts he helped mentor? To Tom, achieving Wolf or Life or Eagle are all commendable, but it is more about being part of the journey Scouts take to becoming productive, respectful, and upright citizens. "The country (and the world) needs Scouting," he says as

it instills the values and skills everybody needs to be successful in life.

If anything encompasses the deep, invaluable, and enduring impact of the legacy of this incredible man, it is in these heartfelt words from T.J.:

"Mr. Eastman believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself."



T.J. and Tom

"Retirement"

Tom may have "retired" from his career and now Scouting, but definitely not from a life of service. Although he says he will be focusing on his family (wife, four children, and ten grandchildren) and his health, he remains active in veterans' organizations, youth organizations, and the Masons, to name but a few.

Tom, with his generous, gracious, and giving spirit, will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him. The MBC can't express enough how grateful, thankful, and appreciative we are for Tom Eastman.

Final word: **LEGEND.** 

SCOUT POPCORN

Pack 21 POPs to the TOP!!!

There is nothing quite like the smell of fresh-popped popcorn to evoke fond memories of camping, movie nights, and the annual Scout fun-raiser!

That savory scent is also one of success as Mount Baker Council's Scouts popped to the top of sales both locally and nationwide.

A-MAIZE-ing Scouts

Pack 21 stands tall in the (corn) field, with a staggering total of **\$133,619** in sales!!! This planted them firmly in the **POP 10** in the nation with an impressive **7th place!!!**

Leading the pack *and* the nation in stellar sales were superstar Scouts **Jacob L.** and **Max C.** Both smashed expectations with each tallying over **\$30,000** each in sales, securing them in the **POP 10 in the nation!!!**

With \$33,578 in sales, Jacob placed a superb #8 in the nation!!! And with sales of \$30,545, Max placed an extraordinary #11!

It is safe to say that these young Scouts are absolutely a-MAIZE-ing!

Secrets of Success

What are the secrets to popcorn success? Though friendly and courteous Scouts *are* irresistible, that isn't the *pop* secret.

Max, a Webelos, has a number of pop tips to share. One, he says instead of asking to buy popcorn, he asks people to "help support Scouts," as people like to help others. He added it is important to know your product and to display it well. The three-year sales vet says



Honored at MBC's auction are top sellers (back to front, left row) Devon A., Aaron A., and Niamh G. (Back to front, right row) Max C., Jacob L., Aaron P., and Riley W. Not pictured: Matthew S. and Pushkal C.

he puts the popcorn in price order—which has proven very effective.

Perseverance helps, too. This hardworking Cub logged more than 100 hours of in-person sales and is never discouraged by the no's. He once heard "no" 80 times straight before hearing a "yes."

Max is looking forward to the next fun-raiser, "I like it! It's fun!" And,

plans to beat his record; his goal is \$50,000!

Pop(corn) Stars Honored

Mount Baker Council had a bumper crop of pop star Scouts and they were duly honored at Mount Baker Council's annual auction (see picture at left).

In addition, leading the pack in their districts are:

- Salish Sea District's Jacob L. and Max C., both in Pack 21.
- Pilchuck District's Devon A. and Aaron A., both in Troop 36.
- North Cascades District's Niamh G. with Troop 4060 and William R. in Pack 4059.

More Than Just Popcorn

It may sound corny, but there is waaay more to the popcorn fun-raiser than dollars—it makes SENSE. Scouts learn teamwork, entrepreneurship, goal setting, money management, and hone decision-making, organizational, and people skills. All seeds for growing exemplary and successful Scouts.

Whether your favorite flavor is butter, s'mores, cheddar, or caramel, the next time you pop one of those crunchy nuggets in your mouth, remember it's much more than a tasty treat—it's an investment in the future!🌻

Welcome to Mount Baker Council's *Scouting Legacies!*

Welcome to the first issue of *Scouting Legacies*. BSA's Mount Baker Council has created *Scouting Legacies* to share the many fantastic stories of people like you who care about Scouting.

Mount Baker Council serves Scouts in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island, and San Juan Counties.

If you'd like more information about Scouting, how we help prepare young people for life through fun and adventure, and how we serve our communities and families with tried-and-true quality, values-based programs, call 425-338-0380 or visit our website at www.mountbakerbsa.org. You can also follow us on Facebook at Mount Baker Council, BSA.

Adventure Awaits YOU!

Yes! It's true. By supporting Scouting you are part of the adventure. There are so many different ways to be involved, at least one is bound to be perfect for you.

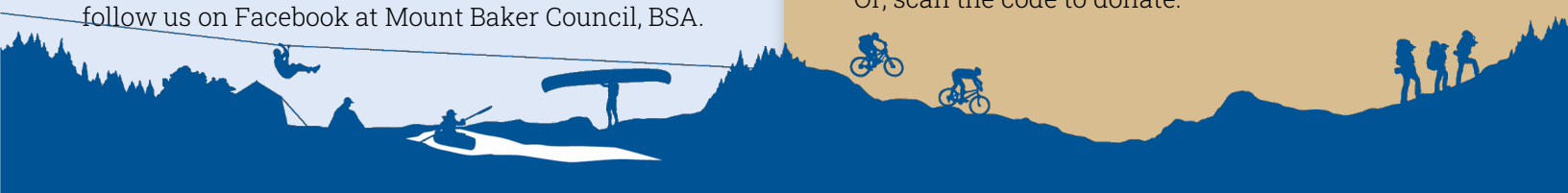
Buy popcorn. Volunteer. Donate once. Support Fire Mountain Scout Camp. Donate monthly. Become a leader. Become a legacy donor. Join a committee.

Or, for a limited time only, one-time donations of \$500 to the James E. West Endowment Fund will be matched. That's right! Double your donation.

Explore the many options at www.mountbakerbsa.org/giving.

Or, scan the code to donate.

Scan code to donate.



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