

Steve Antoline

Giving back to support Scouting and conservation.

The seed of Steve Antoline's support for Scouting was planted when he volunteered to lead a 2013 community service project in Nicholas County, WVa. The project involved working with 2,800 Scouts and leaders — 70 busloads — on 34 projects across the county that included clearing trails, restoring old cemeteries, and refurbishing cabins and other buildings in local parks.

During the planning phase, Antoline didn't know exactly what to expect, except that he would be working with 12- to 18-year-olds from across the country, as well as many local volunteers. He was pleasantly surprised when the Scouts turned out to be significantly more mature, focused and responsible than he'd anticipated. And that episode was a central factor in his decision to further help the organization. "In a word, these Scouts pretty much taught me to support and be involved with Scouts," he says.

The Scouts, each of whom was required to donate a day of community service as part of his experience at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, accomplished a great deal, Antoline reports. And they also impressed him with their manners.

"I watched these 70 busloads of Scouts come and go, and I can pretty much unequivocally state that there was not one Scout that didn't know what he was there for," Antoline says. "It was obvious that these young men were well-trained and taught to have a work ethic and be extremely polite in the process," he recalls.

Antoline's prior exposure to Scouting included being a Cub Scout in Arthurdale, WVa., where he grew up. The town was too small to support a Boy Scout troop, though, so Cub Scouts was the extent of his youthful Scouting experience. As an adult, Antoline worked much of his career in the coal industry and later started his own company selling mining equipment.

Antoline has always been concerned with land conservation, and this ongoing land-management philosophy resulted in his Nicholas County property being named the West Virginia Tree Farm of the Year in 2014. He and his wife, Jamie, are involved as community leaders; today, Jamie serves as president of the local county park board.

But Antoline didn't actively consider getting involved with Scouting again until the 2013 community service project. The project,

involving nine West Virginia counties, impressed him so much that he began to explore other ways to be involved with Scouting.

As one part of that support, Antoline's properties supplied a large quantity of lumber to build structures at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Additionally, he provided financial support for the development of the Steven A. Antoline Conservation Center at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. That support is a manifesta-

tion of his deep desire to promote conservation.

"We have to develop our natural resources in this country, but we need to do so responsibly," he says. "And I personally feel that can absolutely be accomplished with the right training and the right leadership. We can develop our natural resources and provide jobs and do that in a manner that is friendly to our environment. My hope is that the conservation center will demonstrate that and be a learning tool for Scouts."

He encourages others to get involved with Scouting, as well as other community-oriented initiatives. "Some people say you can't save the world, but I feel differently about that," Antoline says. "I think that everybody can make a difference in their community. Adjoining communities will see that and, suddenly, you've changed the country. If everybody does a small part, we can make a difference in a positive way."

Antoline intends to keep putting his energy into con-

Antoline visits with Scouts from Troop 75 of the Buckskin Council at the groundbreaking of the J.W. & Hazel Ruby West Virginia Welcome Center at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

servation, community service, giving back and Scouting. His support of Scouting, in particular, connects to what he learned from the Scouts he encountered during that community service project. "They were giving back, and that's so important," he says. "I feel that we have to give back. I'm definitely very passionate about it. It's part of my legacy."



West Virginians Jamie and Steve Antoline focus their philanthropic efforts on conservation and community service in their home state. This includes giving back to the Summit Bechtel Reserve, where they support the development of the Steven A. Antoline Conservation Center.

WHY WE GIVE

FOR STEVE AND JAMIE ANTOLINE, any support they provide Scouting is support they are providing to the causes they care most about, including America, America's youth and America's natural environment. Jamie, who serves as president of the local county park board, commends the way Scouting encourages appreciation of

To teach a respect for the outdoors

nature. "They teach a lot about the outdoors and respecting the environment, all of which we're interested in," she says. Both Antolines like Scouting's core values and leadership training. "I feel that it's a critical time in the path of our country," Steve says. "We need to invest in our future leaders. Scouting is working

with these youths and teaching them ethics and standards that hopefully one day will develop in the future leaders of our country."



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