

Norm Augustine

From C-47s to Headhunters, A Scouting Life



During World War II, a group of Cub Scouts visited Lowry Field, a U.S. Army Air Force Base near Denver, to take a ride in a C-47 “Gooney Bird” cargo plane. One of those Cub Scouts was Norman Augustine.

“It was my first flight in an airplane,” recalls Augustine. “They gave each of us a parachute, but they didn’t tell us how to use it. That was very memorable to a Cub Scout.”

The memory of that first flight stayed with Augustine as he went on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees in aeronautical engineering from Princeton University and ultimately become one of the most influential leaders in the aerospace industry. As president, chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corp. during the mid-1990s, Augustine presided over a global leader in aeronautics, information technology and space. He advised presidents and oversaw a huge workforce.

As a Scout, Augustine progressed through Cub Scouts and earned the Eagle Scout Award. As an adult, he held local and national leadership positions and ultimately served as national president of the Boy Scouts of America. Through it all, he

has remained a member in good standing.

“I’ve paid my dues each year since I was a Cub Scout,” he says. “I’ve paid my dues 72 years now.”

Perhaps the most striking feature of Augustine’s engagement with Scouting is the time he has invested. As a Cub Scout and Boy Scout, he enthusiastically participated in camping, backpacking and other outdoor pursuits, and eagerly earned merit badges. The friends he made as a Scout attending summer camp and participating in various Scouting activities, he says, are still his friends seven decades later.

The adult Augustine has served Scouting in many leadership roles. Most enjoyable for him, he says, was a stint as head of the high-adventure committee. “It gave you an opportunity to visit all the bases and be with the boys,” he says. “The thing I enjoyed the most was being around the Scouts.”

Among his greatest pleasures was spending time with his son, an Eagle Scout who has since passed away, on great outdoor Scouting adventures. The same, he says, is true with one of his grandsons, who just became an Eagle Scout.

“My son and I camped

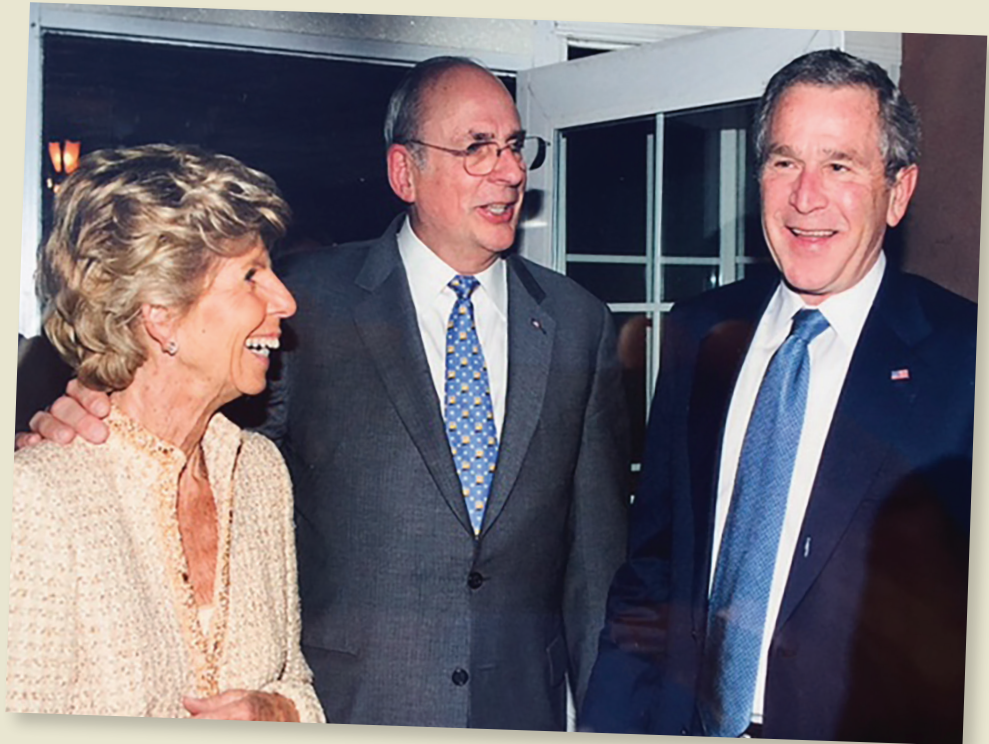


Norm Augustine, former president, chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corp., credits Scouting for teaching him important leadership values, as well as his desire to explore the world, such as the Great Wall of China, with his family (above).

together a lot, rafted the Grand Canyon, dogsledded, went to the North Pole and to Antarctica together,” he says. “Adventurous things became a part of our life, and that continues as a part of my life today.”

Given his adventurous lifestyle, Augustine’s early Scouting experience comes in handy. He has visited more than 100 countries. A couple of years ago, he and his wife, Meg, were in New Guinea on foot in a wild area where headhunters were not long ago a threat. “Somehow our guides lost us,” he says.

Remembering his early training as a Scout, he



stopped and carefully considered the situation, scanning the ground for footprints indicating the direction the guides had gone. Eventually, he and his wife found their way back to camp. A short time later, another traveler in the area had a fatal encounter

with natives. But what really stuck in his mind was how his youthful exposure to Scouting served him so well.

“Those were things I learned in Scouting 70 years ago,” Augustine marvels. “And it had an impact on the other side of our lives.”

Augustine and his wife, Meg, helped influence American politics — shown here with George W. Bush — yet the couple's focus remains on giving back to America's youth through Scouting.

WHY WE GIVE

Because Scouting instills priceless values

FOR NORM AUGUSTINE, supporting Scouting is primarily a way to give back. He credits the adult leadership, friendship of other Scouts, program values and opportunity to develop his own leadership skills with helping him progress from Colorado Cub Scout to Princeton University graduate and then CEO at Lockheed Martin. As an adult, he has worked to give similar opportunities to others.

While a significant financial supporter of Scouting, Augustine’s contribution of time, energy and talent is what truly marks him as special. He notes that anyone, regardless of financial means, can help Scouts by becoming involved.

“You can devote as little time or as much time as you want,” he says. “It’s not how much time or money you are able to provide. It’s the quality of the time and the

fact that you care enough to give.”

In appreciation of his generosity to Scouting, the Norman R. Augustine Twelve Points Ceremonial Plaza resides within the Scott Summit Center at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. The plaza extends out into Goodrich Lake and serves as a place for daily flag-raising ceremonies, awards ceremonies and presentations.

Augustine says he would not characterize his involvement with Scouting as entirely selfless; he has enjoyed and profited from it in many ways. For example, he recalls being deeply impressed with the way Scouts from around the globe — including those hailing from countries that were otherwise at odds — readily put aside any differences and got along at jamborees and other gatherings.

“How inspiring that was and what a great example for adults,” he says.

He also sees in Scouting a matchless vehicle for inculcating timeless and priceless values in each successive generation of youth. “Scouting is about values,” he says. “The idea is not merely to learn how to build a fire by rubbing sticks together.”

Tying it all together is a deep desire to provide today’s youth with a chance to build leadership skills, develop lifelong friendships and have fun, just as he did in that C-47 during World War II. “There are probably lots of kids out there today like I was long ago,” he says. “Maybe I could do something that makes a difference for them.”



LEARN MORE about the BSA National Foundation at bsafoundation.org