

John Tickle

Prepared to save a life, he's now ready to train others.



In 2011, John Tickle was playing in a North Carolina golf tournament when he saw a man lying on the ground at a nearby green. Decades earlier, as a young Scout, Tickle had learned what was then called “artificial respiration.” He had recently taken an online course to update his certification in CPR and drove his cart over to see if he could help.

“There were 20 or 30 people standing around by then, and nobody knew CPR,” Tickle says. “So I started giving him CPR.”

“I could see him moving his eyes a little,” he says. “Through my training, I knew if I was getting oxygen to his brain, that could help.” Tickle, then 69, continued compressions for an exhausting half-hour before emergency crews arrived and transported the patient to a hospital. There, the man eventually made a complete recovery from a major heart attack.

For his lifesaving intervention, Tickle received the Heroism Award from the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America in 2012. He received the award in a ceremony at Camp Davy Crockett, a Scouting facility in Whitesburg, Tenn. The

man whose life he saved presented the award. Tickle says he still sees the man occasionally. “Every time I run into him, he hugs me, his wife hugs me and his son hugs me,” Tickle says. “It was a really rewarding experience for both of us.”

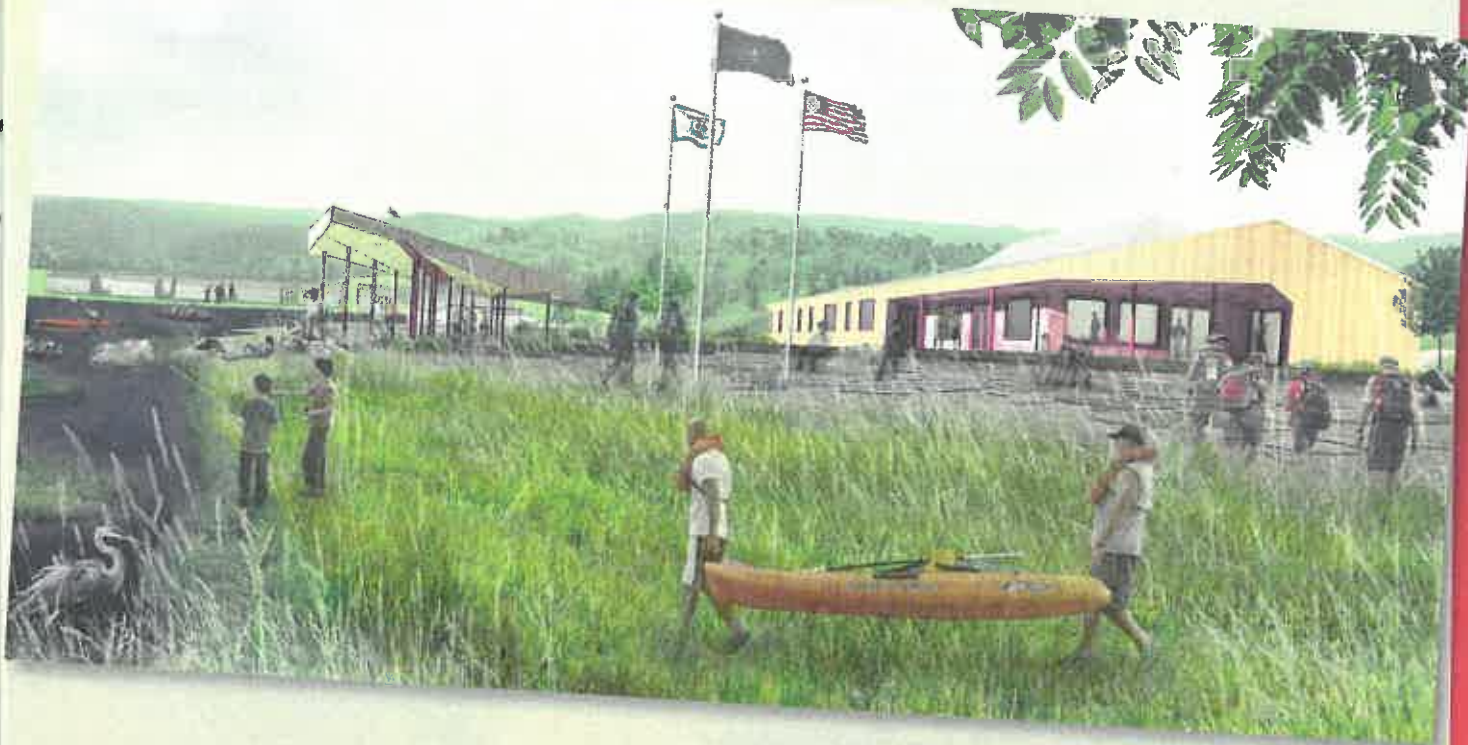
Tickle, the chairman of the Bristol, Va., Strongwell Corp. — the world’s largest producer of fiber-reinforced plastics — credits his long-ago Scout instruction with providing him the skill to save a life. “I feel my Scout training really paid off,” Tickle says.

Tickle was first exposed to Scouting as a Cub Scout and, after Webelos, became a member of Bristol’s Troop 8. The quality of the adult Scouters made a strong impression on him. “I had great leaders,” he says. “My Scout leader picked me up and took me to meetings and spent a lot of time with us.” Tickle also appreciates the way Scouting provided opportunities for activities, such as summer camp, that helped occupy his attention and provide rewards.

The young Scout responded to his leaders’ interest and the fun of Scouting by diving into the program with



John Tickle meets with Scouting supporters at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, including former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice (left) and Dr. Robert M. Gates, past president of the Boy Scouts of America and former U.S. Secretary of Defense.



energy. He earned his Eagle Scout Award at age 14.

As an adult, he returned to the movement and began contributing his time, energy and fundraising abilities to the Boy Scouts of America and the Sequoyah Council. He has made his mark in a variety of significant ways. He's served as chairman and executive board member of Tennessee's Sequoyah Council, received the Silver Beaver Award, supported

the creation of the Composite Materials merit badge and was honored as a Distinguished Eagle Scout. In 2016, the BSA awarded Tickle with the organization's top honor, the Silver Buffalo Award.

Tickle's company contributed to building the CONSOL Energy Bridge at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, and he has personally supported the development of the John D. Tickle, Sr. National

Training and Leadership Center at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. The Tickle center, one of three facilities that are part of the Thomas S. Monson Leadership Excellence Complex, will be the primary source for training in traditional skills of Scouting, including Wood Badge and the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience.

Tickle's career as a business executive and entrepreneur has

An artist's rendering shows the design of the John D. Tickle, Sr. National Training and Leadership Center at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

demanding plenty of ability in leadership. It's a skill he began honing in — where else — Scouting. "We were put in leadership positions in the troop and at camp," he says. "That was my first experience at leadership, and I got a good basis of leadership in the Scouts."

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JOHN TICKLE SAYS the lifesaving technique he learned as a young Scout taking an artificial respiration course was just one of many worthwhile skills he acquired from Scouting. The value of that early training is something his wife, Ann, hears about frequently. "My wife would always ask me to do something, and then she'd say, 'Where did you learn to do that?'" Tickle says. "I'd always say, 'I learned it in the Boy Scouts.'"

Tickle retains his interest in supporting Scouting, in large part, because he wants

today's boys to have similar opportunities to learn useful life skills. He is interested in teaching youth the basic principles of Scouting, in particular the Scout Law and the Scout Oath.

"I try to lead my life by the Scout Law," Tickle says. "It's similar to the Ten Commandments in the Bible. And I pride myself in always trying to be prepared. I'm trying to help the young, both young men and women, to learn about integrity and the other Scout laws and to be prepared for life."

The Tickle's support a variety of local and national causes, including education and health, but youth-oriented initiatives are particularly prominent in their charitable interests. And there's no doubt that Scouting is one of Tickle's special passions. "I think they have a wonderful program and mission that I'm completely sold on," he says.



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