

Terry & Peggy Dunn

Exemplifying servant leadership in their mission to serve Scouting.



GARY ROHMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Today, Terry Dunn serves on the Boy Scouts of America's National Executive Committee as vice president of council operations. The Dunn Family Staff Base Camp at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve was named to recognize the support he and his wife, Peggy, have given to Scouting. The Heart of America Council in Kansas City, Mo., awarded Dunn the Silver Beaver Award, the Central Region bestowed on him the Silver Antelope Award and the national council awarded him with its highest achievement, the Silver Buffalo Award, in 2003.

But it wasn't always like that. Dunn's tenure as a Boy Scout at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Roeland Park, Kan., did little to hint at his future accomplishments. The way he tells the story, he got through Cub Scouts OK, but hit a snag at summer camp as a Tenderfoot.

"The first night I was in camp, a copperhead was killed down by the latrine," Dunn recalls. "I attended camp for a week, didn't use the restroom, and went home and told my dad, 'I don't think I'm cut out for Scouting!'"

Fortunately for Scouting, Dunn didn't let the experience keep him out of the movement forever. He became involved as an adult in the troop his three sons joined. "That's when I really experienced the true meaning of the Boy Scouts and how it changes lives," he says. He was invited to serve on the board of the council, and from there he made his way into national positions.

For Dunn, the benefits of being a Scouter compensate for any youthful aversion to venomous reptiles. "I believe there is a personal responsibility that each of us has to lead and to try to provide meaning in your life for not only oneself but others," he explains. Scouting, he says, not only prepares a youth to

do that, but it also encourages him to be active in his community and religion.

The servant approach consistently characterizes Dunn's involvement with Scouting. For instance, he and Peggy decided that supporting the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve was such an appealing opportunity that they made a contribution. Although the Dunn Family Staff Base Camp was named for the family's support, they weren't motivated by a desire for recognition. "It was something we wanted to do," Dunn says. "The fact that they named something for us was not important."

When describing the appeal of Scouting for Americans, Dunn invokes Alexis de Tocqueville's description of America as a country of individuals who care for others and strive to make a difference in their lives. "I think that's very much at the core of what the Boy Scouts of America is about," he says. "They are in the busi-



ROGER MORGAN/BSA FILE

ness of preparing young lives to be leaders and outstanding servants for others?"

For Dunn, that's about all he needs to know to determine whether Scouting deserves his support. "When somebody says, 'What's

important in my life and where do I want to commit resources, and where can my giving make a difference in the lives of others?' I think certainly the Boy Scouts of America is, if not at the top, close to the top."

The Duns' philanthropic efforts have been celebrated with numerous awards, including the Silver Buffalo Award bestowed on Terry at the BSA's 2003 National Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (above). Terry's wife, Peggy, was awarded the Silver Beaver Award in 2007 for her work in the Heart of America Council.

WHY WE GIVE

To build leaders and shape them for the future.


City council meetings in Leawood, Kan., always begin with a color guard of Boy Scouts presenting the American flag and leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. "It sets a wonderful tone of allegiance and respect and reminds us we are all there to serve," says Peggy J. Dunn, mayor of the town of 32,000 southwest of Kansas City, Mo.

Peggy and her husband, Terry, know Scouting as well as anyone. Terry has served on the board of the local Heart of America Council for many years and is also a longtime national Scouting leader. All three of their sons advanced through Scouting, two of them all the way to Eagle.

The Duns' support of Scouting is founded on an abiding appreciation of what it does for young Americans. "We are true fans and admirers of the leadership training that the Scouting program provides youth today," Peggy says. "We don't think there's a finer program to build our leaders and shape them for the future."

The couple reaps significant personal benefit from associating with other Scouters, Peggy adds. "We have really enjoyed the people at the national level," she says. "For years we've been attending the annual meetings and made lifelong friends."

As the president and CEO of a large Kansas City construction business that builds major projects all over the country, Terry knows the value of strength and longevity. And to him, the fact that Scouting has been around for more than 100 years, filling countless major organization leadership positions with Scouts along the way, makes the decision to give an easy one. "I firmly believe," he says, "that the Boy Scouts of America is the best youth development organization in the country."

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KATHY DISNEY

Terry and Peggy Dunn first learned of Scouting's value as their three sons rose through the ranks, two of whom advanced to Eagle. Now, they work to help more youth experience Scouting — whether it's by supporting local Scouts in Kansas City's Heart of America Council or at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., where Terry (second from left) spent time during the 2010 jamboree.