

Todd & Susan Johnson



Their son's time in Scouting revealed our movement's true power.

It was their son's experience with Scouting that turned Todd and Susan Johnson into supporters of the Boy Scouts of America. Todd was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout growing up, but his son Matthew's trail to Eagle made the biggest impression.

"We didn't start out planning for our son to become an Eagle Scout," he says. "We just enjoyed the Scouting journey together. One year after another we kept following the program, and Matthew was able to keep rising through the ranks."

Their son's journey showed Todd and Susan

what an enormous impact the program has on developing youth. In fact, they describe Matthew's experience at the 2005 National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., as having a positive impact on his life.

"He was a boy who went to the Jamboree and came home a young man," Todd says. "There was quite a difference, because he had such a powerful Scouting experience."

The 2005 Jamboree made an impression on the entire family, and it's one reason they support the BSA today.

Todd, Susan and daughter Hilary visited Matthew during

the Jamboree and were impressed by his enthusiasm and the range of the activities offered.

"Matthew was just on fire with excitement," Todd says. "There were all kinds of activities going on — rappelling, shooting, archery; the president was flying in on his helicopter. Matthew was just very excited and embraced the whole experience."

Todd is Chairman and CEO of Capstan Corporation in Duluth, Minn., a diversified business focusing on construction, shipyards, real estate and banking. As an employer in need of qualified candidates, he knows the value of a Scouting background in a potential employee.

"If I see 'Eagle Scout' on a résumé, those guys get a hard look for the opportunity that's open in our company, because I know the standards they live by and I know what I can count on," he says. "You can always trust a Scout."

Trust and integrity are important to Todd. He credits this to his family and growing up in Superior, Wis.

"I'm the third generation to run our family business, and our family always lived the values of the Scouting program," he says. "We live in

a small town, and people look to us to be business and community leaders of integrity. We've always built our business and personal lives around doing the right thing."

Todd and Susan believe Scouting shares the values so important to their family.

"The Scout Oath and Scout Law are sincere measures of an individual trying to be the best person they can be in the difficult world we live in," he says.

Todd and Susan recognize Scouting also offers young people unique opportunities.

"Kids can go to public schools or they can go to private schools, but the lessons they learn and the experiences they have in Scouting won't be replicated anywhere else," he says.

"Where else will youth get to shoot a gun or climb a rope or shoot a bow and arrow or make a Pinewood Derby car? Many Scouting opportunities are not offered in schools, and they're not experienced at home."

Todd says Scouting gave Matthew the chance to earn badges, achieve recognition and have exceptional experiences.

That's important because "I wouldn't have sat him down on a Tuesday night on my own and said, 'Now I'm going to teach you how to tie a square knot,'" Todd says. "Yet today he has a host of skills that he learned

through Scouting. We are very pleased with the lessons he learned, the skills he mastered and the learning opportunities he will carry forward for a lifetime."

Todd and Susan want more young people to experience the Scouting program and learn the lessons that it teaches.

"It's important to us that our youth have a high-quality and safe venue to experience new things, challenge themselves to be better than they are, learn to get along with others, develop life skills and enjoy new adventures together

that generate lifelong memories," he says.

The couple has strategically selected philanthropic opportunities that allow them to give back in a meaningful, positive way. When Todd had the chance to visit the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve for the first time, he thought it was a good fit with the family's philanthropic aims.

"Susan and I had been searching for a long time — looking for places where we could invest our dollars to

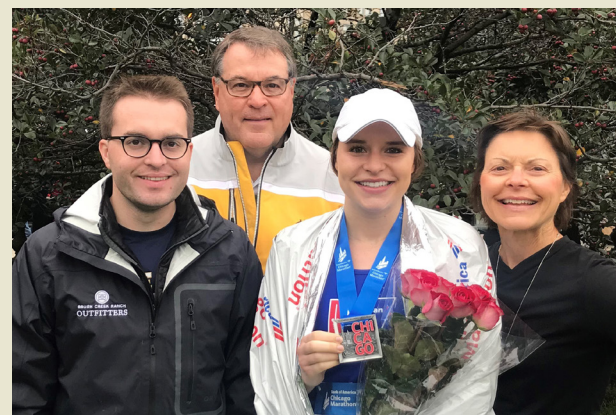


do the most good and have a long-term impact," he says. "When I visited the Summit Bechtel Reserve, I was in awe. It's an incredible facility with awesome capabilities, but it was missing a few critical pieces."

Todd remembers saying to Susan, "We could buy into this. This could be exactly what we're looking for."

The possibility of providing facilities that would be used by staff and adult volunteers was one aspect of giving to the Summit Bechtel Reserve that really appealed to Todd and Susan. They know that volunteers make it possible for the Scouting

program to operate and for youth to gain priceless life skills, values and experiences. Todd and Susan funded The Fork in the Road Diner and Eagles Nest Lodge at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, which are opening in time for the 2019 World Scout Jamboree. The venues will provide year-round lodging for up to 200 people at a time and meals for 500 per shift.



WHY WE GIVE

To motivate philanthropy in others

SEEING THEIR NAME on the side of a building isn't a motivating factor for Todd and Susan Johnson. What does interest the couple is sharing their blessings and providing leadership with their philanthropy.

"We have been blessed and feel a responsibility to share and bless others," Todd says.

Todd and Susan believe in setting an example and inspiring others to give. They use their philanthropy as a tool to encour-

age generosity in others.

"I'd like to make sure that other people who have been blessed as we have been are motivated to give," he says.

It's also important to the couple to give during their lifetimes.

"I'm 60 years old, and I'm giving while I'm alive," Todd says. "I'm not leaving a note on the counter when I check out of this world and putting that responsibility

on my wife and my kids."

Todd and Susan hope they can inspire others to follow their family's example.

"We're providing leadership to other people in our situation. To motivate them to give while they are still engaged and active, and see an opportunity that is meaningful for them," Todd says. "Don't leave your philanthropy to someone else to take care of after you're gone."