## **Robert Murray**





Jonathan, Robert, Brenda, Bob and Ryan Murray. All three Murray sons were involved in Scouting, and Ryan earned the Eagle rank. Ryan is now president of the Ohio River Valley Council.

## Delivering the challenge and promise of Scouting

hen Robert Murray looks back on his many years of involvement with Scouting, some of his favorite moments were those of high adventure. There was, for instance, the time the former assistant Scoutmaster led his troop on a Lake Huron canoe trip featuring waves up to 5 feet high.

"It was very rugged — very high adventure," Murray says.

He also recalls with relish the time he dived into Flower Pot Bay near the French River in Ontario to portage the troop's canoes.

"When I came up, my body was totally covered with leeches," he says. "It was a great experience."

As an underground coal miner who rose to head the industry's largest underground coal mine company, Murray embraces challenges and does not fear adversity.

Today, he's CEO of Murray Energy Corporation, and his support of Scouting will make possible the Robert E. Murray Leadership Ridge at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

Murray is contributing engineering and construction manpower and equipment resources from Murray Energy to build the Ridge's essential roads, utilities and other infrastructure. Encompassing a variety of components, including the J.W. Marriott, Jr. Leadership Center, the Ridge will be the home of the world's foremost youth leadership training center as part of the Thomas S. Monson Leadership Excellence Complex.

Murray is joined in his appreciation of Scouting by his wife, Brenda, and sons, Robert, Jonathan and Ryan. All three of his sons were active in Scouting as boys, and Ryan, who achieved Eagle rank, is now president of the Ohio River Valley Council.

Murray's first experience with Scouting was as a Boy Scout in the local troop in Bethesda, Ohio. It was there he learned great value in the outdoors experiences and, more important, in the leadership and character development materials to which Scouting exposed him.

"What I saw back then was an opportunity to grow and learn things as a boy that I could not have otherwise in that small town," Murray says.

Another thing he saw clearly was the movement's need for stable adult leadership so Scouting could achieve its promise of developing youth.

In addition to a lengthy stint as assistant Scoutmaster and serving in the Greater Cleveland Council, Murray was Vice President-District Operations of the Northern Lights Council extending across North Dakota from eastern Montana to central Minnesota. He has been active in helping to financially support his local Ohio River Valley Council, both through his personal donations and by encouraging his company's vendors and partners to lend a hand.

As recently as summer 2017, he participated in the now-annual Partnership fundraising dinner, which generated more than \$600,000 for the once-struggling, but now financially healthy, Ohio River Valley Council. He has also committed more than \$1 million of personal funding to the council.

Murray is particularly attracted by the idea that



the leadership center will be open year-round at Summit Bechtel Reserve and will offer Scouting an opportunity to generate funds for the movement by offering leadership seminars and programs.

Reminiscing about how

he got involved with Summit Bechtel Reserve, Murray sounds like just the kind of determined and resourceful person you would want leading the troop in challenging circumstances.

"I just decided I wanted to

The Robert E. Murray Leadership Ridge, currently under development at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, will offer year-round leadership seminars and programs.

be a part of it," he says, "and we found a way to make it happen."

## WHY WE GIVE

## Because today's youth will shape America's future

**FOR ROBERT MURRAY** and his family, supporting Scouting is equal to supporting youth, leadership, character and the United States of America.

"What I see in Scouting today is character-building," he says. "I think it's a very valuable program for grounding young men and now women in shaping their characters for their lives ahead of them."

Murray, who in his career in coal mining has overseen tens of thousands of employees, says having achieved the rank of Eagle Scout is a reliable indicator of a quality worker.

"If somebody's an Eagle Scout, I pay particular attention to them," he says. "I haven't seen a time yet when someone who advanced to the Eagle rank in Scouting didn't turn out to be one of our best employees, and I've watched that very carefully."

The Murray family's vision for the Robert E. Murray Leadership Ridge is more sweeping.

"I'm looking for a better United States

of America," Murray says. "And the future of our country and the world is in our young people.

"We need to get young people developed to lead this country," Murray continues. "The Scouting movement will help us develop the very best leadership for America as the leader of the world. That's my ultimate goal here."

