

David Alexander

Whether in magic, business or triathlons, Scouting's values endure.



David Alexander liked his first exposure to Cub Scouting well enough. But only after he started going on overnight adventures as a member of Troop 113 in Long Beach, Calif., did his lifelong love of the movement begin to flourish.

"Cub Scouts was OK," Alexander says. "But it wasn't until I got the experiences of Webelos and Boy Scouts that I thought, 'This is really cool!'"

Alexander says a big part of what made his Scouting experience so great was his Scoutmaster. A former lumberjack who'd learned his Scouting knowledge while making a living, Oran Dyer inspired an almost mystical devotion among the boys of Troop 113.

"He spoke very softly and never raised his voice," Alexander says. "But we were afraid to make him unhappy. If he looked at you crosswise, you shuddered. Out of respect, we loved him to death."

In addition to taking to the outdoor adventure aspect of Scouting, Alexander found a natural affinity for the competitive part of the experience. That included fulfilling the requirements to climb up the ranks and earning the chance to serve as a leader.

"I've always been one to take on competition," Alexander says. "And I wanted to be the senior patrol leader. I like to be in charge with everything I do."

When troop leaders offered the senior patrol leader job to the first Scout to earn Life rank, Alexander was well up for the challenge. After earning Life and serving as the troop's top youth leader, he went on to complete requirements for the Eagle Scout rank before his 14th birthday.

Even while pursuing his Scouting accomplishments, Alexander was studying the art of performing magic. Taking on the challenge with his characteristic passion, he rapidly developed his skills of legerdemain. As a teen, he was already a renowned magician, instructing other sleight-of-hand artists. At one point, he was named the best card magician by the Society of American Magicians for close-up card magic. He performed as a professional magician and entertained magicians at the renowned Magic Castle in Hollywood.

Almost since birth, Alexander has been a salesman and businessman. At age 9, he started earning money performing magic, entertaining in Hollywood, and pursuing other productive and rewarding ventures. In 1982, he



David Alexander, an Eagle Scout, credits Scouting for motivating him to face challenges, especially physical fitness competitions like triathlons. Alexander helped establish 27 miles of mountain biking trails at the Summit Bechtel Reserve's Low Gear course.

founded a business that became Phoenix-based Caljet of America LLC, which receives petroleum products, blends fuel, and loads about 600 tanker trucks per day for delivery to retail stations and commercial fueling facilities. Today, Caljet tankage is more than 1 million barrels of storage — the largest independent facility of its kind in the Southwest.

Another of Alexander's accomplishments is in athletics. He has completed an astonishing 287 triathlons in 37 countries — at last count, anyway. By the time you read this, the indefatigable Alexander will likely have finished another one or more of these arduous swim-bike-run competitions. During a single year, he stroked, pedaled and stepped through 38 races, and completed 30 triathlons in 30 weeks in a row.

Considering his outstanding record as a triathlete competing in many of the



sport's most exotic and storied events, Alexander is refreshingly modest. And he is at least as appreciative of what he's learned encountering so many different cultures as he is of piling up participation medals.

"I started out short, fat and bald, and I'm still short, fat and bald," he says. "But I've had a lot of experiences and made a lot of friends all over the world."

Through all of this, his early formative experience in Scouting has remained not only relevant, but also paramount.

"I live my life by the Scout Law," Alexander says.

When he says that, he's talking about his business life, his personal life and his life as a servant to the causes that are important to him. And he means it. Alexander has prepared an annotated version of the 12 points of the Scout Law

Tridave Lake at SBR is named in honor of Alexander's passion for the sport of triathlon. The businessman has participated in nearly 300 triathlons across the globe.

and what each means to him.

Alexander's adoption of the Scout Law as a fundamental guide to right behavior is a striking example of how Scouting's values can do good — even decades after a young man enters adulthood and ends active involvement with the movement.

WHY I GIVE

Because Scouting helps young people go the extra mile.

ALEXANDER SAYS HE began to realize how important Scouting had been for his development as an adult while he was working on the manuscript for his autobiography. Over and over, the growing manuscript referenced Scouting. "It's such a great program," Alexander says. He became determined to do what he could to help other young people have the opportunity for experiences similar to his own as a Scout.

Even with his business, sports activities and engagement with many other worthy causes, Alexander finds time and resources to support Scouting. For example, he recently made a significant gift to extend his vision and legacy at The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia, where venues and events, including Tridave Lake, The Caljet Way, Dave Alexander Low Gear and the Alexander Triathlon, were named in his honor.

More than anything, Alexander would like to encourage young people to show up, to compete and to do their best to be their best, whether in Scouting, business, sport or personal relationships.

"It's all about participation in life," he says.



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