

The High Point Scout

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ANNOUNCEMENT

TROOP THREE.

The High Point Scout, Troop Three, makes its initial bow, makes its bid for the attention of the public. It is a modest little sheet. It is an infant yet, and has hardly learned to walk. But it hopes to be well received. The idea did not originate with the scout master, but with the boys of the troop. We must say for them, too, that they are a "live" set of boys. They are real boys. They are boys of courage and ambition. And, best of all, they are clean, upright boys with high ideals. Since I have been identified with them, I have studied them, and I think I know them. There is not one of them but has the right stuff in him. Furthermore, they thoroughly believe in the scout work. They believe the scout work furnishes them an outlet of expression for the thing that is in them, and that its ideals and its work will help them to become what they want to be.

It is an unfortunate fact that there are some parents who are not in full sympathy with the scout work. That must come from one of two reasons or both. They do not understand the scout work, or else they do not understand the boy. The nature of the boy is not that of the man. His energies and interests must find expression. They cannot be suppressed, if he is to grow naturally and develop broadly. What a boy needs is not repression, but expression under proper direction. The scout work offers that which appeals to the boy instinct and nature and directs it in proper channels. It is wholesome; it is clean, it is disciplinary without being irksome. It offers an education in things that are both useful and interesting to the boy. It takes him out of doors. It offers the association a boy must have, and sees that this is safe and clean. The hikes, the camping parties, the tests they must stand, the things they must learn, to become first class scouts, are not a waste of time. They are the best thing a boy can do at the age he does it.

There are a few needs I would like briefly to point out.

First, more interest and sympathy on the part of the parents in boy life

and activity. Encourage your boy in the scout work. It is to your advantage, if you have a boy, and will assist you more than anything in that boy problem you have on your hands.

Second. There should be more community interest. This has never been general. There are certain gentlemen who understand and who are ever ready to help the boys. Some of them do not have boys of their own. But the community sympathy does not seem to be as real now as it was. There is a reason. This leads me to the third need, namely, more men who are interested enough to be scout masters. There is a woeful lack of leadership. I dare to make the suggestion that there ought to be some good material in some of the clean, high-minded soldiers for scout masters. The most important qualification is of course character. Next to that is a knowledge of and sympathy with boys. The soldier of right character and sympathy has something that is tremendously interesting to the boy. This organization is in no way military, but the soldier would find in the scout work something to interest him, that would be a help to him. Also he can greatly benefit the boy.

Fourth. We need a permanent meeting place, headquarters for the scouts. We can find none for which the scouts are able to pay the price. It seems to me that the scouts ought to be able, at a small cost, to obtain a place which they could call their own, and hold their meetings there and have all their work center around it.

I should be glad if some one who happens to read these lines should assist us in finding a solution for our problems. I furthermore commend to you Troop Number Three. They are fine boys. Most of them, if not all of them, work. Most of them go to school, too. Some of them are going to be heard from some day. Give them your sympathy in their efforts.

C. P. COBLE.

APPRECIATED.

We are appreciative of the courtesies extended us by the business houses of High Point, who have made this paper possible through their patronage.