



Sparky Shines

Folk, gospel, blues singer and raconteur Sparky Rucker presented a concert last Saturday at Emmanuel Baptist Church. Rucker, a native of Knoxville, Tenn., has spent the last 15 years traveling the world, participating in school education workshops, music clubs and festivals. He appeared at Emmanuel Baptist as part of their Black History Month celebration.

Photo by Charmaine Delaverson

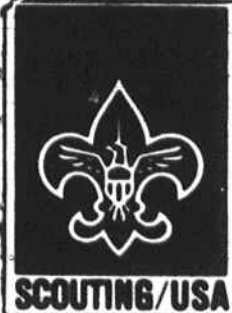
Understanding the Boy Scout program

When parents first sign their son up in the Boy Scout Program they often view it as an activity with camping and outdoor adventure, without understanding the purpose of the program.

In Boy Scouts, there is a beginning and an end. Similar to ranking in the Armed Forces, a boys' rank in scouting tells how he has progressed and the knowledge he has acquired in the program. Eagle Scout is the highest rank, and it shows that a young man has determination, the skill to learn and leadership qualities.

When a young man reaches the Eagle rank, he has proven that he has what it takes to be successful in all his endeavors. This is an excellent credential to list on employment applications and resumes. Just ask any employer if two applicants applied for a position with equal qualifications and one was an Eagle Scout, which would he choose.

Certainly, we can't expect children to view scouting in this vein, but as adults we must educate our children to this hard fact: Every feather in one's cap could be the difference between hearing yes or no on a job



Scouting In Forsyth County

by Carlton Crump
District Executive



interview.

Scouting has touched thousands of lives and could quite often become a "playing card" in the job hunting process.

To help you understand the trail to Eagle and the role parents play, the following is a list of rank and requirements your son should achieve in scouting:

1. Joining requirements -- Be 11 years old and understand the scout oath, law, motto, slogan and outdoor code. Know the scout sign, salute, and handshake.

2. Tenderfoot rank requirements -- Be active in the troop for at least two months. Repeat from memory the scout oath and law and demonstrate those ideals have been practiced in everyday life. Earn citizenship and one other skill award.

3. Second class requirements -- Be active in the troop for at least two months as a tenderfoot scout. Earn hiking, first aid and one other skill award so that he has earned five skill awards in all.

4. First class requirements -- Be active in the troop for at least two months as a second class scout. Earn camping, cooking and one other skill award so that he has earned eight in all. Earn first aid merit badge. Learn to swim safely.

5. Star rank requirements -- Be active in the troop for at least two

months as a first class scout. Earn five more merit badges. Take part in community service projects totaling six hours.

6. Life rank requirements -- Be active in the troop for at least six months as a star scout. Earn five more merit badges. Take part in community service projects totaling six hours.

7. Eagle rank requirements -- Be active in troop for six months as a life scout. Earn a total of 21 merit badges. Plan and develop a community service project for his church.

If, as a parent, you notice that these things aren't going on in your son's troop, ask the scoutmaster what you can do to help. If your son is not advancing through the program, it's probably because his scoutmaster needs your help and support. The program can only be as meaningful as supportive parents make it.

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Guest Speaker

Bethlehem AME Zion Church will present a Black History Program, sponsored by the Christian Education Department, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 19. Irene P. Hairston, community leader, will be the guest speaker. She is a member of the church and serves on many boards for the city and county. The Rev. William M. Conrad is the pastor.



St. John's Laymen's Council to hold workshop

The Laymen's Council of St. John CME Church will sponsor a workshop at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.

The workshop presenters will be Albert Lester, also the keynote speaker.

The speaker is a retired educator of the South Carolina School System and is the lay leader of the annual conference of the CME Church.

Walter Solomon of Columbia,

S.C., and a former connectional lay leader, will discuss the "History of the Church."

Carrie Brailey of Charlotte will speak on parliamentary procedures. She is an assistant secretary of the Carolina CME annual conference.

Sandy Payne, the lay leader of St. John, and William Simmons, chairman of Steward Board #1, are in charge of the program.

The Rev. Ronald Davis Sr. is host pastor.

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