

Scouting

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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Any boy's own mom comes first. But after her, the gal who is likely to mean most in a Cub Scout's life is his Den Mother. Sometimes he even stops long enough to say "thank you". What better time than Mother's Day?



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Personally Speaking

Michigan
April 9, 1953

To whom it may concern:
We, the members of Troop 149, Boy Scouts of America of Michigan hereby petition the Troop Committee of our Troop and the sponsoring organization, Chamber of Commerce, to seriously think of having a scout program on a twelve (12) month basis instead of a nine (9) month basis. We feel this is necessary in order to have a more active Troop.

Jerry Kenrickson Gordon Diggins
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When Boys Speak

THE ABOVE LETTER made things happen in a Michigan town last summer. Of course the committee knew that the Scoutmaster's work took him away each summer, but it had not realized that shutting down made that much difference to the boys.

Until that boy-written letter came. Then things began to happen. Temporary leadership was found and a good summer program planned.

The boys in that little Michigan town Troop were speaking for a lot of others when they wrote that letter. Scouting was never meant to be a nine or ten month program. It's a twelve month program and many feel that the vacation months are the most precious of all.

Those who have faced squarely into this old question believe that the so-called "summer problem" is largely a mental one. Folks just assume that they have to close shop. "Our leaders will be gone." "Our boys go to summer camp." "Our boys all work." Nine times out of ten these arguments don't hold water. Leadership is available. Boys are not at camp for a long period. Boys—even working boys—have free time. And they need and want something to do. Like the boys in Michigan, they want Scouting.

Let's all take that letter to heart this summer. Anything worth doing is worth doing right. And doing Scouting right means doing it all year 'round.

Rex Lucas
Editor

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