



Rob Houts – Troop 283

Outstanding Scoutmaster

This award winner has been continuously registered in Scouting for over 50 years. Both as Scout and Scouter, he has taught more boys how to tie a bowline than Baden-Powell himself, and was Wood Badge trained way before it was the recognized gold standard.

He was a Den Leader and Cubmaster in the affiliate Pack before joining the Troop as an Assistant Scoutmaster, and three years ago signed on as Scoutmaster. The Troop had veered away from its traditional Scouting roots, was no longer boy-led and lacked a solid outdoor program. Through his efforts, the program rebounded, led by Scouts and firmly rooted in the Patrol Method, with a program of camping and high adventure second to none.

He instituted in-depth, classic hands-on leadership training for youth leaders, worked to keep older boys engaged in an active Scouting role, and pioneered two Senior Patrol Leaders for the Troop of 70 Scouts. He has been a devoted mentor to Scouts; making each boy feel special, motivating them to do their best and never just passing them along. During his term as Scoutmaster, 27 boys have earned their Eagle rank.

Aside from meetings, conferences, outings and training, he finds time to volunteer at the district level, be a self-employed contractor, youth baseball coach, volunteer firefighter and family man.

Rob Houts of Troop 283 is a real-life super hero, a great role model for young men and leaders with a keen sense of humor, and a friend to all. He is our our Outstanding Scoutmaster this year.