

THINGS I DID BECAUSE I WAS A BOY SCOUT

*cooked my own meal on a fire*took a train across the country*canoeed through rough water*filled sandbags in a flood*carried a torch through the woods*mushed a dog sled*worked with someone of a different nationality*shucked oysters*jumped in a lake*watched a thunderstorm from above*ate freeze-dried food*planned an event for 300 people*belonged to something larger than myself*traveled outside my home state*learned tolerance*served on a crew for an 84 foot top rigged gaff schooner*camped in an ice cave*set and met goals*whittled*had a hog roast*used a real research telescope*collected firewood*baked a cobbler in a dutch oven*taught younger kids*gave a presentation*learned first aid*shot a rifle and shotgun*operated a ham radio*sharpened a knife*identified edible plants*waterskied*tied a necktie*folded an American flag*used a budget*rescued someone in trouble*persevered*rowed a boat*gave service to others*learned about poison ivy*milked a goat*climbed a mountain above the clouds*made useful things from rope and logs*saved a drowning child*prepared a survival kit*sat in an arena with 40 thousand other Scouts*made friends I have kept up with for forty years*learned orienteering*took my first airplane flight*rappelled down a cliff*was introduced to wilderness survival*used the CPR I learned*tried geocaching before it was cool*demonstrated how to fix a flat tire*flew through the air on a zip line*acted as a cowboy in Wyoming*canoeed the tranquil Boundary Waters*hiked the Rockies*caught salmon in Alaska*explored caves in Kentucky*built a trebuchet*developed great respect for our service men and women*experienced safe skateboarding*visited the Pro Football Hall of Fame*rowed a boat to a victim in distress*lost a troop leadership election*elected to a leadership position*earned Personal Fitness merit badge*learned to "leave no trace" outdoors*went white water river rafting*toured a prison*learned respect for the Native American cultures*help ranger tag hibernating bears*met people outside of my family socio/economic bubble*had other people counting on ME*worked with kids who didn't look like me*took long bicycle rides*developed a desire to take on challenges*learned the hard way to always "be prepared"*discovered that I could be in miserable weather and be happy*developed compassion for the less fortunate*slept under the stars*became who I am*made a small difference*was brave when I wanted to cry*discovered duct tape can do a lot*carved an arrow out of a stick I still have*found a place to be me*learned that I can disagree without being disagreeable*participated in a national service project*placed flags on graves for Memorial Day*built a ferris wheel out of logs and rope*met the King of Sweden*learned rudimentary firefighting*sailed around the tip of Florida*fried (and ate) fish we just caught*spoke in front of 1000 people*learned from adults I didn't know*got to go scuba diving*discovered spelunking*counted tree rings with a forester*did outdoorsy stuff with my Dad*climbed the highest mountain in the lower 48 states*built a 10 foot fire*went to British Columbia*learned obscure constellations*planted a tree*planned a meeting agenda*hoisted food in a tree to keep the bears away*read a topographic map*floated down a river for days and days*kayaked past moose on the bank*mountain biked in God's country*used my first computer program*edited a newsletter*spent the night alone in the woods*dug a latrine pit*hiked 20 miles in one day*ate a prickly pear*performed a skit in front of 7000 people*helped an old lady across the street*hunted for arrowheads*built a handicap ramp*sang at a senior living center*slept in a snow hut our troop made*purified water*portaged a 75 pound canoe on ancient trails*learned to identify dozens of trees*slept on a frozen lake with a dog-sled full of supplies*led my friends to plan an event*flew on an airplane copilot seat*backpacked rim to rim at the Grand Canyon*built and balanced a budget for a \$12,000 event*was honored by my troop mates*learned to face my fears*rode a horse*packed a burro for a long trail ride*shot a bow and arrow*made fire by friction*learned about sustainability*began a lifelong path in my duty to God*found patriotism inside myself*had the joys of servant leadership revealed to me*had a ball with kids I didn't know before at summer camp*got my first business job because I was an Eagle Scout*met the President in the Oval Office*set up my own tent when I was way too tired*learned that the troop Moms could out hike us*fought through the cold to cook other people breakfast*learned things I didn't know I was learning until years later*swam one mile straight on a lake*visited the Arctic Circle*laughed with my friends and old guys around a fire*learned to inventory equipment*attended the World Jamboree in Japan*toured national battleground sites*learned from lots of mistakes because of my Scoutmaster*developed a habit of cheerfully serving others*learned how to solder plumbing together*rode on a Blackhawk helicopter*recognized that helping others helps ME even more*helped build a model railroad town*got to run red lights with the governor's police escort*held an American bald eagle*built a boat with my Scoutmaster*

I became a man