

# Christine Perry

## A Mother's Remarkable Path Through Scouting



**C**hristine Perry's personal involvement with Scouting started when her oldest son's Cub Scout pack needed a den mother. It expanded as all four of her sons entered and progressed through Scouting. And she has maintained and extended her support of Scouting even after all four boys became Eagle Scouts.

The former den mother's lifelong Scouting résumé includes multiple square knots, adult religious service, Wood Badge training, national and world jamboree staff and World Scouting camp inspection visits to Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Austria.

As recently as August, she trekked to Ljubljana, Slovenia, as a member of the BSA contingent to attend the World Scout Conference. With her husband, Wayne, a retired businessman, immediate past BSA president, and longtime national and international Scouting leader, she has also been a significant financial supporter of the movement.

Christine Perry first experienced Scouting as her four sons rose through the ranks to achieve Eagle. She has since served as a staff member at national and world jamborees — including the 2011 World Scout Jamboree in Sweden (left) — in addition to serving on the BSA contingent at the World Scout Conference in Slovenia.

Growing up with three sisters and one younger brother, Perry felt challenged when it came to raising four boys. Scouting, she says, helped her find her way. "Scouting has been a great help in raising our four sons."

For one thing, she says, Scouting helped instill worthwhile values in her boys. The promises made in the Scout Oath and the values listed in the Scout Law are the same ones in which she believes. "Using Scouting as a vehicle, as well as family, school and church activities, we have taught those values listed in the Scout Oath and Scout Law to our children," she says. "When I asked our four sons about their memories of growing up as Scouts, each said they remembered Mom and Dad's consistent support. One son remembered being a Cub in my den, where he learned to make scale models of cities using art materials. That stimulated his desire to become an architect.

"They have never forgotten such experiences as tough outdoor hikes on the West Coast, mountain climbs in the Sawtooth Range in Idaho,

Christine Perry and her husband, Wayne, former BSA national president and volunteer, give much of their time to the Scouting movement, in addition to contributing significant financial support to the Boy Scouts of America.

kayaking Canada's Bowron Lake area, or rafting on the Rogue River in Oregon. Most times, their dad was able to go with them," she says.

"I've always admired the whole program," Perry adds. "It's comprehensive — it teaches Scouts leadership, citizenship, intelligence and spirituality by recognizing their duty to God."

"Those who participate in the Scouting program, and in particular those who achieve the Eagle Scout award, gain respect in the eyes of most people," she says. Another benefit: networking in the business world, "where our boys have shared common



backgrounds in Scouting. Aside from being accorded greater respect, they feel good about themselves."

During her many volunteer activities as an adult Scouter, including leading tours at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve and serving at world Scout jamborees, Perry has encountered numerous women who have been

similarly dedicated to the movement.

"These were women who had their Scouting uniforms from the 1950s and '40s," she says. "Some of them were well up in years and had been involved that whole time. Everywhere I go, I see amazing women who make serving Scouting their biggest priority, even giving up vacations to serve. And, of course,

wives and mothers have a huge stake in the process of building strong leaders with high moral character."

So, today, Perry sees a continued need for women to be involved in Scouting as mothers and leaders. She applauds Venturing, a program strongly supported by her husband, as well, for giving girls an opportunity to experience Scouting.

### WHY WE GIVE

### Belief in a better America

**CHRISTINE AND WAYNE PERRY** have never shied away from giving generously of their time, energy and financial resources to support Scouting at every level — local to global. Even though their own children are long gone from Boy Scouts, they continue to devote themselves to promoting the movement at every opportunity.

One reason they are so enthusiastic about Scouting, Christine says, is because they see the benefits of the organization extending far beyond themselves and their family.

For the Perrys, helping Scouting

is helping America. "Collectively, the country will be strong when it's made up of strong individuals, whether they be male or female," Christine says. "It starts with the individual, then the family, the community and the country."

On a smaller scale, they see Scouting and the attitudes, disciplines and skills it promotes as possessing unrivaled power to positively influence the lives of countless individual boys, making them happier and more productive for the good of all.

"It's been shown that when individuals are honest and have strong values, they typically are more successful in all phases

of their lives and are happier human beings," she says. "Then they can influence others. It's a cycle. We expect to see that cycle repeated with our grandchildren in the not-too-distant future."

Scouting's strong ability to improve the lives of individuals and nations is simply too good to keep to ourselves, Christine says. That's why they give what they do.

"We always enjoy spreading the word about Scouting to let the world know how valuable Scouting is."



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CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: KEVIN PERRY; MICHAEL ROYTEK/BSA FILE; WAYNE PERRY

