Terry & Peggy Dunn

Exemplifying servant leadership in their mission to serve Scouting.

Today, Terry Dunn serves on the Boy Scouts of America’s National Executive Committee as vice president of council operations. The Dunn Family Staff Base Camp at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve was named to recognize the support he and his wife, Peggy, have given to Scouting. The Heart of America Council in Kansas City, Mo., awarded Dunn the Silver Beaver Award, the Central Region bestowed on him the Silver Antelope Award and the national council awarded him with its highest achievement, the Silver Buffalo Award, in 2003. But it wasn’t always like that.

The servant approach characterizes Dunn’s involvement with Scouting. For instance, he and Peggy decided that supporting the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve was such an appealing opportunity that they made a contribution. Although the Dunn Family Staff Base Camp was named for the family’s support, they weren’t motivated by a desire for recognition. “It was something we wanted to do,” Dunn says. “The fact that they named something for us was not important.”

When describing the appeal of Scouting for Americans, Dunn invokes Alexis de Tocqueville’s description of America as a country of individuals who care for others and strive to make a difference in their lives. “I think that’s very much at the core of what the Boy Scouts of America is about,” he says. “They are in the business of preparing young lives to be leaders and outstanding servants for others.”

For Dunn, that’s about all he needs to know to determine whether Scouting deserves his support. “When somebody says, ‘What’s important in my life and where do I want to commit resources, and where can my giving make a difference in the lives of others?’ I think certainly the Boy Scouts of America is, if not at the top, close to the top.”

The Dunns’ philanthropic efforts have been celebrated with numerous awards, including the Silver Buffalo Award bestowed on Terry at the BSA’s 2003 National Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (above), Terry’s wife, Peggy, was awarded the Silver Beaver Award in 2007 for her work in the Heart of America Council.

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