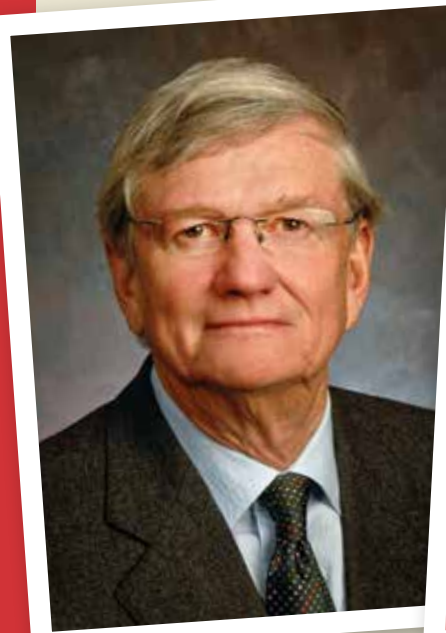


Mike & Gillian Goodrich



They're giving back to the 'gold standard for values and character.'

When Mike Goodrich was in the Army's officer candidate school, instructors asked his group of trainees if any were Eagle Scouts. "Two or three of us raised our hands, and they said, 'You're going to be the leaders this week?'" Goodrich recalls. "The clear implication was that Scouting had given us leadership skills."

Goodrich—who received his Eagle in 1959, one year before he was a Senior Patrol Leader at the jamboree held in Colorado Springs—amply employed those skills later in life. He rose to the rank of captain in the Army. After law school and entering the business world as legal counsel for an Alabama company, he eventually became chairman and chief executive officer of BE&K Inc., one of the country's largest private engineering and construction companies.

Throughout his adult life, Goodrich has been involved with Scouting, receiving Silver Antelope, Silver Buffalo, and

Distinguished Eagle Scout awards for his volunteer work at the council and national level. In 2012, Mike and wife, Gillian, were recognized as significant donors to the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve. In appreciation for their gift of an undisclosed amount, the main lake at the reserve is named Goodrich Lake.

For Goodrich, though, the primary reward for helping Scouting is not having his name on a map of the Summit Bechtel Reserve. He feels the donation is payback for what he has received from Scouting. Part of what he got was a lot of fun in the late 1950s and early '60s. "As a boy I enjoyed the camping and the outdoors and the experiences," he says. "And I enjoyed being around a network of kids that enjoyed doing the same things I did."

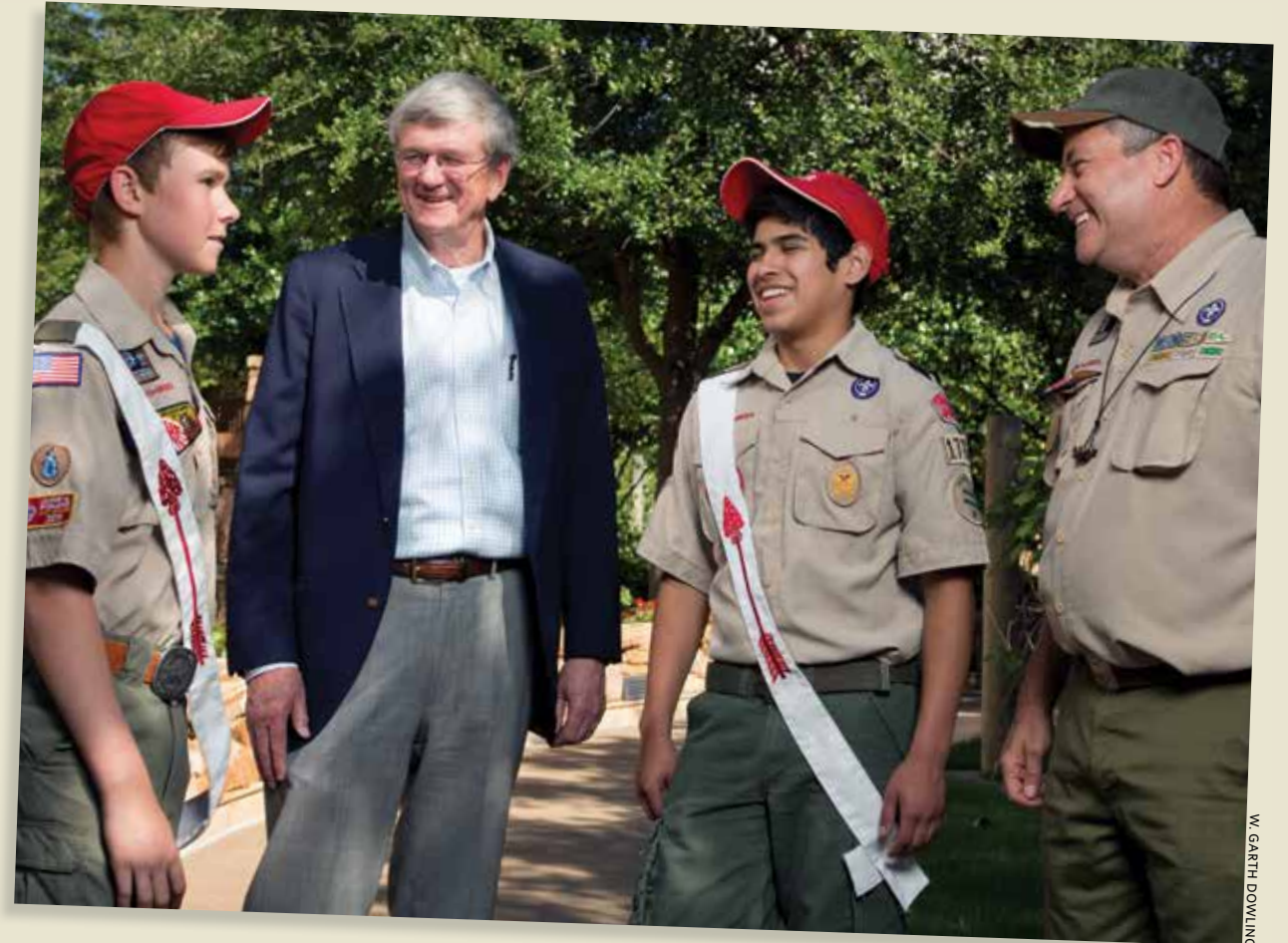
In addition to those experiences, Goodrich says he feels the obligation to help sustain an organization that gave him skills that proved important for later success in life. "As an adult leader and volunteer, I just feel like Scouting means a lot to me," he says. "I still think Scouting is an extraordinarily great organization for young people."

For today's youngsters, Goodrich considers Scouting to have an important role as a touchstone for values. "It's held up as the gold standard for values and character in the United States," he says. "That's a good thing for the country."

Now retired, Goodrich—like his father, who was a Scout leader—remains active in Scouting and encourages his sons to continue his legacy. "As the generation changes, there are opportunities for the next generation to take over these leadership positions in the Scouting movement," he says.

His objective is to give other young people the same opportunities for valuable and enjoyable learning experiences that he had. Looking back, he's not surprised that the Army assumed that those who were leaders as Scouts would be leaders as adults. "It teaches a lot about life and character and values," he says. "To me, it's a great program that needs the support of a lot of people."

Mike Goodrich works to help the next generation of Scouts explore the outdoors, which is why he and wife, Gillian, made a significant donation to the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve. Goodrich talks about the excitement surrounding the Summit with representatives from Troop 1776 in Plano, Texas, including (from left) Life Scout Dylan Pierce, Star Scout Joseph Snyder, and Assistant Scoutmaster William Hemenway.



W. GARTH DOWLING

WHY WE GIVE

The BSA's strong moral code

WHEN MIKE AND GILLIAN GOODRICH discuss their family history with Scouting, it seems silly to even ask how they became major supporters of the BSA and the Summit Bechtel Reserve. In addition to Mike's lengthy record as an Eagle Scout and adult leader, Gillian's grandfather Hugh Comer was a very active adult leader and a Silver Beaver and Buffalo honoree who helped establish the Comer Scout Reservation, known as Camp Comer, in the Greater Alabama Council. "It's pretty much a Scouting family on both sides," Mike says.


In addition, the couple's three sons are all Eagle Scouts. That's one thing Mike says he's most proud of. He regards

Scouting as one of the key influences on his own life. "I hope and think it had a lot of influence on my kids as they grew up, as well," he says.

Like Mike, Gillian says she values the way Scouting instilled leadership qualities in her sons. But she says Scouting's worth isn't confined to teaching boys how to lead. Part of the Scouting program is showing them a good time and making character development fun.

"The camping part was great," she says. "The boys really loved all the camping. Outdoor skills really give you an extra boost and confidence. It was a great program for them as teenagers."

Still more important was the character building. "You don't want just good leaders," she notes. "You want leaders with good character. You want strong citizens. All of our boys are good, strong citizens. Scouting helps you to get to that." Specifically, she cites Scouting as helping boys establish a strong moral core and become more thoughtful, considerate people. "I think Scouts did that [for our sons]. It brought them a lot of skills they bring to what they do now in their lives."

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