

The Scout Leader

By Doug Hanna
(1955-2007)

A leader of Scouts
The "scouter" is their name,
They preach of scout spirit
Not seeking glory, not seeking fame.

Men and women, Moms and Dads
And Granddads with a cause,
To instill them with values
And encourage scout laws.

They are living examples
And leaders will make mistakes,
But to the observant young scout
What a quality that makes.

To help a scout
On his journey through the ranks,
Oh what a feeling
When he comes back to say thanks!

Whether it be at a meeting
Or on a wilderness jaunt,
The leader learns of the things
Out of life that scouts want.

In this world full of pressures
That few of us had,
The leader supports "good"
And discourages the "bad."

Whether camping outside
When it's 12 below,
Or living for a week
Where only camels should go,
It's one-hundred and five
And that's in the shade,
One leader proclaims
"It's amazing they've stayed."

And just when you think
That the troop will give up,
And declare to the leaders
That enough is enough,
To go home now? "NO WAY"
You know that we're tough.

Leaders come from all walks,
They're not always a pro,
But give them a challenge
And they'll share what they know.

A situation may be difficult
And put a lad to the test,
As a leader they remind
"On my honor, I will do my best."

As a leader of Scouts
They must live by the oath,
And with God as their guide
Scouts will continue their growth.
To be model citizens
Who will make parents proud,
Oh how can they help
But stand out in life's crowd.

These boys will be leaders
On that you can bank,
And someday it's them
That our grandsons will thank.

This poem was written by the late Doug Hanna in July 1995 as a farewell to his Scout Troop in Nebraska. In 1995, the Hanna family moved to the Allentown, PA area and Doug joined Troop 72 in Fogelsville as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Doug passed away in January 2007 after losing a battle with cancer. Doug's wife, Lori, found the handwritten version of this poem among some old documents in 2008.