

Bruce O'Neal

Bruce born Dec 14, 1919, (referred to by most as DR O. because of his PhD in EE) came from a background of scouting. He believed that scouting was the best vehicle to build character and self-reliance in boys. He had a life-long love of scouting that began when in 1931 he joined a troop in Mobile Alabama and later became an Eagle in 1938. In 1939 he became the skipper of a Sea Scout ship out of Chattanooga TN. When he moved to Dallas in 1957 to San Gabriel Drive his family sought out the small Good Shepard Church for worship. In 1967 he joined Troop 1007 with his eldest son Harold. The following year the troop changed to 124 and moved to Good Shepard and he was asked to be the scoutmaster, a position he kept for the next 14 years. He was awarded the District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver and Brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow to name a few, as well as completing Wood Badge. In 1983 he joined the North district training team and later became the Training Chairman. He completed his active role in the early 90's training the trainers of scouting leaders. He took 3 Troop 124 trips to Philmont over his lifetime. One of the trips included making a 20 miler for a participants hiking merit badge out of a day trip over Baldly and thru French Henry and back to camp to pack up and keep hiking. We awoke that morning at 5 am and hiked until 11 pm and ate the next morning's "cold" breakfast because we were too tired to cook. He took great care to guide scouts in all activities and not do it for them. One example was when he allowed us to "take a short cut" at Philmont and we got lost. After some time of trying to figure out where we were and find a trail, we began to worry about the "Old Man" (he was 64 at the time) and we felt we should find him. In a tried and true method we yelled "DR O." he replied "Ho" and we were able to "hone" in on him in front of us and he was on a trail. He had been watching from a distance as we struggled and then readied ourselves for assistance. The early scouts did cooking merit badge with Dutch ovens under the power line towers on the south side of the Church. He had a love for amateur radio and several scouts obtained that badge with him. After he bought a farm in the early 1970's the troop had several campouts out there and Bois-D-Arc district even had a 300+ person Camporee on the farm. His commitment to scouting continued after his death in 2002 with the formation of the Dr. Bruce O'Neal camping fund at Circle 10 Council.