

Robert O'Neal

I began my scouting trek when I was 6 years old going with my father the scoutmaster on most campouts. I learned how to build fires using dry twigs, squaw wood as Dr O called it, that I collected the night before a rain and kept in my tent. I learned at 6 years old how to light a fire in almost any weather, which also became a problem of its own. I hiked with a Dutch oven into the remote cliff campsite at Wisdom and other places so I could cook brownies, cakes and cookies. In one instance David Brauss, and I cooked a meal of roasted chickens, stews, pies, cakes, cookies and other dishes. We were two people and had food for a patrol. I became an Eagle in 1978 and pulled off obtaining all three Palms before I was 18. I took two trips to Philmont one in the late 1970's and the other in 1982. In 1978 I began an international scouting experience with a trip to Monterrey Mexico with a provisional troop. We stayed in host scouts homes for a week and in camp for a week. My duty was to be the interpreter, a job I am not sure how I got because I flunked High School Spanish. It was at this time I transferred membership to an explorer post in Plano and met a friend who remains close to me today and got me involved with the Order of the Arrow. I became a Brotherhood member and also tried out and obtained the position for the lodge ordeal ceremonial team and represented them at the conclave competition also. I was Metau—the medicine man at all ordeal ceremonies for the next two years. In 1984 I was awarded Vigil honor in the OA. But sadly I was now 21 and had to contribute and not participate in the ceremonies. I continued to work with the Explorer post and we hosted a Camporee at my fathers' farm as well as staffing various events around the district. In 1987 we created a trip to Belize and took 30+ scouts to that country for 1 week with local scouts in their homes and 1 week in the jungle camping out. In 1989 I co-led a trip to Europe for 5 weeks that included 43 boy scouts and 9 girl scouts from the Houston and Dallas areas. We visited Zurich scouts homes, went to France, Italy, Kandersteg ISC and later Germany to camp for two weeks and then stay with German scouts. We floated the Rein visiting castles and small towns along the way. It was truly a grand completion to my scouting to that point. I enjoy Judo, Jujitsu, Aikido, Karate, snow skiing, hiking and triathlons. In the late 1990's and for 7 years I supervised self awareness programs for Landmark Education as a volunteer and had the profound privilege of being impacted by the Native Americans in their South Dakota home. I married Susan in 1997 and have two children, Jessica who is in Girl scouts and Braden who I hope will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Boy Scout. I own and operate Fence Doctor, which I started in 1978 and am now doing all types of outdoor hardscapes. I live in Dallas as I have my whole life—now in Casa Linda near White Rock Lake.