

Doug Smith, D.D.S
Powder Horn Course Director
Grand Teton Council
August 2006

We have all met Scouters who seek the spotlight... and then there is Doug Smith, a facilitator who works tirelessly for Scouting, steadfastly avoiding the spotlight, and quietly directing all honors to others. Since my school starts this week and I was behind in packing, I requested that one of our website team members ask Doug to be our Venturing mentor of the week. In keeping with his personality, he immediately replied, "Thanks, but it should be Wayne or Markus, not me." He wasn't trying to tell me what to do; he just seeks to honor others, not himself. Doug Smith is exactly the Venturing mentor I wish to highlight this week.



I actually met Doug because of Charles Holmes, the National Director of the Venturing program and the aforementioned Markus, Markus Harrild, a great Venturing mentor in the Grand Teton Council. I joined Charles at the Grand Teton Venturing Vortex, during which Markus encouraged my participation as a photographer in their Powder Horn course this summer. As a result, I joined the Powder Horn and had a great time (please refer to my [Powder Horn](#) article).

Doug Smith was the Course Director of an extremely successful Powder Horn, but one that had been plagued with adversity. Someone less determined and dedicated than Doug would have given up on this Powder Horn. The first scheduling was cancelled when Doug underwent emergency quadruple bypass heart surgery. Filling the class was a challenge, as was the scheduling of some consultants. About a month before the Powder Horn, Doug learned the original Assistant Course Director for Instruction would be unable to participate due to personal reasons, so Doug recruited our website coordinator, Cindy Jesinger to fill the position. Doug was so prepared for challenges that he had back-ups for his back-ups! For the pistol course, all three consultants arrived, offering an amazing opportunity for the participants to have personalized instruction and experience. The success of this Powder Horn can be confirmed in many ways - from its excellent written reviews to the enthusiasm of the participants. One of the most astonishing measures is that 25% of the Powder Horn class will attend the Western Region Powder Horn Course Directors Course this September! In addition to those who will continue their council's Powder Horn training, as a result of Doug's tenacity and persistence, three councils who have never had a Powder Horn will send representatives to the CDC.

Doug Smith became a Scout in 1955, earning the rank of Eagle Scout in 1962. From 1962-63, he was the President of the Explorer Youth Council of the Grand Teton Peaks Council, attending the National Explorer Conference at Reed College in 1962. While attending Dental School from 1969-1971, Doug served as an Assistant Scoutmaster. As a member of the military, he was the Chartering Organization Representative for the Numburg, Germany Serviceman's District from 1973-75. In 1974, Doug attended the Kandersteg International Scout Camp in Switzerland.

Doug has served Scouting in a variety of roles: Cubmaster; Scoutmaster; Explorer Post Advisor; Institutional Head for a Pack, Troop, Team & Post; Zone Commissioner; Venturing

Roundtable Commissioner; District Chairman; Varsity Coach; Eagle Board of Review Chairman and recently, Powder Horn Course Director. Indeed, during the past 51 years, there are very few years during which Doug Smith has not been very actively involved in Scouting.

Doug has received numerous Scouting awards (and I imagine he humbly received each of them). Some of his most valued include the District Award of Merit, Scouters Key, Scouters Training Award, On My Honor Religious Award, Silver Beaver, Venturing Leadership Award, Wood Badge Beads, and, of course, Powder Horn.

A graduate of Ricks College and the University of Utah, Doug graduated from dental school at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He completed a Family Practice Residency at Madigan General Hospital and served in the military in Hohenfels, Germany. From 1990 until 2005, he was part of the 143 Med Company (Salt Lake City).

Doug has been married to his wife, Earlene, for 39 years, and is the father of four: Leazel, Ryan (Eagle Scout), Danielle and John Joseph (Eagle Scout). He has five grandchildren.

Within the community, Doug has been a Little League Coach, Soccer Coach, Basketball Coach, Committee Member of the Zoning and Planning Commission for Rexburg, PTA President and Chairman of a Committee to build a swimming pool.

Doug Smith is committed to his faith, devoted to his family, active in his community, respected in his profession and dedicated to Scouting. It was an honor to spend a week with this remarkable man.