

History of Troop 533 BSA – 90th Anniversary

Munster, Indiana

July 4th, 2017

Munster Firefighters Association

Eagle Scout is the highest rank which a scout can achieve in boy scouting. Only about 4% of scouts are able to obtain this prestigious award. Beginning in the 1940's, scouts from Troop 33 began achieving the Eagle rank and currently over 100 Eagles have been awarded from Troop 533. Interestingly, there are four Eagles Scouts who are currently members of the Munster Fire Department – two from Troop 533. Frank Sikora from Engine 2222, Mike Drapac from Engine 2226 and from Troop 533, myself from Troop 533, and Captain Rob Groszewski of Truck 2221.

In today's day and age, it is not unusual for an individual to obtain 90 years of age. However, for an organization of any kind to obtain 90 years, it generally takes 2 or 3 dedicated generations and many individuals. For a boy scout troop, it is even more remarkable considering a scout can join boy scouts at 11 years old but can only remain a scout until 18 years old when he must become an adult scouter. Therefore, there is a complete turnover in a boy scout troop at least every 7 years and thus, it is remarkable for a boy scout troop to celebrate 90 years of service. While today we talk of the scouts of yesteryear, each and every scout here today carries on the tradition of Troop 533 and the high ideals of the Scout Oath and Scout Laws. Without these scouts here today, Troop 533 would not be celebrating it's 90th Anniversary. They are a significant part of Troop 533's history.

Finally, isn't it remarkable that today the two oldest service organizations by far in the Town of Munster – Troop 533 with 90 years of service and the Munster Firefighters of the Munster Fire Department with 92 years of service come together to celebrate the Fourth of July with this Kid's Parade. Even more incredible these two organizations have participated together in this Parade for over the past 75 years.

I would like to call up the Senior Patrol Leader _____ and the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader _____ along with Scoutmaster, Brett Shelton to receive a special recognition from the Munster Firefighters Association. The President of the Munster Firefighters Association, Rick Herman, and the Vice President, Sean Greenya, will make the presentation.