

From one parent to another....



Welcome to 12th Richmond Scout Group!!

The 12th Richmond Scout Group is one of the most involved and enthusiastic Scouting groups in Richmond thanks to the committed and dedicated leaders we have that run our group. Running a successful group depends on the hours volunteered by these individuals (and I mean HOURS that they put in). We, as parents, are incredibly grateful that we have such a strong and cohesive group of leaders that provide role models to our children as they go through the Scouting program. Our son has been involved for just one year and we have noticed a change in his appreciation and respect towards others. We are also aware of a new desire to take on some small leadership roles of his own that have become available within the group and also at his school (volunteering to wait in the playground to help some of the new kids find their way back to classroom at the end of recess and lunch) and daycare (taking some kindercare kids under his wing).

One of the aspects of this group that we as parents appreciate is the manner in which the youth learn by observation, without needing to be instructed or told. For example at camp the Beaver's sort of have the run of the camp without a lot of responsibility except to experience camp for the first time and have a lot of fun. However, as they are having fun they watch as the Cubs are called in and assigned to dish duty and as the Scouts are assigned to cooking duty. So without being told "When you are a Cub this is what you will do" they see that as they move up they take on more responsibility. They see the Scouts learning their pioneering skills and building monkey bridges which they get to play on later but have the connection that, "Wow, they just built that and I got to watch, how cool is that!!"

One of the reasons this group is so involved is because of the number of opportunities our leaders actively seek out and create for our youth. Despite the fact that going to visit a Fire Station, exploring the inside of an ambulance, taking a tour of the Canada Line, or seeing the Oval (did you know 200 Loonies were buried under that ice??) may seem like something that would be simple to arrange it takes time, organization, and communication in order to make these things happen. These are just some examples of the activities that occur outside of our regularly scheduled meetings. Additionally 12th Richmond provides numerous opportunities to explore nature and develop an appreciation for its beauty at camps offered throughout the year.

Since joining 12th Richmond Scouts our family has felt like we have joined a truly connected community where our child is learning how to be a respected individual thanks to the amazing jobs of our leaders. Despite our busy and hectic schedules between work and school and other extracurricular activities I can truly say that I look forward to Wednesday nights where the energy brought to the pack is all about the kids and ensuring they are having fun and, in Scouter Judi's ('Hawkeye' to the Beavers) words, "Living the dream!"

Keri & Garry Ruthe, Beaver Parents