

Dr. Bruce Noonan



During last year's Kodiak/Kodiak X course at Philmont's Training Center, I had the pleasure of meeting and instructing Dr. Bruce Noonan from Moses Lake, Washington. As you can see from his photo, Dr. Noonan embraced the fun of Kodiak. He was determined to offer a Kodiak at his treasured Camp Fife, offering Venturers the opportunity to complete the NRA Pistol Shooting course while enjoying the high adventure activities of Camp Fife and learning the leadership skills of Kodiak. The combination of activities was ambitious:

1. Camp Fife had not hosted a Kodiak - nor had such a large number of female Venturers participated in its program;
2. Certifications and equipment were required to offer Pistol Shooting;
3. Faculty had to be recruited and trained;
4. The Kodiak needed to be marketed.

How did Dr. Noonan facilitate such a successful Kodiak in one year? As we say in Kodiak, he ate the elephant "one bite at a time", breaking the process into manageable segments. But Dr. Noonan had many years of experience in Scouting, providing him training in eating that elephant!

As a boy, Bruce Noonan began his Scouting career in 1953 as a Cub Scout, earning the Webelos Arrow of Light. As a Boy Scout he became an Eagle Scout in 1961. He was a member of Order of the Arrow (Ordeal in 1961 and Brotherhood in 1962). Dr. Noonan attended the World Jamboree in Marathon, Greece, as an Explorer in 1963, earning the God and Country Award the same year.

Dr. Noonan's involvement in Scouting as an adult began in 1973. Over the years, he has served as Assistant Scoutmaster, Acting Scoutmaster, Pack Committee Member, Columbia Basin District Committee Member, District Chairman, Grand Columbia Council Executive Board Member, Camp Physician, Leader of the NOAC Contingent to Knoxville in 2000 and Bloomington in 2002, O.A. Tataliya Lodge Advisor, Second Assistant Scoutmaster for the National Jamboree in 2001 Troop 724, Council Commissioner, 2005 Council National Jamboree Committee Chairman, Council Vice-President for Venturing, Crew Advisor, Venturing Round Table Commissioner, and Western Region Venturing Crew Advisor for the 2007 World Jamboree.

Realizing the importance of training in Venturing safety and fun, Dr. Noonan has completed Cornerstone, Scout Adult Leader Training, Wood Badge, Commissioner Basic, O.A. National Lodge Advisor Seminar and National Leadership Seminar, International Scouting at PTC, Kodiak/Kodiak X Course Director's Course at Philmont Training Center as well as Health & Safety, Climb on Safely, Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense, and Youth Protection.

Dr. Noonan has received a variety of awards as an adult in Scouting. They include the Venturing Advisor Award of Merit, International Scouting Award, Order of the Condor, U.S. Heritage Award, Seattle Historical Trail Award, Commissioner Arrowhead Honor, Silver Beaver, Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award, O.A. Founder's Award, O.A. Tataliya Lodge Wdallowelemuwi and Service Awards, O.A. Arrowman Service Award, District Award of Merit, O.A. Vigil Honor, District Committee and Venturing Advisor's Keys, Boy Scout and Venturing Leader's Training Awards, Founder's Circle, James E. West Fellow and 1910 Society.



Dr. Noonan is a graduate of Dartmouth College, Dartmouth Medical School, and received his M.D. from the University of Washington. He is a retired Navy Captain, having served as a Flight Surgeon, and Commanding Officer of a Naval Reserve Hospital and Dental Clinic among other assignments. As an ophthalmologist, he has served as Chief of Surgery at Samaritan Hospital and President of the county medical society. He led a mission team to El Salvador in 2003, performing cataract surgery for those lacking medical care.

Dr. Noonan's commitment to Scouting is overshadowed only by his commitment to his faith and family. On the closing night of Kodiak, Deanna (his Associate Crew Advisor and wife) and Steven (his Silver Palm Eagle Scout son) traveled several hours to have dinner with him at Camp Fife, returning to Moses Lake the same night, to prepare for our arrival the next day. The Noonan family's graciousness and kindness is amazing! Please welcome Dr. Bruce Noonan as this week's Venturing Featured Mentor.