

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

Upon arrival at Philmont, the faculty assembled for an organizational meeting during which our coordinator and director for the week was introduced as "She Who Must Be Obeyed." The person who introduced her? Her notoriously quick-witted husband, Bill Daggett. Meet Dottie Brown and Bill Daggett, the dynamic couple who are Venturing National Cabinet's honored mentors for Valentine's Day.



One of the great pleasures of serving as National Venturing President is to have had the opportunity to work with Dottie and Bill. Their presence has enhanced my experience --Dottie's unparalleled organizational ability; Bill's quick sense of humor and genuine kindness; and their ability to laugh and enjoy life.

Bill and Dottie are on the National Venturing - Sports Committee and contributed to the development of the Quest award. They served on staff for the 18th World Jamboree in Holland and 19th World Jamboree in Chile as well as Eurojam in 2005. Dottie and Bill attended the International Scout Camp Kandersteg, Switzerland and earned the High Adventure Award. Under their mentorship, crews have traveled to Iceland, Scotland, Wales, England, and on a Philmont trek. Both attended the first Powderhorn at Philmont in 1999, and were Powderhorn Course Directors in Florida -- Dottie in 2000 and Bill in 2002. Dottie has been Wood Badge staff 9 times; Bill, 6. Both have been Wood Badge Course Directors. Bill and Dottie have been faculty at Philmont's Training Center multiple times. They completed the Kodiak/Kodiak X Course Directors Class at Sea Base in 2006. Each received the District Award of Merit. Both have received their council's Silver Beaver and the Founders Award from Seminole Lodge 85, Order of the Arrow. Dottie and Bill have received the Venturing Leadership Award at the Council, Region and National levels.

Dottie served as Co-chair of the Venturing "Rainforest" Exhibit at the 2001 National Jamboree and is currently the Council Training Vice-Chair for Venturing and International Representative for the Gulf Ridge Council. She is a Vigil Honor member of the Seminole Lodge 85. Dottie's renowned organizational ability and calm capacity for multitasking resulted in a great Venturing week at the Philmont Training Center in 2005.

As a youth, Bill earned the Arrow of Light, the BSA 50th Anniversary Award, the Eagle Scout Rank with Bronze Palm and was elected to Order of the Arrow. He attended the 1964 National Jamboree, the World Jamboree in IDAHO (©) in 1967 and the 2001 National Jamboree. He is currently Council Board Member for Gulf Ridge Council.

When I asked Dottie and Bill for information about their Scouting history, Dottie wrote, "During the BSA National meetings in May I have worked on the selection committee for the National Venturing President. It has been a pleasure to see the Regional Venturing Presidents grow as they have served their regions over the course of a year and then to present themselves as candidates for the National Venturing President."

Indeed, knowing Dottie and Bill, as Western Regional President and now National Venturing President has been my pleasure and honor!

I will never forget the first night of my first National Meeting in Texas. Unfamiliar with the process and not having met many of the mentors who are now friends, I was resigned to a meal in my room, as others conducted business over dinner. There appeared the familiar smile of Bill Daggett, who invited me to a great dinner with an awesome dessert. While I had been installed as National President and had experienced opportunities of a lifetime at the Jamboree, Philmont, and speaking engagements around the country, Bill's kindness during that meeting was my first step to a sense of "belonging" to a group of adults who are dedicated to Venturing.

Thank you, Dottie and Bill, and Happy Valentine's Day!