

Dr. Kerry Cheesman

"Let us have peace."

--Ulysses Simpson Grant

Philmont is one of my favorite places. One might assume this is because it is one of the most beautiful spots on earth; or that the activities there are the best ---or, maybe that the backpack cuisine is rivaled by none. While all of this is true, Kerry Cheesman is why I am so fond of Philmont.

The Philmont Training Center is a place where people with similar values and interests gather "for the good of the cause", to learn how to better mentor youth in their BSA programs. It is a place of camaraderie, friendship and networking. Occasionally, as in my case, PTC is a family place, where parents and youth work side by side. Faculty members are the last to bed and the earliest to rise, preparing for the next day's lessons. Both years I have attended Venturing week at PTC, Kerry Cheesman was there with his son Ian, hard at work, furthering the development of Venturing's newest award, TRUST.



Rarely, Venturing families from distant states have the opportunity to meet outside of Scouting. Kerry Cheesman and his son, Nathan, attended the Congressional Award ceremony in Washington, D.C., in June 2005, when Nathan and I received gold medals. Knowing that Kerry was in the audience, sitting next to my mother and friends from Idaho, somehow made the experience complete, because I was able to share it with someone for whom I held the highest respect. Also, few in the audience realized how much was required to earn the Congressional Award while completing the Venturing Silver, Ranger and Quest - but Kerry knew - and knowing he understood enhanced my day. I was so proud to learn Senator Craig approached Kerry and congratulated him on his excellent work on TRUST. Two programs I truly value came together in one person - Kerry Cheesman, all because of Philmont.

Kerry suggested I might want to create his biography. Had I time to collaborate with Ian and Nathan, I might have!

Many mentors have impressive adult resumes in Scouting. Kerry's is equally impressive as a youth: Eagle Scout; Council Young American Award; Council Explorer Officers Association President; OA National Distinguished Service Award; OA Western Region Chief; OA Deputy National Conference Chief; National Jamboree, 1969; World Jamboree, 1971; Philmont Trek participant; National Vice-President; Medical Explorers; Western Region President; Medical Explorers; and National Explorer Conference Leadership Staff.

His involvement in and dedication to Venturing were recognized nationally with the National Venturing Leadership Award. In my mind, Kerry's greatest contribution has been co-authoring the TRUST Award and Manual. Additionally, he has served on the National Venturing Committee since 2000. From 1999-2005, he was the Chairman of the National Venturing Religious Life Committee. For the Simon Kenton Council, Kerry has served as Chairman of the Venturing Committee since 1999. He attended the Powder Horn Course at Philmont in 1999 and was a Powder Horn Course Director in 2002. Kerry served as faculty for the Central Region Course Directors Conference, 2003-2005 and was the Advisor for Central Region World Jamboree Crew in 2003. He has been a consultant for various Powder

Horn courses and served as faculty for Sea Badge courses 2003-2006. Finally, he has been on the faculty of Venturing Week at Philmont since 2000.

When I asked Kerry for his biography, I wanted to acknowledge the honors and awards he had received and his work in Scouting beyond the Venturing program. Reticent to reveal them, it took me over one month to persuade him to deliver the list. When I read them, I understood why. It makes him appear to be very, very old - for how else could one have done so much and been so honored? To set the record straight, he is not all that old. He has just devoted much of his energy, talent and time to Scouting. Kerry has received the District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver, Distinguished Commissioner Award, Council Venturing Leadership Award and Good Shepherd (Baptist) Award. He has served on the National OA Conference Staff ten times, the National Jamboree Staff seven times, was OA Lodge Advisor and OA Section Advisor. He has been Council Vice-President and a member of the Council Executive Board. Kerry served as Wood Badge Staff and was on the National Task Force to develop the Trainer Development Conference. Since 2003, he has been on the National Religious Relationships Committee and was on the World Jamboree Staff in 1999. Kerry was staff at the National Camp School and has been a Philmont Trek Advisor. Maybe he is older than he looks!

Kerry's professional accomplishments are amazing. He is Professor and Chair of Biological Sciences at Capital University; Editor of the Ohio Journal of Science; and on the Board of Directors of many organizations including the Ohio Academy of Science, the Society for College Science Teachers, the National Association of Advisors in the Health Professions, and the Ohio Scientific and Educational Research Association. He is a regular in Who's Who (more than 30 listings!) and has received several awards for outstanding teaching. Kerry has been the invited speaker at dozens of professional conferences and has had more than 50 papers published in science and education and given more than 80 talks given at regional and national conferences in science and education.

Within the community, Kerry serves on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity and is the former President of American Baptist Churches of Indiana. He is on the Powwow Board, Native American Indian Center of Central Ohio and serves as Chapter Advisor for Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity.

What is most important to Kerry? If you saw him with his sons, you would know the answer. His mix of pride, respect and admiration for his sons is almost tangible. The following is a quote from Kerry about what is most important: "Two wonderful sons - both Eagle Scouts, Rangers, Silver Award recipients, Venturing Leadership Award recipients, VOA Officers, National and World Jamboree participants and staff. Ian has also received the national Hornaday Medal for distinguished efforts in Conservation and worked on Philmont staff. Nathan has also received the Sea Scout Quartermaster Award and worked on Sea Base staff. Both have also received the Congressional Gold Award from the US Congress, and numerous community and school awards. Ian is planning a career in conservation education, and Nathan is planning a career in college student personnel."

Had I created Kerry's story, it would not have been nearly as impressive as it truly is. Thank you, Kerry, for your years of service to Scouting, Venturing, and our world. Thank you for working for peace with the TRUST Award.