

Tribute to Troy Larson
By Dick Reynolds

I had the opportunity to work with Troy for three summers in 1987, 1988, and 1989 when he was the Nature - Ecology Assistant and Director. Troy was the type of person who would do whatever you asked and had an infectious smile that cheered up both staff and scouts alike. Troy and I became friends while he worked here. He became a student at Northern Illinois University at the same time I was an educator in DeKalb. While there, we would get together just to talk about things. Often the conversation turned to Camp, and our experiences from it.

I feel that from these conversations Troy learned three things from this Camp. The first was that we need to help other people. This is something that is instilled in us as Scouts, and is expected as a Staff member. Troy constantly did this as a Staff member, both in and out of Camp. Outside of school, Troy would go into different classrooms, mine included, and help teach Native American culture by explaining his costume and showing students how to dance.

The second was the importance of the Order of the Arrow and the Indian dancing program that we will begin in just a few minutes. Like all Staff members Troy learned to dance while a member of the Camp Staff. He later joined and became the Chief of the former Ouray Dance team. Troy also learned from the Order of the Arrow that we are to give of our self in cheerful service. Troy did this repeatedly. He served as a Chapter Chief and as a member of the Lodge Executive Board. I had the privilege to present him with the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow. Troy also combined the two skills when he attended the National Order of the Arrow Conference in the late 1980s. While attending the conference, he competed in, and placed in the national Indian dancing competition held there.

The final thing that Troy learned as a Staff member is the importance of education in life. I think that I can safely say that if he did not work here Troy would not have attended college. Although it was never really mentioned, Troy instinctively learned that education played a very important part in all who work on this Staff.

It is for these reasons that I feel it is fitting that we pay tribute to Troy and the role that education played in his life by naming a Spirit Scholarship in his memory for future camp staff members.