

Ronald M. Spielman Spirit Scholarship

The fourth designated Spirit Scholarship was named for Ron Spielman in May of 2012. Ron was a camper at Canyon Camp in 1957 as a member of Troop 3, Freeport, IL. In 1958, Ron and friend, Denny Pratt, served their first year on Camp Staff with Lyle Novinski as their Camp Director and mentor. Ron served a total of three years on Staff - as Dining Hall Steward and as an Aquatics Assistant. Ron & Denny were awarded their Eagle Awards together in 1960.

As Monroe Kiwanis President in 1976, Ron established the Spring Work Weekend and with Jennifer continued coordinating the spring work event through Canyon Camp's 75th year in 2011. Ron and Jennifer also coordinated the fall Woodcutter's Ball from 1978 through 2010.

In 1992, Ron and other staff alumni established the Canyon Camp Spirit Scholarship program with approval of the Spirit Scholarship guidelines by the Blackhawk Area Council. Three prior designated Spirit Scholarships were created in the names of Troy Larson, Dennis Pratt, and Lee Binkley. Ron commissioned Monroe artist, Elaine Bethke, to create pen and ink sketches of familiar Canyon Camp scenes. Prints of the Bethke sketches have helped generate interest in the Spirit Scholarship Endowment.

In Scouting, Ron has served in a variety of capacities including over 40 years with Troop 101 in Monroe. Ron's efforts have been recognized with the District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver, OA Vigil Honor, and James E. West recognition.

Ron's goal with the Spirit Scholarship program continues to be the accumulation of sufficient endowment dollars to assure the annual awarding of Spirit Scholarships so long as Canyon Camp shall exist.