

Selected quotations from *Legacy of Honor* by Alvin Townley

1. "Scouting played a very large role in my development. It gave me access, it helped me dream. I dreamed that I could go anywhere in the Boy Scouts." *Percy Sutton, Tuskegee Airman and Freedom Rider*
2. "In this country, you don't have to come with a pedigree. You just have to have the principles and the moral and ethical standards, and then you need to have the drive to get things done. All those things you get taught in Scouting." *Ross Perot, Founder of EDS and Perot Systems*
3. "In San Francisco, through Troop 14, we met people from different places, backgrounds, races, and points of view. You lose a few prejudices that way. You learn to appreciate people for who they are and I think *that*, writ large, is what the civil rights movement has been about – treating people on their merits. It starts on a personal level and if that's not clear from Scouting, I don't know what is." *Stephen Breyer, Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court*
4. "Being an Eagle Scout means that you took control of your own life. You set an objective, a reasonably complex one for a young man, and you pursued it through difficult times." *Mayor Michael Bloomberg*
5. "The longer I'm around in this world, the longer I look to principles and values as opposed to rules and laws. People always find their ways around rules and laws." *Hank Paulson, Secretary of the Treasury*
6. "To become an Eagle Scout takes a lot of determination and those are the things I learned in Scouting....I learned the importance of setting goals and the importance of having the determination to meet those goals and to work hard to get it done and keep working at it until you *do* get it done." *J.W. Marriott, Jr., CEO, Marriott International*
7. "That old Scout motto, 'Be Prepared,' was very apropos in my situation! Being prepared means being knowledgeable about what you're working with and what you're doing, what the odds are and how you can get out of certain situations." *Jim Lovell, Commander, Apollo 13*
8. "No doubt being a Boy Scout, an Eagle Scout, had its mark on me that day. I mean, do your best; do whatever you possibly can to help someone. Help other people at all times even if it is going to cost you your life. That is what you do." *Scott Strauss, NYPD September 11 hero*
9. "Becoming an Eagle was the first time in my life that I believed I could lead others. My Scouting experience gave me the confidence to believe I could be a leader, and incidentally, it also gave me the tools to do so." *Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense*
10. "I learned two lessons from Scouting. First, I learned how to make good decisions. Second, I learned what to do when you make bad decisions. And I've certainly experienced both sides!" *Mark Madsen, forward for the Minnesota Timberwolves (NBA)*
11. "I can't imagine a society where giving to others wasn't a theme...The fact of the matter is there's no issue of fault around so many of these people, just circumstances. Some people don't have the ability without some help from others." *Bill Gates, Sr., co-chairman of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*
12. "I grew to believe that in the end, our only truly worthwhile actions are those we do for others – and it matters little whether those acts are for millions of constituents, thousands of patients, several friends, your children, your spouse, or one stranger. Over time, the only marks we leave will be those seen in the lives of others." *Alvin Townley, author of Legacy of Honor*