

YARDSTICK

Some of you are here today starting a journey in scouting, others are continuing on their journey.

So, before you leave I would like to give you something to think about.

In my hands I am holding a yardstick, which represents 3 feet or 36 inches.

The average life span today is 72 years of age. So, each inch on this ruler represents 2 years of life.

Many of the children that sit before me are beginning their journey in scouting as Tiger Cubs. So, they have already lived 3 inches of this yardstick.

(Break off the first three inches and toss it aside)

We now have 33 inches left on our yardstick that represents life.

At the age of 18 our children are to be considered adults and although many will remain in our care until they finish college this is the time in their life when they can take those important steps to move out into the huge world as an adult.

(Break the yardstick off at the 9-inch point and discard the rest of the yardstick)

In my hand I hold your child's life. In my hand I hold the time that you have to be an influence on your child's life only 6 inches, or approximately 12 more years.

I am not saying that we will not have an impact on their life or will not be a part of it after age 18 but it is these years (hold up the 6 inches) that we as parents, grandparents, and guardians are responsible for guiding our children in the right direction. It is our job during these years that we give them the foundation for success as adults.

I know that scouting is important. It teaches children to do their best, to reach higher, and gives them virtues that are important to become successful adults in today's world.

We all want our children to learn wisdom, to have faith, to have hope, and this is just a small part that your child and you will learn by making scouting a part of your life.

Thank you for coming and I hope that you will take a hold of your 6 inches left with your child and remember that even during this time many of us as parents work outside the home, our children go to school, we have to sleep to maintain a healthy life, so the time that we have is much less than it may appear.

Grasp your time with your child, and I commend you for taking time to be a part of scouting-you, your family, and your son will be better for it.

Thank you for coming to our Pack Meeting and I look forward to watching you grow in the scouting program.

See you at our next pack meeting on _____ at _____ o'clock. The pack meeting will be held at _____.