

# ACHIEVER | Former Eagle Scout retires as scoutmaster of his old troop

## Scouting experience becomes lifelong journey

**Prairie Village native Brant Tidwell receives reator's Good Neighbor award.**

BY JENNIFER BHARGAVA  
The Kansas City Star

Brant Tidwell has retired from his dream.

As a teenager in the 1970s, the Prairie Village native wrote in a letter that he hoped to become the scoutmaster of his Boy Scout troop one day. Almost 30 years and countless hours of hard work later, Tidwell's wish came true. The journey not only brought him lifelong friends and unforgettable memories, but it presented him with an award.

In October, coinciding with his retirement from the Troop 91, Tidwell was honored with the Kansas Association of Realtor's Good Neighbor award.

"Brant's impact on the Scouts goes beyond what's able to be measured," said the Rev. Thomas Are of Village Presbyterian Church, one of the people who nominated Tidwell. "He has played a significant factor in the maturing of hundreds of guys."

Tidwell, a commercial real estate agent, is flattered to be recognized for his dedication to Boy Scouts.



Brant Tidwell, the former scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 91, shared his enthusiasm for the outdoors with hundreds of young men in the Johnson County area.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Being scoutmaster for three years was awesome, but also incredibly time-consuming," said Tidwell. "It's the most meaning-

ful thing I've done in my life." He originally joined Troop 91, based at Village Church, when he was 10 years old. At the time

it had more than 300 members, making it one of the largest troops in the world. After becoming an Eagle

## TIDWELL: Scouting remained lifelong interest

FROM PAGE 3

in scouting organizations. He believes other extracurricular activities — sports, student council and the school newspaper — are competing more fiercely with Boy Scouts these

Tidwell hopes his award reveals the importance Boy Scouts still holds in society.

and 50- and 60-year-old people who still put Eagle Scout on their application. It is a great indication of the value that people still hold to that honor."

"I work on a judicial nominating committee and review resumes from people applying for judgeship around the county," he said. "I'm amazed at these 40-

years-old people who still put Eagle Scout on their application. It is a great indication of the value that people still hold to that honor."

To reach Jennifer Bhargava, call (816) 254-7737 or e-mail jbhargava@kcstar.com

Scout, Tidwell vowed he would return to the troop someday. He rejoined in 1983, as an assistant scoutmaster.

"I was not a boy or a dad and that helped me see some interesting dynamics," said Tidwell. "The interactions taught me a lot about parenthood."

A decade later, Tidwell participated with his own sons in the troop. Mountain-climbing with each son at Philmont — the Boy Scout camp located in New Mexico — is among his most cherished memories.

As a leader, Tidwell treated each scout like his own son. It wasn't unusual for the boys to call Tidwell for preparation techniques, advice on merit badge steps and for the scoutmaster conference.

Most of them also caught Tidwell's enthusiasm for the outdoors.

"One of the most rewarding moments is watching the guys' change from little squeamish boys, afraid of living outside, to young men who actually enjoy camping," said Tidwell. "Plus, they learn to appreciate home much more."

The former scoutmaster is frustrated at the waning interest

SEE TIDWELL | PAGE 18