

What did your boys do this summer?

By John Valentine

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Boy Scout Troop 98, home of Nubis the family cat, were busy doing all sorts of adventurous activities during the summer break.

Surprise's Dragon Patrol spent seven days at Camp Raymond near Williams. When not hiking, swimming, or night pioneering, the boys were learning how to rappel the cliffs of Sycamore Canyon one day and shooting rifles or shotguns the next.

The boys of Troop 98 are very competitive and came home with three merit badges each. They also won awards for Black Bear Swim, Tenderfoot Run, Adventure Award, Honor Patrol, 100 percent Uniform Award, Presidential Campsite Inspection and Spirit Award.

Four of the boys and their Scoutmaster were inducted into scouting's highest honor society, The Order of the Arrow. The four will return to the camp to complete the Ordeal, an event which will test them physically as well as mentally, to enter the Brotherhood of the OA.

With the time and dedication of Troop 98 parents, this unit has created a paradigm for success. Unfortunately, this excellence is not cheap and the support of the community is paramount to the troop's ongoing advancement. Supporting the boys when they are involved in fund-raisers like Scout-o-Rama ticket or popcorn sales is a huge factor in being able to keep them as involved as they are in this program.

Private company support has also been one of the primary reasons that the boys are able to have such a diverse scout program, and has allowed them to purchase uniforms and gear. Much of this support comes from Dan Withers, President of D.L. Withers Construction, who is very proud of what "His Scouts" have accomplished in their first year as a Boy Scout Troop.

Troop 98 accepts worn flags in any condition from the com-



Submitted to the Independent

Members of Troop 98 Dragon Patrol carry their flag during a recent trip to Camp Raymond. From left, Nathan Valentine and Jonathan Roberts.

munity for a ceremonious and respectful retirement at no charge, although donations are always and kindly accepted.

What kind of investment are you willing to make in your children? Summer is rapidly coming to a close and the days until

school starts up again are fast approaching, so again I ask you, "What did your boys do this summer?"

Editor's note: John Valentine is the local scoutmaster for Surprise Troop 98. Visit www.troop98az.com.