

23rd Annual Governor's Luncheon for Scouting
Governor Eric J. Holcomb
December 10, 2018

Remarks as prepared for delivery

Thank you Patrick, and good afternoon one and all!

It's good to be back in our capital city defending the title for the largest single Scout fundraiser in the United States!

Now, you and I both know, even though this is the governor's luncheon, I can't take even a small amount of credit for what's become an awesome annual achievement.

And since we know the first part of Scout Law says a Scout is trustworthy, today's about sharing credit – not taking it!

Besides, in Indiana, we're all about teamwork anyway, and we know it takes an All-Star team to put together an event attended by over 2,000 of our closest friends.

So, let me add my praise and my congratulations to Rafael, Patrick, Joe, Kevin, my friend and mentor Jim Morris, and the entire team who made today—and all that comes from it—possible.

This lunch is an amazing reminder that an entire year of programming will reach over 35,000 youth in Indiana. That's like the entire population of the city of Lawrence if they were all scouts.

But you don't have to imagine the huge impact scouts are having on our state, because they are!

Ladies and gentlemen, that's another reason I look forward to this event each year, because you give me the opportunity to speak about the direction of our state and our higher hopes for the future – the real reason for the season.

In short, our state is moving forward, full steam ahead, and to use an Indiana automotive phrase: we're firing on all cylinders!

Now, most of you know about our high national economic rankings. You know because you played a key role in moving us up those rankings...

It's because of you, over the last decade plus, that we've been able to make so much progress. You are *the* stars that have aligned.

And as important as that progress has been, what I take even greater pride in is seeing our expectations rise.

Hoosiers are expecting more out of ourselves, out of each other and out of our state government.

This is a good thing.

We've come a long way: from a flyover state, to a "fly-to" state; from also ran, to taking home the checkered flag, and lapping our competition while we're at it.

Yes, Indiana has certainly changed, for the better – but we're not the only ones.

Bob Dylan once said: *"There's nothing so stable as change."*

How right he was!

Business, communications, education, technology, and on and on continue to evolve at an unprecedented scale and pace due to technology advancements.

Think about it, there are more cell phones now on earth than toothbrushes.

46% of Americans with a cell phone check it before they get out of bed, and hopefully brush their teeth.

And, at the same time, the world is becoming smaller, our markets more connected, our products more accessible and other states more competitive than ever before.

That's why they're copying our Indiana blueprint as many play catch up.

So, while imitation is still the sincerest form of flattery, we can't take our foot off the gas or take for granted that the good times will just keep on rolling.

We have to – to borrow a phrase – "Be Prepared" for what's next.

It reminds me of the quip about the old Hoosier woodsman.

He was asked what he would do if he was given only 5 minutes to fell a tree.

His answer: *"Well, I'd spend two and a half minutes sharpening my axe."*

He understood the importance of preparation.

He was probably a Scout!

The woodsman was spot on. Preparation is vital.

But he also had a huge advantage. He knew what to prepare for!

Today, we don't always have that luxury.

We don't always know what the next big change will be or the ripple effect it will have on our lives.

So, how do we prepare for the unknown?

As usual, we can learn a lot from the Scouts because the theme and focus for today's luncheon gives us a good roadmap: "Stronger with Scouting."

Indiana is stronger with scouting, because the Scouts produce model citizens, and the future leaders who are going to determine what Indiana looks like in the next 20-30 years.

I always point out that we're a lot closer to 2050 than we are 1950 and when I look at the four areas of scouting you're highlighting today, it fits right in with what we already see – but could always use more of – in all corners of our state.

You're providing the perfect blueprint for how we prepare today for 2050 and beyond.

Simply put, we need more Hoosiers who think and act like Scouts, kind of like "W.W.S.D." – "What would scouts do?"

If you could *only* put two words on a resume, any resume, next to your name, I can't think of any two more powerful words than *Eagle Scout*.

And the way we get more Eagle Scouts is through days like today.

Because we need more Hoosiers with *people power*, more with *heart power*, more with *giving power* and more with *brain power*.

These four traits, emphasized this year, are what Scouts have promoted and produced for decades, and what we need to embrace to be prepared for the unknown opportunities awaiting our great state.

Let me just quickly take them one by one.

First, *people power*: people power to me underscores the importance of empathy and civility.

Putting yourself in someone else's shoes and viewing things from their perspective.

Too often, and too easily, we can shut ourselves out from other experiences or ideas.

This lack of perspective can wrongly cause us to view the other side or group as unimportant or worse, the opposition, instead of as one of our neighbors.

That's why it's important to get outside of our own comfort zones and learn from others who experience a different environment and offer different perspectives.

We have to talk to people, volunteer with people, befriend people who look different, sound different, think different, love different and pray different – or don't pray at all – than we do.

We have a lot more in common with each other than we sometimes give credit and – after all – we're all in this together.

Secondly, *heart power*. Now, admittedly, I need some help here.

Because with as much time as I spend on the road traveling our state, I fall victim to the siren song of junk food more often than I care to admit.

But my doctor is in the house – and he knows all about my bad habits!

And even *Doctor* Benjamin Franklin talked about being healthy, wealthy and wise. I think there's a reason health is first.

This is an area – candidly – where, like me, Indiana has some catching up to do.

We're making progress. Especially in our fight against substance abuse and addiction, mental illness, obesity and our all too high infant mortality rate.

But there's still much work to be done. In fact, our work will never truly be done on this front.

Now, I get it, I know this is probably the most difficult stretch of the year, when candy and food a plenty is served, to talk about healthy living and heart power.

But we can all make small changes to improve our own health and show compassion and support for our friends and neighbors who are working hard to strengthen their own *heart power*.

And if this is a difficult time of year to talk about healthy choices, it's certainly easier to focus on *giving power*.

This is something we've been doing for two centuries, Hoosiers helping Hoosiers.

And our spirit of generosity and willingness to help neighbors in need is one of the things that makes Indiana such a special place.

Giving power strengthens families, strengthens communities, and strengthens ourselves.

Mark Twain was right when he said: "*If you want love and abundance in your life, give it away.*"

He was right, and we see the power of giving 24-7-365 in all 92 counties in our state, big and small.

And it was so good to learn about three scouts who exemplify what *giving power* is: the Price brothers.

The Price clan were the top popcorn sellers for the Crossroads of America Council.

Think about that, the top popcorn sellers in the top popcorn state in America!

Sign them up for paid internships, Weaver or Gutwein popcorn!

But, what's even more impressive than their sales is they took a percentage of their earnings to buy clothes and toys for families in need at the St. Vincent Peyton Manning Children's Hospital.

Now, I know there are many more examples like the Prices throughout the Scouts... young Hoosiers who are embracing *giving power* and seeing it change lives for the better.

Can you imagine if during every campaign election season, instead of candidate commercials, all we saw were scout testimonials on TV, how encouraged and optimistic we'd all be?

Hey, a guy can dream can't he?

The last power in this quartet, *brain power*, is critically important. Call it the "X-Factor."

We need to be always curious and inquisitive and strive for more knowledge every step of our lives.

We need to embrace the rapid pace of change and by being prepared – there's that phrase again – to meet the demands of the evolving economy.

In Indiana – right now – we have more Hoosiers going to work each day than at any other time in our history.

But we also have tens of thousands of jobs that need to be filled: high-paying jobs in high-demand fields.

We've got a tremendous amount of *brain power* and brain "factories" in Indiana.

A world class network of colleges and universities; booming tech, manufacturing, ag-bio-science and innovation sectors where Hoosiers are dreaming big about the future of our world and their place in it.

And so, in order to help us harness this *brain power*, we're totally overhauling our education and workforce development efforts to better align them with modern market demands.

We're working with Hoosiers at every level of their education and careers.

From implementing computer science in all K-12 schools to offering *paid for* job training to folks who are ready or need to change careers.

We're focused on getting our workforce skilled up, because the ability to prepare and attract a talented and sufficient workforce will go a long way in deciding where we'll be in 2050.

Who knows, 32 years from now in 2050 maybe one of these Scouts will be governor hosting the 55th Governor's Luncheon!

Because the leaders that Scouts are producing today are the very Scouts who will build on our momentum tomorrow and continue to take Indiana to the Next Level – whether as governor, or the next Dave Ricks at Eli Lilly & Company, or Tom Easterday at Subaru, or Mark Miles at Human & Company.

Yes, today's Scouts face an endlessly exciting world of opportunity unimaginable to me when I was their age.

And when we embrace and improve our *brain power, people power, heart power* and *giving power*, we'll all be prepared for what's next – whatever that may be.

So, let me close today by paraphrasing a hero of mine, President Dwight Eisenhower.

He said: *"The Scout movement merits the support of every American who wants to make our country and world a better place.*

Your emphasis on community service and tolerance and world friendship promotes a speedier attainment of the enduring peace for which we all strive.

This movement is a prime force in preparing tomorrow's leaders for their duty to themselves, their country and their world."

As he was so many times, *Ike was right* – and indeed, Indiana is stronger with Scouting!

Thank you, Crossroads of America Council, and thanks to all of you for your investment in these leaders.

Happy holidays to all!

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