

June 20, 2009

Kyle,

There are so many things I wish I were home to share with you and teach you. Unfortunately, I'm not so I've compiled this checklist of things that I feel are important for you to know. This list is in no way conclusive on what you will need to know in life but it's probably as good a place to start as any. Some of these things are important life skills, others are just fun to know. Together with Brent you are the "men" of the house therefore learning some of these skills will be extremely helpful to your mom. The only thing that I am sure of is that at one point or another you will use all of these skills during your lifetime. (Even if some of them seem crazy to you right now ☺). This is the reason I call this booklet "Kyle's Merit Badges to Manhood."

You may already be familiar with some of the items in this booklet. Other tasks will be brand new to you. To earn a "check" you must work with an experienced person on the subject. They will show you the safe and proper way to do a task and then expect you to demonstrate it on your own. At this point they will initial your book for you and that task will be complete.

Some of these tasks will be simple and you will earn a check in five minutes. Other tasks may be difficult, frustrating and take 30 minutes or more to master. This, my son, mirrors life with all its ups and downs and will teach you it's own set of valuable skills along the way. (Patience, dedication, follow through, etc.) There is no time limit to finishing this booklet. You can do it as fast or slow as necessary. The important thing is that you learn to do these skills properly. If you set a goal for yourself of getting it done by the end of summer you will need to average completing 4 tasks a day.

You can skip around and do the tasks in any order that you'd like. The only thing that I can tell you is that you will have to **earn these checks**. There will be no "gimmies". I've enlisted the help of some experts that are eager to help you complete the tasks. Gram, Gramp, Aunt Nicole, Uncle Jason, Uncle Ronny, Uncle Kevin, Great Gram, Tim, Polly & David, etc. It's up to you to navigate through these people and find the best person suited to help you with the task. If you go to the wrong person they will point you in the direction of someone better suited to do the job. For example: You probably aren't going to ask Gram how to check the oil in the car any more than you would ask Gramp to show you how to iron a shirt.

Of course in life we are often rewarded for a job well done. As you work your way through this maze of tasks, I feel that you should be rewarded too. I have set up some nice prizes when you reach certain milestones on your journey to completion.

They are as follows:

- The first 10 tasks you complete and have signed off we will take you to the driving range and let you hit a basket of golf balls.
- When you have completed 20 tasks and have them signed off by your training adult, we will take you out to the batting cages and for ice cream.
- When you have completed 30 tasks we'll take you to Monkey Trunks rope climbing course or Bromley Mountain for the day.
- When you complete 40 tasks, Uncle Jason will rent a canoe with you and spend the day on the Connecticut River.
- 50 tasks completed and Uncle Jason will take you to hike Mount Monadnock.
- 60 tasks completed will earn you a trip to the Christa McAuliffe & Alan Sheppard Planetarium/ Science Center
- 70 tasks completed will be a day at 6 Flags with a friend.
- 80 tasks completed will be a weekend camping trip at a state park with plenty of fishing or a deep sea fishing trip.
- If you complete every task I have come up with you will get \$225.00 cash to do with what you'd like. (In addition to all other prizes, this is the equivalent of earning more than \$2.00 for each task you complete☺ )

Good luck Kyle. I hope you find this challenge as fun to do as I had putting it together. I apologize for not being able to teach you all of these things myself. It would be so much fun. I hope you find comfort in knowing that you are in good hands with people that love you and are excited to help you get started.