

in the final analysis

“Anyone who thinks that they are too small to make a difference has never tried to fall asleep with a mosquito in the room.”

—Christine Todd Whitman

JOM

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Not so long ago, my two now collegiate sons were avid members of Cub Scouts. This meant that my wife, Lynne, and I were highly engaged in scouting as den leaders. A benefit of this responsibility was that I got to spend more nights that I would have ever imagined possible sleeping in moldy canvas tents with one or more mosquitos for company. Sometimes, we had skunks visit, but that’s a different editorial. Being a den leader was a wonderfully unique, occasionally frustrating, oftentimes labor-some, and almost always gratifying experience. Lynne and I worked with a lot of great parents and many eager-to-please kids. Honestly, in all of those years of volunteering, I felt compelled to abandon only a small handful of parents and children alike in the woods. (If you knew them, you’d understand.) (Kidding.) (Not really.) (Really.) Scouting is nothing without ceremony, and the grandest event on the scouting calendar was the annual Blue and Gold Banquet. In the church basement, the full pack and many parents would assemble with venerable leadership from the regional council and awards would be given, senior Cub Scouts (a.k.a. Webelos) would matriculate to a Boy Scout troop, and a representative from the regional council would make a pitch for cash donations. The fundraising speech told us that which we already knew—scouting is a pretty good program for young people and it needs not just your volunteerism but your financial support. Heck, with a \$25 donation, we would even get a very nicely glazed coffee cup. A larger amount would garner a most-desirable camping widget.



James J. Robinson
Executive Director

I suspect that you can guess where this editorial is heading . . .

“A pretty good program for young people and it needs not just your volunteerism but your financial support” sounds like the crux of the elevator speech that I offer on behalf of the resurgent TMS Foundation. Among many initiatives, the TMS Foundation gives scholarships, sends people early in their professional careers to the TMS Annual Meeting & Exhibition on scholarship (i.e., the Young Leader program), and reaches out to the K-12 community referencing culture that they relish (*Comic-tanium*TM). Do such efforts have impact? The answer is self-evident—and I have citations to prove it! Just turn forward a few pages to the “Board Motions, et al.” department to learn how two incoming TMS Board of Directors members are products of the Young Leader program, or read our new department “Young Professional Technical Notes” for insight on the impressive early career accomplishments and volunteerism of another Young Leader, or open “TMS Celebrates Its Scholars” and meet the newest scholarship recipients and learn how these awards are affecting their studies. Want more? The TMS Foundation sponsored several young women to participate in the First TMS Summit on Creating and Sustaining Diversity in the Minerals, Metals, and Materials Professions *and* sponsors the award that debuted at the summit: The TMS Ellen Swallow Richards Diversity Award.



These are all great programs, and programs that I believe make our society and our Society a better place. Best of all, you can make a difference by opening your wallet just a little or a lot. How about making a donation today via the TMS Foundation web site? How much? That’s up to you. Whatever the amount, big or small, be assured that we mosquitos can create quite a buzz and make a big difference, especially when working collaboratively.

Tell you what. While I don’t have a coffee cup to exchange for your \$25 contribution, I can promise to write a personal letter of appreciation for your new \$500 or more donation if you make it this year. Think of it as an “In the Final Analysis” written just for you with a custom-selected quote. . . . Yikes, did I just make that commitment? I dare you to make me sorry!

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