

**Emeritus College's Community Service Award
Presented October 5, 2021 at the Fall Picnic and Annual Meeting
Calvin Schoulties, Chair of the EC Awards Committee**

Good afternoon fellow emeritus faculty and guests.

As Chair of the Emeritus College's, I am honored to announce the recipient of the Community Service Award. Award Committee emeriti members, Bonnie Holaday, Mike Ellison, Bob Hogan, Jerry Trapnel and I selected this year's recipient from the submitted nominations.

Dr. Vic Shelburne, Professor Emeritus of Forestry & Natural Resources, is the recipient of the 2021 Emeritus College's Community Service Award. Vic is receiving this award for his outstanding contributions as Scout Master for Troop 235 sponsored by Ft. Hill Presbyterian Church for the past 40 plus years including the past 9 years as an emeritus faculty member.

Vic was born in Buffalo, New York, then moved onto to Westboro MA where he began his scouting journey, he then moved to Stamford, CT where he obtained scouting's highest rank that of Eagle Scout. After high school in 1969, he headed decidedly south and obtained a B.S. in Botany, *magna cum laude*, at Duke University in 1974. He went on to receive a MS degree in Forestry at Duke in 1975. After graduation there, he worked in a staff and research forestry position at the University of Arkansas at Monticello where he became an Assistant Scout Master for a local troop. Dr. Bob Allan, former Department Head of Forestry at Clemson, hired Vic into an administrative forestry position in 1980. It was in that same year, he began a 40-year arc that continues to the present day as Scout Master of Troop 235 where he mentored 236 Eagle Scouts and when he took over 1400 nights of camping. Wow, that averages to 35 camping nights per year for him!

While in the administrative position at Clemson, Vic also worked on his second graduate degree and obtained the Ph.D. degree in Forestry in 1988. Vic received Clemson's prestigious 1989 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award to an employee with outstanding community service. He became an Assistant Professor of Forestry in 1990 and advanced through the ranks to Professor in 2004. Vic retired in 2012. The Clemson Forestry Department selected Vic Shelburne as its Outstanding Alumnus in 2013. Vic has heretofore received 21 Awards and Honors for Scouting and Community Service.

Finally, Vic's nominator for this Award invoked the following quotation from the Boy Scouts of America and then reflected a comment back about Vic.: "The Boy Scouts of America provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness." His nominator then says, "Vic Shelburne believes so strongly in the values of scouting that he dedicated his life to volunteering as a leader. In that process, Vic has become the very personification of dedication and high-minded principle." So, very true! Hats off to you and congratulations Vic!

At this juncture, I am pleased to introduce Jake Gotimer, who is the Assistant Scout Executive for the Blue Ridge Council. Jake began his Scouting career in 2011 as a district executive in Albany, NY. While there he also served as Camp Director of Camp Wakpominee (Wak-pom-in-nee) in the Lake George area. In 2013, Jake moved on to become Senior District Executive and later Program Director in the Connecticut Rivers Council based in Hartford, CT. As program director, Jake was responsible for Cub Scout Day Camps, adult leader training, Scout advancement, and community organization partnerships. He moved to South Carolina in 2019 to become a Field Director here in the Blue Ridge Council, and this past June was promoted to Assistant Scout Executive/Chief Operating Officer.

The Zoom is yours Jake!

After Jake's remarks, Debbie thanks Jake and introduces Vic for comments.

After Vic's remarks, Debbie concludes: *Please join me in congratulating Vic Shelburne for the 2021 Community Service Award of the Emeritus College for his very productive and active 40 plus years in scouting here as Scout Master in Clemson and his very positive influences on young people in our community involved in scouting.*