

Companion to HBO's series From the Earth to the Moon, Episode 10 "Galileo was Right"

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With us stuck inside see if you can find a copy of the series From the Earth to the Moon or maybe stream it if you get HBO or watch for free HBO sometimes on the weekend.

After the success of the movie Apollo 13, starring Tom Hanks, playing Captain James Lovell (Eagle Scout) Tom Hanks created this series for HBO. The series is great and educational, although Episodes 2 and 11 are a little sad for younger Scouts, Episode 5: Spider is great for young engineers. Today's topic is Episode 10: Galileo Was Right it follows the story of Apollo 15, man has walked on the moon on 6 different missions and orbited on an additional three. Most good Scouts know Neil Armstrong was an Eagle Scout but that's only part of the story. 24 men have been to the moon, walked or orbited, 20 of those men grew up in Scouting. 12 men have walked on the moon 11 were Scouts. On Apollo 13 all 3 astronauts were former Scouts. Let's look at why there is a such a strong relationship between Scouts and astronauts.

Before you watch: In the introduction Tom Hanks discusses what is needed to be an astronaut, think about how many of those things are what we do in scouting, we learn a wide variety of things from science, commitment, and sense of wonder. When we start the video, we see the astronauts trying to learn geology and its not going well, they need to learn like the former Scouts they are. 5 out of 6 of the astronauts in the class were Scouts. We meet Professor Leon Silver (former Scout) and he teaches the astronauts how to "see" the moon and be a geologist. Watch astronaut Dave Scott (Life Scout) go from being a pilot who needs to get to the moon to an astronaut who remembers his Scout curiosity and needs to know how the moon got there.

Watch the video.

After you watch: First, "The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be lighted," we learn to light all kinds of fires in Scouts. What does that mean?

Second: We explore beautiful places, that's what Scouts do.

Most importantly: Former scouts were astronauts leading up to the Apollo moon program. Almost all the astronauts to go to the moon were former scouts. 9 Scouts have also given their lives on Apollo 1, Columbia and Challenger. Even today about 75 percent of current and former astronauts were either Boy or Girl Scouts. Meaning, Scouts worked to get to the moon, manned most of the moon missions, gave their lives in training, walked on the moon, saved the program on Apollo 13, and made discoveries to figure out how the moon got there. Congratulations Scouts, we are sleeping under a BSA Scout moon. So next time you are camping after a great day of Scouting look at the moon, think of it as a Scout moon before you go to sleep, and sleep with a smile. EXCEPT, while looking at the moon you might notice a bright star with a reddish tint, Mars. We will hopefully get to Mars in the 2030s or 2040s and if 75 percent of astronauts were Scouts somewhere out there are Scouts, doing STEM, will walk on Mars. Scouts and leaders it's our responsibility to help get humanity to Mars! There are Scouts thinking, "I'm bad at math and can only sit in a car for 15 minutes." That's OK we need you on the team, we are one Scouting team helping each other. When a team wins the Superbowl everyone gets a ring from the quarterback to the secretary in the front office, everyone is on the team. Our team is going to other planets. After that, in Star Trek Enterprise, pretend for real, Captain Archer first Captain of the Enterprise becomes an Eagle Scout in about 2128, we have a lot of work to do.

Thanks for listening and being a Scout, W. John Burton.