

My son Zach really enjoyed Scouting - especially the part about the adventures of camping out. I participated in various troop leadership roles during his Scouting career because I loved camping and Scouting, too! My friend John Sain was the Scoutmaster, and I was the assistant for a time, and we tented together on many outings.

John was a great leader, and a great friend. When it grew near bed time, he would (graciously I thought) set up a light for me to read by before he got into his own sleeping bag. I liked to read, and loved a little time with a book when it got quiet around the campsite.

It was only later that my friend revealed a strategy much deeper than mere courtesy. He told me that he had provided this great service for me because if he let me go to sleep before him, my snoring would keep him awake all night!

This revelation forever impacted my interpretation of people's acts of kindness and love. But, I admit that John did indeed work through a difficulty with me without making a big deal about it. Indeed, I did not even know that we had a difficulty! Perhaps we should all try to use such means to deal with inter-personal problems.