

## Steve Nelson

*"Never do things by halves"*  
-- Proverbs

The room was crowded with people. The minutes seemed like hours. Sitting in the back of the room, head in hands, with his foot constantly tapping sat a man in a jacket and tie, listening attentively, looking down, obviously nervous.

Meet Steve Nelson, Council Executive of the Snake River Council. He is my "Morgan Stanley" advisor, the one from television advertisements, often mistaken as a family member. The aforementioned scene was during the Texas 2005 BSA Annual Meeting when the next National Venturing President was announced. Steve's nervousness exceeded that of my mom, dad and me - combined. Steve Nelson genuinely cares - about his family, BSA, and the youth in his program.



Writing about Steve is difficult, for he is multifaceted. He is a man of great creativity and ideas, with unlimited energy to implement his vision, yet quite capable of patiently locating the only typo in a five page document. Steve's personal mission seems to be to locate the appropriate recipient for every piece of information that crosses his desk each day. While challenging for him, his approach to communication creates an informed network of council volunteers who are frequently reminded how important they are to the organization. Every conversation with Steve ends with his classic "I appreciate all that you do." The antithesis of a micro-manager, Steve empowers volunteers with the confidence necessary to accomplish their goals, while remaining ready to pitch in, should they require his help.

As a youth in Steve's council, I know that I have someone in my corner, ready to help if I ask, wishing only the best for me. When I received the Congressional Award Silver Medal from the Idaho Congressional Delegation and Governor, I requested that Steve Nelson escort me to the stage and present me to the elected officials. He proudly joined the mayor, secretary of state, principals of schools and other dignitaries as official escorts. During my tenure as Western Region President and now National Venturing President, Steve has been diligent in keeping me informed, providing me with tools to be successful. Aspects of this cabinet website were the result of Steve Nelson's dedication to keeping accurate information available. He does not suggest ideas; for he understands that Venturing is youth-driven. Rather, he provides timely information, allowing youth to develop their own ideas. When Kodiak X was introduced, Steve Nelson arranged for the Snake River Council to pilot the program.

I chose the quote from Proverbs because Steve's effort routinely exceeds 100%. His performance is further enhanced by the dedication and support of his wife Diane and daughter Nakita. Their team approach to Scouting is inspiring. During the council's first Great Duck Race fundraiser, it was Nakita who paraded around in the duck costume (this was shortly after she returned from Camp Bradley where she ran the camp store). When Steve developed the concept of Q3 (Quality Unit~Quality District~Quality Council) to promote becoming a quality council, his wife Diane hosted dinners to refine the concept. This month the Snake River Council celebrated its first Quality Council in about a decade.

Steven Nelson is a native of Idaho, born and raised in the eastern part of the state. He attended Brigham Young University. For three years, Steve worked for BYU running an Alumni Family Camp and teaching Scouting. During his 22 year tenure as a professional Scout, Steve worked in the

Nevada Area Council (Reno) for five years, Boulder Dam Area Council (Las Vegas) for one year, the Grand Teton Council for twelve years and the Snake River Council for the past four years. He and Diane have one son who is an Eagle Scout, and two daughters, whom Steve says had better marry Eagle Scouts!

My life and Venturing experience have been blessed by the mentorship of Steve Nelson.