

## Scout Executive Jeff Hotchkiss Retires After 40 Years Leading Nonprofit Organization Catalina Council, BSA



Jeff Hotchkiss and his wife, Melody, photographed at the 2023 Catalina Council Awards Banquet.

TUCSON, ARIZ (May 16, 2023) - After almost 40 years in professional Scouting, Jeff Hotchkiss is retiring as Scout Executive for the Catalina Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA). He is succeeded by Shannon Roberts, PhD, Army Veteran, and resident Tucsonan with leadership experience across Southern Arizona raising funds and overseeing operations for various local nonprofits including the African American Legacy Fund, a Southern Arizona Community Foundation fund, and the Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona. Robert is in the transition process and will officially join the Catalina Council, beginning his adventure as Scout Executive June 23.

Catalina Council, BSA faced many obstacles from the National Council's bankruptcy to COVID to the Big Horn Fire. Hotchkiss navigated these challenges, keeping Scouting active in Southern Arizona, even growing membership for the first time since 2017. Under his leadership, half a million dollars was raised to upgrade camps and facilities at both Camp Lawton and Double V Scout Ranch.

Hotchkiss first started his Scouting adventure as a Cub Scout and continued his involvement for much of his life around the country at various Councils. He moved to Tucson four years ago to begin his role as Scout Executive for the Catalina Council. In retirement, he plans to stay in Tucson with his wife, spending

more time reconnecting with family, traveling, and discovering new hobbies. He made a promise to his wife that he would wait at least a year before going back as a volunteer and mentor for Scouts.

With retirement on the horizon, it is a bittersweet time for Hotchkiss, saying he's excited for the next adventure, but he'll miss working with the people the most. "I love what the Scouting mission is. We're trying to build the next generation. Make sure they're physically and mentally fit. Make sure they understand what it means to be a citizen and have fun at the same time. We build better adults from the young people that are involved in Scouting," Hotchkiss comments.

Many mentors contributed to Hotchkiss's career and helped prepare him for the responsibilities required as Scout Executive. He offered his own leadership advice to the next generation of leaders. "Don't be afraid to take a stand if you think something's not right. Find the code. Whether it's from Scouting or it's something from your faith, find something that says 'these are the values I will stand with, this is gonna be who I am, then I think life will work out.' I tell this to my adult kids: 'if you have a bad day, there's tomorrow.' You can change behaviors, you just have to get back in the saddle and ride again," said Hotchkiss.

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