

A CONVERSATION WITH DAVE KENNEY

What research did you undertake in writing your award-winning book?

You name it. I mined the local Council's minimally-organized archives as well as various newspaper archives and collections belonging to the Minnesota Historical Society and county historical societies. Personal interviews were also an important part of the research.

What do you hope your readers take away from *Honor Bright*?

I hope readers come away with an appreciation of how the history of the Boy Scouts intersects frequently, and in interesting ways, with the broader histories of Minnesota and the United States.

What challenges did you encounter in writing the book?

One of the biggest challenges was deciding how to approach the subject of homosexuality. About ten years ago, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was involved in a case that resulted in a U.S. Supreme Court decision ruling affirming the BSA's right to exclude homosexuals from

membership. In the end, my client, the Northern Star Council, supported me in my contention that we needed to be forthright in our telling of that part of the story.

What was your journey to becoming a published author?

My writing addiction began in the mid 1980s when I was a local television reporter. I enjoyed the writing part of my job more than most of the reporters I knew, and I continued to enjoy word craft after landing a job as a writer with CNN. After more than a decade in television, I decided to make the jump to the print world, first as a local magazine writer and finally as an author of Minnesota history books.

What is your biggest dream for your writing career?

I hope at some point in the not too distant future to write a history of an event with true national significance. I've spent parts of the last several years researching the story of the racial desegregation of bowling (yes, bowling), and I like to think that I may be able to find a national publisher for that work.

How do you most enjoy spending time when you're not writing?

I like to hang out with my family (my wife, Nancy and daughters, Helen and Grace). With my flexible, freelancer schedule, making time for family is pretty easy.



325 Cedar Street
Suite 555
Saint Paul, MN 55101
651-222-3242

www.thefriends.org

Minnesota Book Award Categories:

Children's Literature

General Nonfiction

Genre Fiction

Memoir & Creative Nonfiction

Minnesota

Novel & Short Story

Poetry

Young People's Literature

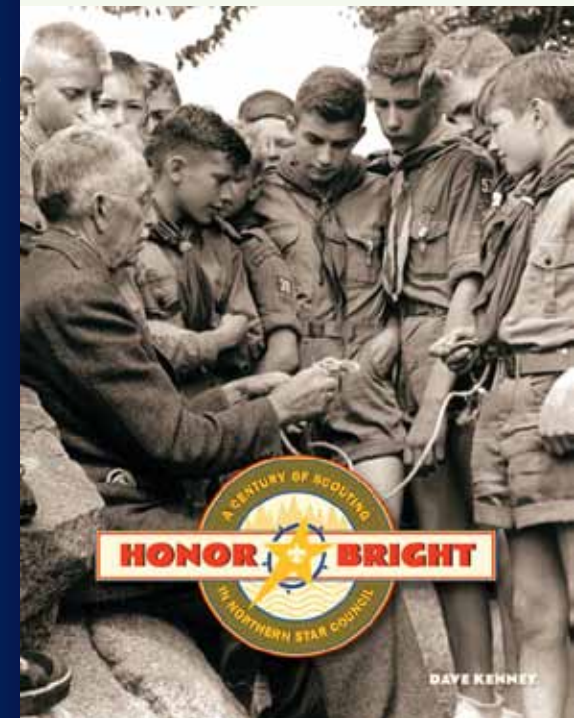
The Minnesota Book Awards is a statewide outreach program of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library in partnership with the City of Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Public Library, and is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership, and a lifetime of learning; and the Minnesota Department of Education/State Library Agency, with funding under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). For additional information, please call: 651-366-6497.

A Reading and Discussion Guide Prepared by the Minnesota Book Awards/ The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library

22ND ANNUAL MINNESOTA BOOK AWARDS

Readers' Choice Winner

Sponsored by
Pioneer Press and TwinCities.com



***Honor Bright: A Century of Scouting
in Northern Star Council***

by Dave Kenney

NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Honor Bright

SUMMARY:

This captivating and richly illustrated organizational history consists of stories and photographs of the Boy Scouts of America's first century in central Minnesota and western Wisconsin. From the start of the Boy Scout movement in 1910 to the Scouts' contributions to the nation's war effort in the 1940s, to the growth of Scouting in the 2000s to serve 100,000 young people each year, this book provides a comprehensive history of the Northern Star Council's first 100 years.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In what ways has Scouting changed over 100 years, and in what ways has it stayed the same?

2. What are the most important values that Scouting teaches young people?
3. What did you learn about Scouting that most interested or surprised you?
4. In what ways does *Honor Bright* portray a local and national history that reaches beyond the Northern Star Council?
5. What factors make it possible for an organization, such as the Northern Star Council, to remain in existence for 100+ years?
6. How might the process of researching and writing an organizational history be different from working on another type of history book?
7. The author had little direct experience with Scouting before beginning work on this book. How might his limited experience have been a help and/or disadvantage in researching and writing the book?
8. How did the photos and other images contribute to your enjoyment of the book and

understanding of the Northern Star Council's history? How well do you feel the text and images work together?

9. Are there ways in which we all are historians? What pieces of history do you keep alive, and how do you share this history with others?
10. If you wrote a history book about someone or something that had a profound influence on you as a youth, what would your topic be?

ABOUT DAVE KENNEY

Dave Kenney is a freelance writer specializing in Minnesota history. His books include Twin Cities Picture Show: A Century of Moviegoing and Minnesota Goes to War: The Home Front during World War II. Dave's award-winning textbook, Northern Lights, is used in elementary and middle school classrooms throughout the state.



Visit www.pastprologue.com to learn more about the author and his work.



The 22nd Annual Minnesota Book Awards is a project of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, with the Saint Paul Public Library and the City of Saint Paul. **Presenting Sponsor:** RBC Wealth Management. **Foundation Supporters:** The Boss Foundation; Harlan Boss Foundation for the Arts; Huss Foundation; The Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation. **Grants:** City of Saint Paul – Cultural STAR Program; Minnesota Department of Education – State Library Services. **Category Sponsors:** Children's Literature – Books For Africa; General Nonfiction – Minnesota AFL-CIO; Genre Fiction – Wellington Management, Inc.; Minnesota – Xcel Energy; Young People's Literature – 3M Company. **Special Award Sponsors:** Book Artist – Minnesota Center for Book Arts; Kay Sexton Award – Common Good

Books; Readers' Choice – Pioneer Press and TwinCities.com. **Community Sponsors:** Anchor Trust; Minnesota Crime Wave; Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association Children's Fund; The Red Balloon Bookshop. **Judges' Sponsors:** Beaver's Pond Press; Capstone; Coffee House Press; Lerner Publishing; Milkweed Editions. **Media Partners:** Minnesota Public Radio (MPR); Pioneer Press and TwinCities.com; Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN); Swank AV; Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) – Minnesota Channel. **Outreach Partners:** The Loft Literary Center; Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA); Minnesota Educational Media Organization; Minnesota Library Foundation; Saint Paul Almanac.