

IDPR – Help Name Our Mascot Competition
Teacher: Mrs. Nicole DeVries
School: Midvale School
Midvale, ID

Name: Scout

Many centuries ago, back when the Nez Perce roamed Idaho’s Palouse Valley, before the days of the fur trappers and traders, before Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery made their trek through the Idaho wilderness, before the missionaries, miners, and pioneers settled this great state, deep in the vast forest near the pristine Clearwater River, a little red fox kit was born. There was something magical about this special kit. His magic was to love and help those in need. He also had the power to stay alive as long as he did good deeds for others.

This generous kit had a fun and jolly childhood. During his youth, he learned his talents one by one. He started out by doing good deeds for the other forest animals. At first, he did just small acts of kindness. He gathered nuts for squirrels and helped baby birds that fell out of trees. He was a friend to every creature. As he grew older, his deeds became more significant.

One day, in particular, a charitable action of his changed the course of his life forever. While romping through the forest and keeping an eye out for an animal in distress, he suddenly heard, “Somebody, help me, please! I’m scared, cold, and longing for my family!” Lost and alone in the deep dark woods, he discovered a little Nez Perce girl caught in a snare of a wolf trap.

“Oh, you poor thing! Let me help you,” exclaimed the fox.

“Oh, thank you. I know I’m safe now,” the girl cried with relief.

But then she paused and said, “Wait! My parents are probably worried sick about me. I need to get home to them, but I don’t know the way. Can you help me?”

“Of course, I will. That’s what I’m meant to do,” replied the fox.

He helped her find her way home. When her parents saw her, their eyes were filled with tears of joy. The girl named him “Scout” because of that one scouting trip he made when he saved her life. She and her parents wanted to adopt him and bring him into the tribe, but they knew he must go back to the wilderness to do what he did best – help those in need. The tribe spread the word throughout the land about this very special fox. His story has been told for generations.

Ever since that important day, Scout continues to scout around, looking to lend a hand wherever he can. Because he continues to do kind deeds for others, he lives on as the Idaho Parks and Recreation’s most loyal and honored mascot. He travels throughout this great state visiting Idaho’s Magnificent State Parks.

If you “stay and play” at any of the twenty-seven parks in the Gem State, you just might spot Scout helping a visitor in need. Who knows? Maybe he could even help you!