



1907-04-02

Letter from Dan[iel] Beard to John Muir, 1907 Apr 2.

Daniel Beard

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THE SONS OF DANIEL BOONE

BRANCH OF
CLUB OF CLUBS
11 EAST 24 TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

87 Bowne Ave.,

Flushing, L. I., April 2nd, 1907.

My dear Mr. Muir:-

I am writing you in the interests of the boys of America, as you know all normal boys delight in reading of out of door achievements and all boys naturally form themselves into "gangs": Some-time ago it occurred to me that we should take advantage of these tendencies and use them for the boys' own good. With this purpose in view I have formed a society of boys called the Sons of Daniel Boone.

The society is composed of local branches termed "Forts", of which we already have five hundred, each Fort being a club in itself. The PRESIDENT of a Fort has the title of DANIEL BOONE; the Secretary, the title of David Crockett; the Treasurer, the title of Kit Carson; the Librarian, the title of Audubon; the Forester, the title of Simon Kenton.

Mr. Roosevelt has very kindly selected a feat or achievement as follows for the Roosevelt Top Notch: "A deed of heroism and daring, (not necessarily for the saving of life, but in which life saving may be incidental); as, for instance, in protecting women and children from injury and abuse; saving property from fire and

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flood, or in times of riot; or standing up to some noted bully or rough, when the interests of peaceable citizens demands it; and so forth, and so forth.

You being a particular out-door hero, the President has self endorsed your name as being the one eminently proper for a Top Notch for the society. I have accordingly enclosed some suggestions for the deed necessary to win the John Muir Top Notch.

I will consider it a personal favor if you will kindly select the one you would like best to be known by your name. This will please the boys immensely and stimulates them to worthy acts and deeds.

If you will give your early attention to this so that I may be in a position to send the list of Top Notches to the different Forts scattered over the United States and Canada, you will confer a great favor on me.

Any suggestion or amendment you may offer for your Notch will be gladly adopted.

It may interest you to know that the only other Top Notches proposed are the Roosevelt Notch, the Dewey Notch, the General Bell Notch, the Buffalo Bill Notch, and the Mark Twain Notch.

Sincerely yours,

Dan Beard