

WHY I WANT TO GO ON THE SOUTH POLE EXPEDITION

From my first observation of Commander Byrd I have highly admired him and his work. Because of the scientific training and experience that I would receive from association with him and his companions I hope to be the fortunate Scout to go on the polar expedition. If there were no other merits to be derived except the close relationship with Commander Byrd I would feel highly honored, if chosen, and while that is one of the foremost reasons why I would like to go there are others of great importance to me.

Scouting is to be my life work for which my college course at Allegheny is preparing me. This expedition would broaden my education as nothing else could do since my companions would be specialists in their particular lines.

Travel in itself is an education, and to assist in making geography a rare opportunity.

Since this is a scientific expedition and science is my specialty at college, I would receive a world of benefit unattainable at any school.

Then again, I see an opportunity to render a great service by the compilation of scientific facts and exhibits secured from the various points en route.

WHY I FEEL THAT I WOULD BE OF SERVICE TO THE EXPEDITION

My several years of experience in Scouting have played a large part in making me physically fit, mentally awake and morally

straight. I am proud of the fact that I am an Eagle Scout with twenty-one required Merit Badges and thirty-eight additional ones.

My Sea Scouting experience extends over a period of five years, during which time I have worked up to the Able Sea Scout Rank. I have manoeuvred in small boats on Lake Erie.

During the last six years I have officially spent thirty-five weeks of actual camping and have been on innumerable overnight hikes. I have done at least four weeks of winter camping, spending the majority of the nights in shelters of my own making, in snow storms and very inclement weather. From this experience I feel somewhat prepared to withstand Antarctic conditions. I have passed my Hiking Merit Badge and do considerable walking every day. In this respect I am sure I would not be a detriment to the expedition.

In connection with the passing of the Astronomy Merit Badge, I did considerably more work than was required as Astronomy is a hobby of mine.

I have just completed my first year at college working for my Bachelor's Degree in Science. Biology is my major subject and I am especially interested in field work. It is along this line particularly that I feel that I could be of service in assisting to scientifically classify and describe animal or plant life in the Antarctic Region.

In spite of the fact that I am only 19 years of age, my build and physical condition will enable me to do my share of the work. Supporting this, I have been very active in athletics in both high school and college.

For one entire year I was employed with the Pennsylvania State Department of Highways doing topographical work, drafting and occasional outside engineering work. I majored in mathematics and have one full year of trigonometry to my credit, a half year of which I obtained in high school and the other half in college. This should help me to be of service to the statisticians in compiling their records on the expedition.

I am prepared to face the hardships and would certainly appreciate any consideration you may give me.

(sgd.) PAUL A. SIPLE