

## **Making sense out of boy-led meetings, and mentoring scouts to be future leaders through an understanding of the adolescent brain's inner workings**

Most adults watching a boy-led scout meeting cringe at the inefficiencies and floundering of youth trying to wrap their adolescent brains around leadership skills and concepts, which seemingly appear to elude them. This is where many adult leaders fall into the age-old trap that it would just be more efficient if they ran the meeting for the scouts.

But, the ones really doing the floundering aren't the scouts, it's the adults because they don't understand the inner workings of the adolescent brain and how to properly mentor developing scouts, says Psychologist, and scout leader, Chuck Jorenby.

Jorenby will be a featured speaker, at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 1, at the Crow River District Roundtable, at the Howard Lake Middle School.

In Jorenby's study, "What Were You Thinking: Adolescent Brain Development and Decision Making," he points out scouts' brains are still developing and scouting provides stimulation that shapes and molds young minds into future leaders.

Much like athletes train to get better, the brain too should be thought of like a muscle that can be exercised for better performance, he said.

"Scouting is one of the only organizations where youth are able to "exercise" their brains to become better leaders," Jorenby said. "We as adult leaders need to understand this development and be able to mentor and mold their development."

Jorenby adds that scouting provides opportunities across various platforms for adolescents to exercise decision making.

The first step to helping scouts develop these skills is to understand how their brains work, and this will be much of the focus of his presentation.

Jorenby has a private practice in Prior Lake, Minn., and he has been a scout leader for many years with Prior Lake Troop 331. He is a Wood Badged trained leader, and his presentation got rave reviews at the Spring 2014 Northern Star Council University of Scouting.