

Brent Nichols  
600 E University Dr #444  
Tempe, AZ 85281-2030

September 16, 1998

Amtrak  
401 W Harrison St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Dear Amtrak,

I have a unique proposition that would allow your company to perform community service while receiving extensive media attention. I know your railway company desperately needs publicity since no one travels by train anymore and your business is seriously failing. I sincerely appreciate your consideration.

I am a Boy Scout in Troop 213 here in Arizona. In order to earn an Eagle Scout Badge, the highest honor for a Boy Scout, I must complete a difficult task. Here's where your railroad company comes in: I would like to drive one of your trains for an hour.

It is important that a conductor does not assist me. Manuals and textbooks will be my only guide as part of the learning experience. You may allow a conductor to supervise me, but I would prefer to take a one-way ticket into manhood all by myself. Naturally, Troop 213 has already begun to make a "Student Driver" banner to hang alongside the train for all passersby to see.

My troop, family, and friends will ride in the caboose, which as you know, is the most dangerous part of the train. In this manner, they will demonstrate their trust in my capability to perform as an adult. In addition, I have taken the liberty to invite the Arizona Republic and Channel 6 News to the event. Both news services were very excited to hear of my journey. We scheduled October 3, at 10:00 AM, as the departure time from your station.

I would truly be indebted to your railroad company if you could donate peanuts to all the passengers.

Please write back soon with any ideas or comments. See you on the 3<sup>rd</sup>! Wish me luck!

Gratefully,



Brent Nichols