

## **BP Fellowship, Mexico 2018**

Attending a Baden-Powell Fellowship is always enjoyable. I get to see many of my scouting friends that live all over the country and some from other countries. The Baden-Powell Fellowship is a great program because it supports scouting organizations all over the world that are in need of financial support. I choose to give to the Baden-Powell Fellowship because of the good work the organization does.



One of the benefits is that yearly, the Fellowship meets in different countries. This time, 2018, it was in Mexico City. This is the country with all the interesting Aztec ruins that truly interests my wife. She really enjoys ruins of all types! So as part of the pre-fellowship, we visited Teotihuacán, the best known of the Aztec ruins. This is the location of what is commonly called the Temple of the Sun and Temple of the Moon, even though neither temple has anything to do with the sun or moon.



The next day we visited the great pyramid of Cholula. The Great Pyramid was an important religious and mythical center in prehispanic times. Over a period of a thousand years prior to the Spanish Conquest, consecutive construction phases gradually built up the bulk of the pyramid until it became the largest in Mexico by volume. People have dug into the pyramid and you can go underneath parts of the pyramid and see the layers of construction; in other words, the pyramids were built one on top of another. Today, the pyramid at first looks like a natural hill surmounted by a church.



An additional site we visited was Templo Mayor. The site is part of the Historic Center of Mexico City, which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1987. The Templo Mayor (Spanish for "Main Temple") was the main temple of the Aztecs in their capital city of Tenochtitlan, which is now Mexico City. After the destruction of Tenochtitlan, the Templo Mayor, like most of the rest of the city, was taken apart and covered over by the new Spanish colonial city. The Temple's exact location was forgotten, although by the 20th-century scholars had a good idea where to look for it.

Another nice afternoon, we spent visiting the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco. We did not see any floating gardens but it was a nice afternoon with my wife.







Towards the end of the Fellowship, we visited a plaza where Mexican Scouts had taken hundreds of compressed soda cans and made a fleur-de-lis. We got to go to the top of the building to get a good look; very impressive!

In addition to the tours, there is always a day where scouting information and stories are told. It is very rewarding to know that so many good things happen in the scouting world.



At the close of the BP Fellowship, the people who have contributed since the last Fellowship are recognized by the King of Sweden (on the right in the picture), the Honorary President and Chairman of the BP Fellowship. I was honored because I contributed enough to be in the Honors Program. You can learn more about the Fellowship at this website: [www.worldscoutfoundation.org](http://www.worldscoutfoundation.org).