



The Presbyterian Scouter



Quarterly publication of the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters

Launching any new project seems to invite all sorts of gremlins. There are invisible forces that seem to beset the wariest of innovators. So it has been with switching from print newsletters to web publishing. Unforeseen delays snowballed over the summer and early Fall.

It was not enough that the human element of the project seemed to invite illness and surgeries for members of the Executive Council and your editor, as the hardware and web itself seemed destined to create hazards. However, all the human elements seem back on track now and the mysterious virus that attacked our website has been eradicated and the project is underway.

That reported, the editor requests of all our members that caution is needed when putting things in emails or on the web. Please ascertain that your virus software is up to date and that anything you send to our Facebook link, or to your editor, or any of the Executive Council is first run through a virus check. It is exceedingly advisable to refrain from forwarding any information. Rather, copy the item itself and then paste it into the document you plan to send.

After you have gotten the material/pictures ready to send, run a virus check on the material and then copy the material to the web. Please send a duplicate of your information to the editor at napseditor@gmail.com as she does not always check Facebook before closing out the computer at end of the day. Your help in these matters will be greatly appreciated.

Apologies to all inconvenienced by the delay in setting up the changeover. Additionally, If you know someone who is not getting his/her newsletter, or who may not have noted we can send hardcopy to those who do not use the web, please send me their names and addresses, with phone number, or have them drop me a postcard at PO Box 2097, B & L, SC 29006.

Many thanks for your patience. Blessings on all you do. Do keep us "in the loop" on your troops' doings and any awards or recognitions.

D'Editor



And what a time GA was! While some focused on the lively debates and resolutions in the main hall or in smaller sessions throughout the building, your President and editor had the best convention of all. Both got to meet an incredible number of folks from churches who were glad to see NAPS present.

We met many there who were –or had youth who were, are, or are going to be Eagles. Seemed that Order of the Arrow and Eagles were represented by at least one of every three persons coming through the exhibit hall, which may have correlation to their leadership roles at General Assembly.

True, there were some who did not know NAPS existed. That was good too as we had opportunity to talk with quite a few Presbyterians about the possibilities for scouting in their churches. Some shared stories about how scouting helped them and/or their church in the past, present and future. [Too bad no one had thought to bring a tape recorder along. That is an idea we should definitely consider for the next GA.] Ray Jones (PC Coordinator for Evangelism) spoke of how BSA has helped build and maintain church membership.

There was only one couple who queried the gender issues involved with Scouting and it was a very amiable and pleasant time. We met and parted with warmth, mutual respect, and a broader sense of the impact of Scouting in the church.

All in all, it was a very special time for those of us who were at General Assembly. Gene Foley and your editor thank you for the opportunity to represent NAPS there. More from GA follows..

SNAPS FROM NAPS AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PITTSBURGH 2012



Jim Mohr, well known for hand-crafted cross donations, and President Foley



Scout Dylan Rudd, one of the Scouts who visited our booth



Presbyterian Armed Force Chaplains, some later praying for Brendan Franco & family



Brian Wells (Multi-Cultural) and George Whipple (Presbyterian Outlook)



Don Rogers, President Foley, and James Holeman in NAPS booth



Arlin representing Presbyterian Men



Eagle Logan McDonald and his father, also an Eagle recipient



Nick Hammer, visitor



Drew Freeman



Karen Sloan, author



Ken Elliott, our next door neighbor & a great help



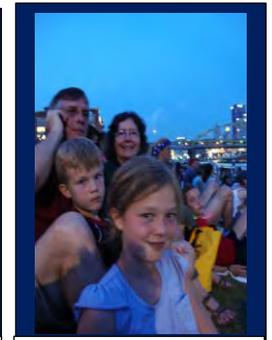
4th of July visitor, Jody Watson



David Green, Pittsburgh Scouter & GA/NAPS Volunteer



Ranger Mike Daniher at Pittsburgh/ Laurel Highlands Council's Camp Guysutta



Editor's Hosts: Sue Faulk & family, 4th July, Pittsburgh

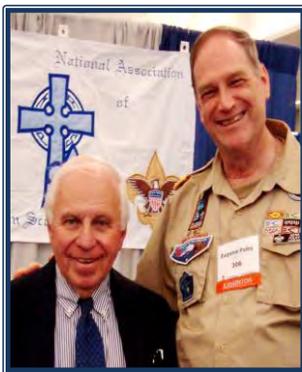


AND NAPS WAS THERE—

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PITTSBURGH 2012

Opening a booth at General Assembly can be a hectic operation when one does not bring all the booth components with one. One arrives praying that all the necessary supplies are already there waiting to be placed correctly and that there will be some help in getting setup in place.

Your editor arrived alone just praying all was ready. Imagine the joy in not only seeing all the large trunks in the booth, but what must be Pittsburgh's best and most informed BSA assistant- David Green, already on task. With his help, setting up the booth was quick and efficient. We were in operation well before the exhibit hall doors opened and first visitors entered.



Volunteer extraordinaire David Green & NAPS President Gene Foley

David continued to be a great assistant to NAPS as he returned throughout General Assembly to be sure all was well. There was never a moment throughout convention when he was not available to us. He further helped smooth operation for the GA's staff as a volunteer to all in the convention center. Truly he exemplified the Boy Scout oath even when not in uniform.

Indeed, the whole of the Laurel Highlands Council proved helpful to us. Even before we arrived, Jim Wandling coordinated our NAPS Council meeting to be hosted at the Flags Plaza Council Office, arranged a visit to [Camp Guyasuta](#) for your editor, and set up contacts and volunteers to assist NAPS while he was away during GA. As with their "native son" David Green, there was no stinting of volunteering and general Boy Scout kindness and efficiency.

Laurel Highlands Council Executive Michael Surbaugh met with our group during the luncheon, invited us on a tour of the building, displaying rare photos and memorabilia related to Baden-Powell and the Council and setup a special screening of the history of the United States flag in their theatre section.

For more information on the Council and special flag observances:

[<http://lhc-bsa.org/Flag%20Plaza> AND <http://lhcbasa.org/Flag%20Plaza/Historic%20Flag%20Ceremonies>]

Carolyn Guzik made several trips to the conference to bring additional folders and stands for the booth. She further made sure all was in great shape for the NAPS meeting at the Council headquarters, including setting up the luncheon and welcoming our members.

As with their "native son" David Green, there was no stinting of volunteering and general Boy Scout kindness and efficiency. Another good Scouter was found in Sue Faull from Memorial Park Presbyterian Church, who not only provided volunteer assistance on many levels, but housed your editor for the span of the General Assembly. It was a true delight to be with her family and created a friendship that will continue to inspire and motivate.

The whole of the General Assembly was one of shared commitment and joy for the NAPS booth personnel. We missed the rough edges newspapers reported avidly. Instead, we were encompassed by kindness of Scouters, General Assembly staff, and warm camaraderie of fellow exhibitors and visitors. We met with members of NAPS and folks who did not know that Presbyterians had ownership of Scout Troops or that there was even an association for Presbyterian Scouters. Ray Jones of PC(USA) Evangelism donated leftover thermoses to local Boy Scouts, while Pittsburgh Hospitality donated leftover cloth welcome bags. Both really helped extend the work with Scouts in the area. Others who visited are deeply grounded in NAPS and our role in scouting in churches. There has been no dearth of Eagles, Arrows or general visitors to the booth and there was LOTS of interest and involvement. Thanks be to God! Yr Ed.



And from the NAPS Board Meeting at the Laurel Highlands Council building at Flag Plaza during General Assembly



Chip Reinhardt, NAPS Mid-Atlantic Region Director, displays Baden-Powell's letter recognizing the Greater Pittsburgh Council, precursor to current Laurel Highlands Council.

At Pittsburgh's Laurel Highlands' Camp Guyasuta



Logan Gray renews parking lot markers last summer.

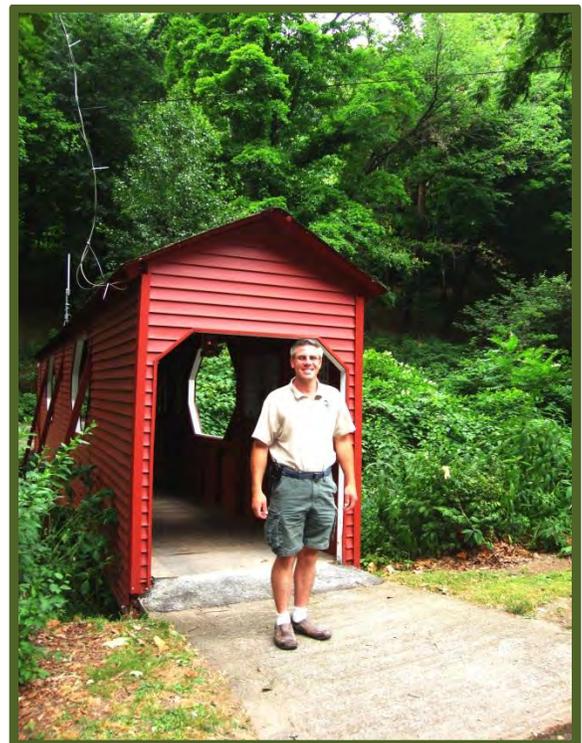
Logan attends Glenshaw Presbyterian Church. In the summer of 2012, Logan worked at the pool as guard and kept the pool safe by monitoring the chlorine and PH levels. He also did maintenance work at the camp. Currently, Logan is in the 10th grade.



Dr. Robert Schelgel shares one of the special artifacts in the remarkable Laurel Highlands Council museum collection, artwork by Baden-Powell himself.

Each year, the Laurel Hills Council, Boy Scouts of America, serves more than 41,000 youth in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Mike Daniher is Ranger for the Laurel Highlands Council's Camp Guyasuta



WAYNE BROCK CHOSEN AS THE BSA'S 12TH CHIEF



Following an extensive selection process, the BSA has named Wayne Brock its next Chief Scout Executive. Wayne has served as Deputy Chief Scout

Executive since Oct. 1, 2009, giving leadership and direction to all aspects of operations of the National Council. Wayne began his career in 1972 as a district executive in New Bern, North Carolina, and then served on the staff in Knoxville, Tennessee. He also has served as Scout executive in Athens, Georgia; as an area director; as Scout executive in Orlando, Florida; as

regional director of the Southern Region; and as assistant Chief Scout Executive.

Wayne is a recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award and the Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award. He received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from East Carolina University. Wayne and his wife, Ernestine, have a married son and one granddaughter.

Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca concluded an exceptional career with his retirement on Aug. 31. Wayne assumed the office on Sept. 1. The selection committee recommended to the Executive Board approval of an exception to the mandatory 65-year-old retirement age, which will allow Wayne to serve in this position until the age of 67.

NAPS WELCOMES
OUR NEW CHIEF SCOUT!

Cold? Join NAPS in Sunny Orlando, Feb. 6-9th 2013



Join us at the NAPS booth during the annual meet for the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators (APCE)

LARGER NAPS JAMBOREE EXHIBIT at 2013 SUMMIT BECHTEL REQUIRES EXTRA VOLUNTEERS

By Gene Foley

Presbyterians are the fourth largest chartering group in Scouting. As such, we have reserved a 20' x 20' tent for our exhibit. Although we may share this tent with another group, it will be the largest exhibit we have EVER had at a Jamboree. It will also be the most technology-based exhibit we've had, with multiple computers and large screen monitors. It will also have the longest hours of any exhibit we have staffed, running from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on non-event days.

What that means is that **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS** than we have ever needed before! Don't read the rest of this article...go to the site: <https://summit.scouting.org/en/Jamboree2013/Pages/default.aspx>, and sign up to be on our **Religious Relations Exhibit Staff**, pay the \$150 deposit, and get on the list NOW.

Ignore the deadlines, there are slots waiting for YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS to get onto the National Staff at the first Summit Jamboree! **More:** There is a 50% discount for young staff members (ages 16 to 25) who enroll for the entire Jamboree! This can be a family event!! And did I mention that **WE NEED YOU!** Did you know this is coed? Bring your wife, daughter, girlfriend after you get them registered. Do it NOW!



Staff members have all the privileges of participants, often at times especially reserved for staff to assure access. You will have plenty of "time off" to allow for exploration, sampling the food vendor's fare, hiking, biking, zipping, trading, shooting, rafting...oh, the list goes on and on.

SHARE THIS KNOWLEDGE WITH FRIENDS (MALE OR FEMALE), BUT DO IT NOW. WE NEED TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE.



All you'll need is your stuffed backpack and uniform. You'll share a four-person tent, have your meals prepared for you (lunch will be bagged so you can get out and about) and, yes, we have flush toilets.

If anyone told you the site won't be ready, they were grossly misinformed. 2,000 participants, leaders and staff have already tried it out. It was SPECTACULAR.



If you've ever thought about going to a Jamboree and haven't quite gotten around to it...NOW IS THE TIME! This historic first Jamboree at the permanent Jamboree site in beautiful West Virginia, isn't simply a once-in-a-lifetime event, it is a unique opportunity to have a story to tell (even brag about) for the rest of your life! Whether this would be your first Jamboree or your twelfth...you don't want to miss it!

You need to contact Gene Foley, NAPS Pres., **NOW**, at efoley@cpbsa.org, to have your assignment guaranteed and accepted immediately upon approval. If you do not prearrange this with Gene, you may be put into a general pool and miss first call approval.

A SAFE PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD

By Neal Humphrey
Standard-Examiner

Tue, 10/23/2012 - 11:47am

Late last spring, I found myself filling out what has become some necessary and familiar paper work these days: a background check. My congregation was sending a team of youths and adults to an Indian Nation in Montana to refurbish residences. The work was coordinated by the reservation housing authority and managed by a Christian mission agency. The mission agency required all adults to have background checks.

The several adults from my congregation (and the almost 100 other adults involved in the project) all filled out the background check paperwork as a safety measure to make sure the youth were not at risk from a criminal or sexual predator. I was confident that the adults on our mission team would be successfully processed through the background check because they had already been scrutinized by a law enforcement agency where they worked, had federal government security clearances, were vetted by local schools, were issued concealed carry permits, or had been screened by the Boy Scouts of America.

Even the company my director of Christian education orders curriculum from includes background check service for their customers

These background checks for people who work around kids reflects the kind of world we live in. The fact is, if you have any kind of project or program that provides services for children or youth, you are very likely to attract a predator.

In the early 1920s when the Boy Scouts of America was less than 15 years old, the leaders faced into the unsavory fact they were attracting sexual predators. So, they started to report predators to law enforcement authorities, dismissed those who were guilty, and set up files to track those whom they called "Ineligible Volunteers."

Last week a judge in Oregon ordered the disclosure of the BSA's Ineligible Volunteer files from 1965 to 1985. Those files list about 1,400 adults whom the BSA identified through various reports and complaints as child abusers. It's been a sensationalized story in the press with little attention to certain facts.

There is no question that there were numerous lapses in enforcing BSA policy to protect children. And it's little comfort that during the same era there were similar lapses among all youth-service organizations, including churches. It took some time for youth protection procedures and policies to be enacted,

tested, and refined to the degree we enjoy today.

The gratifying news, if you want to call it that, is that information on about 58 percent of the offenders in the BSA's ineligible volunteer files is public, not "secret" and not an attempt to hide abuse as has been alleged. About 63 percent of the reports had sufficient evidence for law enforcement authorities to engage. The large minority leftover were men whose behavior was inconsistent with the standards of Scouting and they were disqualified for service.

And while one victim of a predator is far too many, the number of ineligible volunteers identified in the 20-year interval in the files released represent a tiny minority of Scout leaders. As already noted, there have been instances in the past of the BSA failing to protect youth and report sexual predators. Still, you would have to place a decimal point followed by three zeroes to get the percentage of the adult Scout leaders serving between 1965 and 1985 who are on the ineligible volunteer list from that era.

What about now?

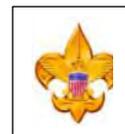
Well, five years ago the Center for Disease Control noted that the creation and maintenance of such ineligible volunteer lists is a best practice for any

youth-service organization. The BSA has been doing that for some 90 years. The fact is, predators have attempted to re-enter service with the BSA and have been intercepted because of the information contained in ineligible volunteer lists and files.

Moreover, the Boy Scouts of America has invited experts to independently evaluate what current youth protection practices are now required of Scouting adults. The result from all quarters is that the BSA is the leader in combating sexual abuse of their constituents. Moreover, the BSA has the most advanced policies and training and has gone farther than any other youth service organization in instituting measures to safeguard the children and youth in their programs.

In fact, the BSA has opened up access to their on-line Youth Protection education and testing to anyone. You don't even have to be in Scouting to use BSA resources.

Putting your son or daughter under the care of a Boy Scout leader is among the safest places they can be.



Neal Humphrey is a Teaching Elder in the PCUSA, a member of NAPS, NESAs, his local Silver Beaver Colony, and the Executive Board of Trapper Trails Council. He is the Charter Organization Representative, Venturing Crew #519, and, also, is an author/writer with a regular Op-Ed column. This column appeared in the Standard Examiner newspaper on Wednesday, October 24, 2012.

How's Your Relationship With Your Chartered Organization?



By Corb Sarchet

How is the state of your relations with your chartered organization? Do they know you even exist? Do they take part in any of your unit's activities? Does your unit take part in any of the chartered organizations' activities?

Perhaps, it is time to strengthen and refresh your relationship. Your unit is actually theirs. Everything the unit "owns" its equipment and unit gear, your legal identity, and your unit's number. Theirs, not yours.

So, unless one day you want to be thrown out into the street, you need to make sure that they love you, not just tolerate you, and believe their unit(s) are part of their mission, that you are their unit(s), and not just those noisy boys in the basement.

If these conditions exist, then you need to start refreshing and renewing your relations with your chartered organization:

No youth from or connected to members of the chartered organization are in your units.

The unit committee contains no members from the chartered organization family.

No members of the chartered organization serve as adult leaders, merit badge counselors, or instruction resources for your units. The chartered organization's budget provides no or little support funding for your units.

The chartered organization's leadership and members never attend or are ever invited to your units' ceremonies and activities.

You do not regularly, if at all, do service projects at or with the chartered organization.

Your chartered unit representative does not belong to the chartered organization, or and if so, is not invited to or participate in the units' committee meetings, activities, and ceremonies, and does know what his or her role is in the district and council, nor as a representative of the chartered organization to the units.

How can you build, refresh, or improve your relations with your "owners?"

1. Make them aware and proud of you and what you do.
 - a. Keep them informed of your events and coordinate your calendars with theirs. It is bad news if they schedule a wedding reception in the same hall you had planned to use for a special event.
 - b. Share regularly with the sponsoring organizations' management so that their calendar includes your events.

c. Provide information in advance of their deadlines for items for their newsletters, web sites, and social media about your upcoming events. Provide follow ups on how events went, i.e. Scouting for food: Before, announce it in advance and arrange for bags to be given out to the organization's members at their meeting before the event for them and let them bring the bags back to their next event. This reaches out to those folk who may not received a bag at their home. After the event is over, report how many pounds of food were collected by your units (and your district or council) and thank your organization's members for their support.

d. Always invite the leadership and members of the organization to your courts of honor, open houses, family nights, and other such events.

2. Reach out to help the chartered organization in their activities and needs.

a. Take on responsibility for a maintenance project of the chartered organization. For example, maintaining flower plantings (gardening merit badge).

b. When the chartered organization needs volunteers to help at an event, have your unit take part. It would not hurt to wear your unit's tee shirts so they know who you are.

c. Do community service projects for the organization on a regular basis. For example, restripe the organization's parking lot.

(Painting and home repair merit badges)

d. Always clean up after yourselves, repair or arrange repair of any damage you do or cause, and never use any or the organization's equipment or supplies without their approval.

3. Involve the chartered organization members in what you do.

a. Invite members of the chartered organization to serve as adult leaders, religious award mentors, merit badge counselors, and visiting instructors and resource providers.

Invite public officials in sponsoring organization's membership to speak or meet with the Scouts for such merit badges as the Citizenship series, Law, and Crime Prevention.

b. Investigate possibility of a good pool of speakers from the organization's membership for the different occupational merit badges.

c. Look, with the organization's secretary or membership director, for members with special resources.

Some examples: A swimming instructor who has their own facility; a black powder shooter; a member who has a working farm; a member who runs a horse riding academy; a woodworker who makes wooden toys, furniture, etc; a member who lives on a lake or river; a fly fisherman; a stamp or coin collector; or a fireman who can teach CPR. You will be surprised at the resources you may find.

d. Conduct an annual event as part of the organization's regular fellowship meetings where they have a program. Set up displays and exhibits, entertain with skits, give a audio visual report on the unit's activities during the past year, recognize all who have had a Scouting connection themselves or in their families, and recognize organization members who have individually helped the unit during the past year as instructors, resource providers, mentors, or merit badge counselors.

e. Invite (ALWAYS) the organization's leadership and membership to your ceremonies and public events.

f. Ask the organization for help in meeting your unit or individual scout needs. Some examples, you need a rowboat---use the church's media to see if anyone has one to donate; seek the group's help when you have a Scout or Scout family that suffered a fire loss, and your unit is rounding up food, clothing, and personal items to help the family get back on its feet.

g. ALWAYS thank the organization for its help, sponsorship, and commitment to Scouting. Remember to check the different awards that can be given through P.R.A.Y. to those who have devoted special services to Scouts and Scouting. You may give a member a year's membership in the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters (NAPS) or even sponsor a chaplain for

Jamboree or the high adventure camps in their honor.

h. **Remember:**

Recognitions for persons within a sponsoring organization or the organization itself can be highlights of Scout Sunday, Scouting and unit birthday parties, open houses, and some community events. Need more suggestions, write the editor and we will help find just the right support for you in recognition and, if needed, in planning a unique event to highlight your recognitions.



Eds. Note:

Thanks again to Steve Tucker, the "Unofficial Artist for All Things Scouting." Steve is a freelance artist with many credentials in providing history of contemporary Scouting through his artwork. When called upon for artwork for this issue, he responded the very next day. For those wishing to commission Scouting art or to review his work, contact Steve at sltucker97@gmail.com.



NAPS Webmaster and Scoutmaster Paul Ke of St Mark Presbyterian Troop 631 (Ballwin, MO) visited Crazy Horse and Yellowstone this past summer.



(left to right) Alex Ke, Julie Thornburgh, Andrew Dolson, Molly Pfefferkorn, Hayden Seidel, Drake Vogl, Tanner Sobotka, Kate Marshall, Lauren Eimer . These high school freshmen were received into the church May 27, 2012 as part of St. Mark's 50th Anniversary service

A Duty to God Station at Cub Scout Camp



by Liz Shelby

The Setting

Nestled among the majestic tall pecan trees on the shores of Lake Austin were 130 cub scouts experiencing the gifts of the out-of-doors at Cub Scout day camp. Although the Texas summer temperatures were in the high 90's (and with humidity over 100!), the enthusiasm and exuberance of that many cub scouts in one place filled the camp with joy, wonder and awe.

The Duty to God Curriculum

This was the setting for a new program area for this day camp – the Duty to God station. Every camper (and the Tot Lot!) rotated through the station during camp.

I had the pleasure of being the Camp Chaplain and instructor for the Duty to God station. I had been invited by one of our trained Chaplains who was interested in my training her to carry on the Duty to God station next year.



What did we do?
We learned about various religions and ways to pray.

As a camp duty, all of the Wolf and Bear dens composed prayers took turns reading their den's prayer at the opening and closing of each day. The Webelos planned and conducted an interfaith worship service.

Also, during the Duty to God station, the cub scouts fulfilled their faith requirements. We discussed different religions and went on a blind-folded "trust walk" as a way to define faith.

All campers earned their Duty to God patch which required daily devotionals, graces before meals, attendance at a worship service, and hearing the religious emblems presentation, including having leaders who promise to make the presentation to their respective dens and packs).

God Comes to our Rescue

But as much as God's presence was felt



throughout the week, it was made amazingly obvious when the Duty to God patches had not arrived by Thursday night. After a couple of calls to PRAY publishing as well as several to the national FedEx tracking offices, I

was able to talk with our local FedEx ground tracking representatives and discovered my shipment was on the truck scheduled to be delivered on Friday. However, the closing of camp was scheduled for 11:30 AM.

I was told “there was no way” I could receive my package by 11:00 AM, the time I told them I needed to receive it in order to make it back out to camp.

When I explained that I was Camp Chaplain and that 130 cub scouts will be very disappointed to not receive their Duty to God patch I had promised them, the FedEx staff took the challenge!

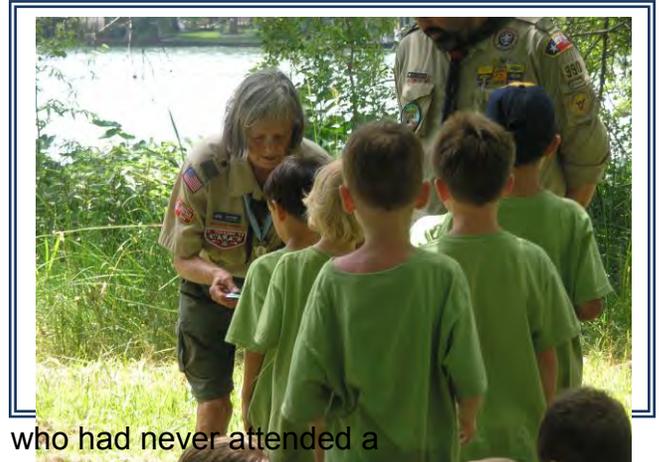
Meanwhile, I called the scout shop, and they were out of the anchor (1st year) patch – I needed about 120! I called a fellow Chaplain who was downtown for a meeting, but the meeting was cancelled so he drove home only to find he had only 8 anchor patches.

Then I received another call from FedEx. While I was being told there was very little hope, the manager walked in and said he would drive to the truck, retrieve my package from the hundreds on the truck, and bring it to my home by about 11:15 or 11:30. I notified the camp director and nervously waited.

At 11:06 the doorbell rang and it was the FedEx delivery. The delivery man was somewhat startled to be receiving a big hug from a woman in a Boy Scout uniform, but I was thrilled.

Why had I ever doubted that God would figure out a way? I made it to the closing and received the greatest

reward of all – 130 delighted cub scouts



who had never attended a

Duty to God station at camp before, but were proud to receive their Duty to God patches!

In addition, one girl who served as a den helper received her 4th and final patch!

God- and those who value scouting- provided a very special culmination to the closing of camp service for all.

Liz Shelby, a frequent contributor, is Sun Synod Regional Director for NAPS.

HELP WANTED

As we end 2012, many of us are already looking ahead to settling up with IRS in April. For those who are looking for a much needed deduction—and those who just believe in the need being met- please remember that NAPS is a volunteer organization and that we are always urgently in need of funds to help the chaplains represent us at Jamboree, High Adventure camps, and other national events.

There will be a crucial need for increased funding for chaplains and travel this summer for those who must staff chaplaincy and booth at Bechtel's Jamboree as well as other sites throughout the United States. We will have twice as long hours this summer in the booth and will need more volunteers. Some cannot come without assistance. **Please help.**

Sometimes life gets full and even the best Scouters miss an issue of *Scouting* magazine. Just to be sure you catch up – or need to remember today- some exciting things still are manifesting in scouting! Thanks to *Scouting* magazine for permission to reprint.



A bold new beginning for a Michigan council at the Crossroads

17 August 2012

When the going gets tough, Scouts get going.

Just look at what's happening in Michigan. The place has experienced some of the toughest economic times in America and it also boasts some of the toughest volunteers and professionals in the Boy Scouts of America.

They've refused to let Scouting fail in the Great Lakes State, and they're teaching Scouts and Scouters everywhere a thing or two about courage under fire.

On Tuesday, the Michigan Crossroads Council received its official BSA charter — effectively merging nine councils into one. It's the culmination of an 18-month, volunteer-driven effort that *Scouting* magazine first told you about in [our March-April 2012 issue](#).

But they're not crossing the finish line.

“We're actually at the starting line,” says Brian Nastase, Michigan Crossroads Council's chief operating officer.

“This is completely exciting,” he continues, “and it's exciting for the kids that are not in Scouting right now because they have a much better chance of being recruited in Scouting.”



Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca spoke about changing the business model of the BSA to grow Scouting and the bold steps that volunteers in Michigan took to do so.

It couldn't come soon enough. In Area 2, which includes all of Michigan, Cub Scout and Boy Scout numbers declined by 20 percent from 2005 to 2009. The number of volunteers fell by 9 percent, and council camps lost \$3 million.

“We really were at a crossroads,” Nastase says. “If we continued down the path that we were on, we were sure to fail in our objective.”

Volunteers in Michigan weren't going to let that happen. They created 50 different ideas for how Scouting could be reorganized in the area, and whittled those down to the Crossroads

Recommendation that eventually became the Michigan Crossroads Council.

On Tuesday, for the first time since World War II, the Boy Scouts of America issued a new charter for a council. (Councils have merged in that time, but they aren't issued new charters.)

John Reesor, a 37-year Scouting professional and Scout Executive at the new council, chatted with me about this critical time for Scouting's future.

"The Boy Scouts are an integral part of the fabric of this community and needed to teach character, values, and leadership," he says. "That's important all over this country. But in Michigan, where there's been such a dynamic economic downturn, it takes a lot more to launch this type of initiative and get it going."

That means restructuring from the ground up with all eyes on the Main Thing: "to serve more kids and serve them better with exceptional programs," as Reesor puts it.

That doesn't happen, Reesor points out, by standing still.

"We're not going to keep our place as America's pre-eminent youth-serving organization if we don't adjust to the current culture. How that happens is by changing the service model — not the program," he says. "Kids love what we do — once they join. But if we're not seen as an attractive, exciting program then we're going to have trouble.

"The Michigan Crossroads Council is all about serving our volunteers, youth members, and families in an organization that is driven to increase membership by providing exceptional programs."

Respond to the article or send in new material on your pack, troop, crew's or Council's work to Bryan Wendell at scoutingmag@gmail.com.



Bryan Wendell,
Eagle Scout and
Senior Editor of
Scouting.

HELP WANTED!

All over America, those words are golden to those who are seeking to make a living. Some of our members volunteer during our nation's emergencies, some make a point of volunteering with Red Cross, as well as our unified concern with Scouting's survival and growth.

If you are out of work, retired, or just one who says "yes" when asked to help, what better way to invigorate your life than to show a young person how to live and to live with meaning and respect? If you have not done anything with scouting recently, now is the earliest you can revive that.

NAPS seeks volunteers for our Religious Relations booth at Jamboree. We are urgently in need of counselors for there and high adventure camp recommendations. Lots of mail to be sent out at Councils, lots of youth needing mentors. What do you have to share?

If you have a need or skill to offer, contact your Council or NAPS at napseditor@gamil.com.

From a Council President

Have you hugged your Superintendent today?



I know that's an odd way to start a President's message, but as we wrap up our fall recruitment campaign it strikes me just how much the health of our Council depends upon access to the public schools. I say this because the health of our Council is directly tied to our success in recruiting, and retaining, boys in our Cub Scout Packs each fall. The young boys who join our Cub Scout Packs are those that go on to become Boy Scouts, and we know that the results of our annual fall membership drive are our proverbial canary in the coal mine. When we do well in recruiting Cub Scouts in our fall membership drive, we see the benefits of our efforts four to five years later in our Boy Scout membership numbers. Conversely, when Cub Scout recruiting struggles, even for one year, the effect ripples through the Council for years.

Nothing is more important to our Cub Scout recruiting efforts than access to our public schools for our annual fall membership drive. Whether traditional school nights, morning classroom visits, assemblies, or Open Houses, we sign up the vast majority of our nearly 18,000 Cub Scouts in our public schools each fall. Unfortunately, there have been some school districts in our country which have barred Scouting from access to the public schools, and the effects on membership have been devastating to those Councils. We are blessed in the Central Florida, though, in that all seven of the Superintendents and School Boards in the counties we serve welcome Scouting into our public schools each fall to recruit boys into our Packs.

So as we wrap up yet another successful fall membership drive in our local schools, give a shout out, or better yet, a hug, to your local Superintendent of Schools next time you run into him or her, and thank them for supporting this great movement we call the Boy Scout of America.

Yours in Scouting!

Bill Sublette,
Central Florida Council President
(Thanks to Corb Sarchet for sharing this.)

Columbia, SC's Spring Valley Presbyterian's Scout Sunday II Packed with Action and Awards

SC's mid region Scout Sunday II on September 9, 2012 went well. It was a busy time for all. Indeed, it was unique in that it was a kickoff event for the new Boy Scout Venture Crew 6 in Orangeburg, SC, along with a country rib cookout and bocce ball activities.

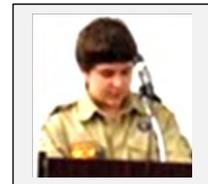
There was a great turnout from Units 202, including Venturers, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts.



Scott Kuebler(Pack 202), RI Smith II(Catawba Unit Commissioner and 202 Committee Chair), Tobias Brasier(Assistant Scoutmaster), Kenton Dilley(Assistant Scoutmaster), Ethan Dilley(Chaplain Assistant), Noah Brasier(Crew 202 member), Ron Kuebler(NAPS Regional Director)

Celtic Crosses were awarded to Bob Smith's son, R I Smith, to Kevin Kent and Becky Lewis. The St George Cross(Anglican) was presented to Mr. Tobias Brasier of Troop and Crew 202 (this was one of the first ones of this type to be presented through this troop/crew).

Scout Ethan Dilley led devotional.



Many of the religious award recipients were on hand and greeted and adieu'd by Pastor Jack Heinsohn and church members at both the 8:30 and 10:30 AM services at Spring Valley Presbyterian in Columbia.

The new Crew 6 was chartered with six coed Venturers by *Lingual Perfection* (NAPS' Regional Director Kuebler's private practice in Speech Therapy) and BSA Indian Waters Council on July 31, 2012. The crew meets at the Methodist Oaks in Orangeburg.

Thanks to NAPS South Atlantic Regional Director Ron Kuebler for the report. Congratulations to Cathy Reisch for the special bulletin.

PRESIDENT FOLEY LEADS FIRST WORSHIP SERVICE FOR JAMBOREE PARTICIPANTS

Our very own NAPS President Gene Foley was selected to lead the Jamboree Shakedown worship service at the new Summit Bechtel Reserve site in West Virginia this last July. Gene and LDS Chaplain Wayne Watson were the only two chaplains selected for the Shakedown, where they served the nearly two thousand Scouts, leaders and staff.



On the Sunday of the Shakedown experience, Gene met the Scouts atop Garden Ground, near the highest point on the Jamboree site for two worship services. Half the contingent participated in mock disaster drills while the other half shared in song and praise. "It was a unique experience for me. I've never had to interrupt my service to allow military rescue helicopters to fly over the worshippers," Gene shared. "Between the services, helicopters dropped and picked up dummies in the next clearing. The Scouts got to explore the helicopters and talk to the pilots and medics."



The Scouts walked over two hours to get to the chapel service. The first service was held in a natural amphitheater. The afternoon heat forced the second service into the sheltering trees. In each case, the services had the benefit of vocally talented volunteers youth who helped to lead the hymns, one of which Gene had written and modified for the Florida Sea Base and Philmont.

PRESIDENT FOLEY PRESENTS HONORS TO NEW EAGLE



Salem, Oregon – Many of our members are unaware of the many hats our President, Gene Foley, has worn over the years and continues to wear today. His penchant for service and leadership dates back to his youth...in high school, he was active in Scouting, the YMCA, track and cross country teams, school bands, student government and an organization known as the Order of DeMolay. Early 2010, he was invested with the highest honor given for community service by the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMolay, the Legion of Honor, and last year, he was made the Dean of the Oregon Preceptory of that august group of men.

When Gene was the Master Councilor of San Jose Chapter of DeMolay as a youth, his line of officers were mostly Scouts, the majority of whom became Eagle Scouts. Now as an adult, visiting the DeMolay youth in Oregon, he found that DeMolay still appeals to Scouts as was proven during the first weekend of November, when he served as the Master of Ceremonies at the conferral of the Chevalier Degree, the highest honor given to a youth by the Order of DeMolay, upon Bryan Chipman, the Oregon State Master Councilor. In the picture, Gene had announced that Bryan had completed his Board of Review for the Eagle rank. Bryan continues the tradition of leadership and leadership that epitomizes the very best of our young men. Our congratulations go to Bryan and his family.

Fort Worth Boy Scout Aims for City Beautification and Pride with Eagle Scout Project

Boy Scout Ben Becker is also a member of youth ministries at his church, First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth. For his Eagle Scout project, Ben aimed his efforts and hopes high by deciding to coordinate the painting of a mural on the side of **Community Crossroads**, the outreach center run by First Presbyterian Church (FPC) in the Hemphill community of the city.



After over ten months of research, planning and praying over this fun yet challenging endeavor, Ben coordinated several days of priming, painting and sealing in early July. Dozens of church, community and fellow Boy Scout volunteers came out to make Ben's vision a reality.

Ben said, "Besides adding beauty to the city, the mural's purpose is to convey First Pres' outreach mission and to attract clients to the building." Police officer Marina Salinas, who serves in the Hemphill community, stopped by after watching the mural in-progress from her office building. She expressed gratitude for the street art, knowing it will promote a sense of pride for the members of the community.



The mural has also attracted the notice of a few local community advocates, gaining it mention in local papers and online apps. Regular visitors to Community Crossroads have also shown excitement over the addition.



Ben's parents are Craig and Angie Becker. Thanks to them for support of their son's endeavor and also to Eliot Kerlin, NAPS Exec. For sharing the article, and to Teresa Tysinger, of First Presbyterian, Fort Worth, Texas, who restored the article after the gremlins stole it in progress.

Thanks to all for helping highlight this important Eagle Scout project. Maybe this will spark interest in like projects for other Eaglets in preparation.

Many thanks to former NAPS Pres. **Eliot Kerlin**, and to **Teresa Tysinger**, Director of Communications for Fort Worth Presbyterian. for this article.

Pack 206 Presbyterians Recognized on P.R.A.Y.

Pack 206
God and Family
**First Presbyterian
Church
Maple Plain, MN**

I liked how God and Family included a little bit of everything: art, games, thinking, etc. for everyone. I really like how the focus was on the pizza which is something every fourth grader can relate to and likes. Nicholas: My favorite lesson was "bake" because I like the story of Paul and Silas.



Devin: My favorite lesson was the pizza and the toppings. I liked talking about my talents and gifts. My favorite family project was playing "I Spy" game.



Brianna T.
God and Family
Beeville, Tx

Brianna received her God and Family award on Girl Scout Sunday on the 100th Anniversary celebration of Girl Scouts!



Editor's note:

Often in Scouting we are on top of the world (like Baldy?), and –sometimes- we are anywhere but at the heights. Sometimes, life seems to hold such pain or grief we are hardly able to contain it. Yet, through it all, we hold true to the main message of the upcoming Christmas time, “God with us.”

In all things, through all heights and depths, deserts and grandeur of mountains or oceans, Emmanuel proves reliable. Sometimes, the grace of God's presence is most clearly seen as we endure within ourselves, our families, our communities.



One life can be full witness to the “overcoming of all things” as we share another’s pilgrimage. For approximately a year now, the newsletter has shared information on one extraordinary young scout, Brendan Franco of Alabama, a witness to all of us of one who suffers, but holds true to Emmanuel, “God with us.” Although he worked hard at being a good scout and earning his badges, young Brendan Franco never had time to soar as an Eagle: this summer, he left us to fly with the angels in the company of the God he trusted, the same God there who abode with him here. Diagnosed May 2011 with Stage IV liver cancer when he was twelve, Brenda “fought the good fight,” until he went home to God September 20th of this year. Before his death, Brendan was awarded the Order of the Arrow. Supported by an Honor Guard of Scouts to the cemetery, Brendan was buried in his scout uniform with full honors. Scouting and his faith were synonymous with him.

Brendan was graced with a goodness some of us never gain in a lifetime and he inspired many lives. He was a true scout even as he pioneered his path from health and normal activities through extreme pain and desperate medical procedures into the arms of God. Some of his comments are reproduced here. They will be followed with details of what the needs are and how we can help.

Quotes from Brendan:

“I now feel I have done something for God; whereas before, I felt like any other normal kid. So many more people love God now, the way I see it. Why else would they be doing all this for me? I don’t deserve any of it and I’m not special.”

“Oh I understand now. God gives us sunrises to shower us with His love and sunsets so we can forgive each other; and every new day is a gift because if morning comes we get another chance.”

“Well, I would have to admit that the last 15 months have been the most fun I’ve ever had in my life...My Birthday Party and the party at Coppinville then my Make A Wish to Hawaii are the top best! I also had a lot fun at the beach. I even had a lot of fun when we went to Birmingham, since we always did other things besides just going to the hospital. I can honestly say the best part of going to Birmingham was seeing Dr. Pressey and my favorite nurses...they made it all worth being there!”

Brendan sang one of his favorite songs while coming out of his seizure around 3am Sunday morning...“There are many paths to follow, voices calling out your name, bringing joys, others sorrows, but all is pointless when your alone. Striding wounded and forsaken, shattered by your guilt and shame, feeling lost isolated, O soul, my soul, I need a savior! So come see, come rest, wherever you are. Come broken, whole, however you are. He calls your name whoever you are. There is room for you, at the foot of the cross. Live and learn, learn to live, cradled in the arms of Love. To the cross rights abandoned. You’re alive! You’re alive! So come see, come rest, wherever you are. Come broken, whole, however you are. He calls your name, whoever you are. There is room for you, at the foot of the cross.” Robert Galea

While at CH my husband asked Brendan, "Are you falling asleep boy?" Brendan said, "Only when I'm eating untastey food!"

“I think that this angry cancer is beating my chemo. I’m just not ready to go to heaven right now. I really wanted to live this life a little longer...Yes, I know (heaven is paradise) but I won’t know what it’s like to have a girlfriend, get married and have family.” He thought a little longer and said, "Well I think it’s going to be okay though, because God must need me more in heaven if comes to that.”

"Mom, no matter what happens I win and beat this cancer. Either God wants me to live because He needs me on earth or I go to Heaven because He needs me there more, so either way I win!"

I asked Brendan if he wished cancer had never happened to him? He actually said no to my dismay! I had to ask why, “Because more good had come from my cancer than if I hadn't gotten it.”

"Mom I'm really lucky that God gave me this cancer in the liver." I ran to the bathroom to cry because I never want him to see me sad. I'm asking "Why God" and Brendan feels blessed by God!

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Because his life touched so many through the his mother’s *Facebook* chronicle from discovery of the cancer to his death, a major effort is being made to insure that children who develop cancer will have a hospital, research, and therapies to aid the children and their families. Links related to this follow the quote from Brendan.

Brendan Franco Never Gave Up Hope!

The Developmental Therapeutics Team: Please open the links and see how you can help:

[Donate](#) [DTTeam](#) [DTT Fund Raising Events](#) [Guestbook](#)

NAPS would like to thank **Troop 150** of Enterprise, Alabama and **Troops 77 and 99** for all you did to assist Brendan and his family. Our thanks to Pastor Dan McMillan and Scoutmaster William Drummond for keeping communications lines open and supportive. To Bonnie, Armand, and Brendan’s beloved sister, we offer continued prayers and thanks. How blessed Brendan was to have you for family! To the doctors and nurses of Children’s Hospital, Birmingham, one of the two hospitals in the US that specializes in pediatric oncology, you will remain in our prayers. Blessings!

Why Not a Ministry Merit Badge?

By Corb Sarchet

We have Scouting merit badges for all kinds of occupations. But, with most of our chartered units linked with religious institutions, we do not have one for those Scouts who may be interested in being a priest, minister, rabbi, missionary, religious educator, chaplain, or other service to their faith.

Well, I think we should. And, here is my view of what such a merit badge would look like.

Requirements:

1. Identify possible part time and full time careers in religious service appropriate to your faith.
2. Consult with your religious leader as to what education, experience, and training are required to become a religious leader, educator, or missionary in your faith. What skills beside those of knowledge of their faith's beliefs are required in order to be able to fulfill the scope of their position?
3. Choose two different types of religious leader or worker in your faith and interview them as to their career path that led them to their present position in your faith.
4. Most faiths have a form or structure of church government. Research what is the structure of your faith. Select another faith and research its structure and compare it with yours.
5. Write a brief report, in your own words, on each of the above 4 requirements and discuss them with your merit badge counselor.
6. Do each of the following:
 - (1) Participate in the youth group in your place of worship.
 - (2) Participate in a youth retreat, mission trip, and summer camp of your faith.
 - (3) Serve for a minimum of six months as a chaplain's aide in your Troop. If available in your Council, attend a course in chaplain's aide training. Write a brief report of your experience and activities as a chaplain's aide and discuss it with your merit badge counselor.
 - (4) Participate as a leader in a religious observance, appropriate to your faith, or an inter-faith Scout's own service at a camporee, jamboree, summer camp, or high adventure camp.
 - (5) Earn the religious emblem award for your age group. Consult with your merit badge counselor as to who can serve as a religious emblem counselor for your faith as well as the requirements for the emblem and source of study materials

Okay. What do you think of the proposal? What would you add or delete? What would you expand upon?

Send a letter or email to the editor and let's get a discussion going! Contact the editor at naps-editor@gmail.com or post a note to A. T. Ballenger, PO Box 2097, B&L, SC 29070.

And just how does the NAPS news evolve into print ????

Editor's Response, sorta

Back at GA this summer, I was asked how the stories get into the newsletter. I wasn't quite sure how to answer that as, sometimes, I am not even sure I know. Well, it may help to know that our NAPS Executive Board and our Regional Directors all are on lookout from stories from their region. As some of you know, I buttonhole scouts and scout leaders anywhere I can find them to hear the "good news of the gospel" as it is carried out in scouting. Additionally, some scouts and leaders send in articles or pictures or both. A current exchange of emails can illustrate the process. I have deleted a few bits that were not relevant to article producing—just general administrative housecleaning or filing of reports and such mundane necessities.

Email 1 from Jack Schrimsher, Secretary for NAPS:

From today's local paper, I've met several young men who have earned all available merit badges, but the story for this young man is particularly special. (article link:

http://article.wn.com/view/2012/06/19/Kansas_Boy_Scout_Merits_All_132_Badges/)

Having U.S. Army Command & General Staff college here at Ft Leavenworth has brought us a number of very special people over the years. Jack

Editor's Response 1:

Jack, that is a great article. Will try to get permission to reprint it. Do you know anything about the Troop 133 in Kansas City mentioned? Whatever, thanks for the lead on this.

Email 2 from Jack Schrimsher:

No, I don't know of that troop. Apparently it is on the Kansas side of the local council (Heart of America). Our council has a reputation of turning out a tremendous number of Eagles, largely because of our summer camp program and the honor Indian-based program there. One of the former Scout council

executives purchased property and built a camp in the Ozark hills 100 miles south of KC about 75 years ago. He started an honorary society there called the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, based on the Osage Indians of that area. (We did not have Order of the Arrow in KC). To be selected and advance in the tribe, a boy had to be 14 and advance through the BSA ranks at a steady pace. Boys were so taken with becoming members and advancing through the various steps to gain the attendant privileges, that most Scouts continued attending the camp each summer until they turned 18. It was virtually impossible to attend camp yearly and not earn merit badges and progress, so while other councils were losing older boys to cars, girls, jobs and sports, KC was turning them all into Eagles.

There was a lot of pressure from the national Scout office to start an OA program here, but it was resisted until sometime in the mid to late 70's. National didn't press too hard because the Eagle rate was so much higher here than anywhere else in the country, and the former Scout executive who started it all became one of the longest serving mayors of KC. Because Mayor Bartle had been "chief" of the Tribe of MicOSay, and virtually every man and boy in the City knew that, he was always known thereafter as "Chief". One of his prime accomplishments as mayor in the late 60's was talking Lamar Hunt into moving his Dallas Texans AFL football team to Kansas City. To honor the efforts of the mayor/Scout executive in smoothing the way for that move, Hunt renamed the team the "Chiefs". There are plaques to that effect in several places around town, and every Scout knows the story.

OA is very common here now because so many resident Scouts and Scouters have moved to KC from other parts of the country where they had been members, but MicOSay still rules at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation near Osceola, MO, and we still turn out a lot of Eagles.

The officers who attend the 8 month program at the Army's Command and General Staff College of course are the "gunners" and "whiz-bangs" of the Army and other services, and their children tend to be just as ambitious. The Post at Leavenworth is 15 minutes from our house, and my wife taught at the high school there for 25 years. The Post does not have a high school, so children that age attended the city school where ROTC was king. As a result, the two of us have met a number of very special young men over the years who were sons of those officers and Scouts and

have lived all over the world. When housing is in short supply at the Fort, many of the student/soldiers and their families are housed in our neighborhood and join the troop at our church.

By the way, that was a front page story in the local paper (The Kansas City Star). The Star is usually very supportive of Scouting in KC. Just another tidbit about the City, we call ourselves the "City of Fountains". We claim to have more fountains than Rome and more boulevards than Paris. One of them is the Eagle Commemorative Fountain in mid-town KC. It was assembled using the large, carved stone eagles from the Pennsylvania railroad station in New York City when it was demolished forty years ago (that demolition woke up the country to the loss of such architectural wonders and resulted in the many "save the station and old buildings" movements around the country that are so common today). You can usually find a picture of the fountain on the internet. It has a large, full-color rendition of the Eagle badge and ribbon in the center between the two stone eagles.

In my boyhood days, new Eagles were grouped in KC into "classes" and awarded their Eagles at a giant Court of Honor in the City's convention center (not coincidentally named after the former mayor/scout executive). When I got mine in 1960 there were two such classes, one in the spring and one in the fall. At mine there were approximately 750 Eagles awarded. Each class has a VIP/celebrity sponsor and you received the award on stage with your mother. A giant reception was held afterwards. The sponsor of my class was Elmer F. Pierson, the founder of the Vendo Corporation, the first company to invent and manufacture the forerunners of today's modern vending machines.

Jack

Editor's 2nd email to Jack:

Would it be okay to run the article as you sent it to me just now in the late summer / fall edition? I think this is part of the general history we need preserved--one of the focuses of the newsletter and website. Too much is being lost that all think someone will remember.

If we can use it, could you add the name of your church and also any other names that are relevant? I really loved reading this and think some of the other Scouters would too. Good, good material and well written. We'd have to spell out KC or my folks

down here would read it as Kentucky Fried Chicken and think of the Colonel instead of the city!

Blessings.

Email 3: Jack Schrimsher:

Certainly you can use that information. I might add that one cannot simply apply for membership or choose to join the Tribe. Members are called at ceremonial campfires during regular camp sessions in the summer. Unlike OA members who wear a patch on their uniform pocket flap, there is no MicOSay patch per se. Instead, a member is identified by a pair of eagle claws (simulated, not real of course) worn on a lanyard about the neck. If the tips of the two face each other, it signifies that the member is an "honorary" warrior, i.e., awarded as an adult. If the tips point away from each other, it signifies that the honor was received as a boy, and he is commonly referred to as a "hard way" warrior. A "brave" in the tribe wears a single eagle claw on a small leather medicine pouch around the neck. Various other beads and paint on the claws and lanyard denote offices and positions within the Tribe. If you spot a Scout or Scouter (male or female) wearing tribal claws, you know that such a Scout or Scouter must have at one time been within either the Heart of America Council (the Greater Kansas City Area) or the Pony Express Council (the St. Joseph, MO area), as only the Pony Express and HOA Council summer camps offer the program. H. Roe Bartle's influence as a Scout Executive also extended to St. Joseph. Members of the Tribe who attend Scouting events around the country spend a lot of time explaining why they are wearing the claws about their neck.

As for my church, it is Parkville Presbyterian Church. Parkville is a small suburban "bedroom" community and Missouri River town on the northwest corner of Kansas City, It is the home of Park University. The church is 170 years old and has sponsored Troop 333 for more than 75 years and Pack 333 for more than 50 years.

One other correction, my Eagle class numbered well over 400. 750 was the approximate total of the Eagles in both classes that year. In later years, the number awarded annually grew so large and the ceremonies so unwieldy that the combined Court of Honors were no longer possible, and like most other councils, Eagle Court of Honors are now held within the various troops. We oldsters still enjoy exchanging stories of

the giant "gatherings of Eagles" in Kansas City. The Kansas City Royals Baseball Club annually hosts such a gathering at one baseball game each summer, and the stadium is packed with Eagle Scouts.

As a Scouter and retired attorney who served as city attorney for Kansas City, Missouri for 30 years, I tend to still "beat the drum" for Kansas City whenever possible.

Jack

And that, folks, is how some of the newsletter gets into play. We also get members sending in material.

Remember how I've asked for news or pics of Venture crews? Well, got that too. Thanks, Anderson Pres!

Learning the ropes: Local teens earn Venture Scouts Silver Award

- By Crystal Boyles
- Posted February 29, 2008 at 1:02 p.m



PHOTO BY KEN RUINARD

Venture Scouts Silver Award recipients, from left; Drew Hogg, 17, Hannah Bolt, 18, Hillary Bolt, 16, Carla Parker, 17, Charles Parker, 19, at the BSA, Blue Ridge Council, Six and Twenty District Annual Recognition Banquet at Central Presbyterian Church in Anderson. Carla Bolt, Hillary Bolt, and Carla Parker are the first three female Venture Scouts to earn the Silver Award, the top rank in the co-ed scout program under Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Hogg and Mr. Parker are the third and fourth in the state to receive the top award in their crew.



PHOTO BY KEN RUINARD

Venture Scouts Silver Award recipients Carla Parker, left, and Hannah Bolt, right, sit at the banquet where the Scout Law words are written on a table ornament for the BSA, Blue Ridge Council, Six and Twenty District Annual Recognition Banquet at Central Presbyterian Church in Anderson. "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent," claims the scout law.



PHOTO BY KEN RUINARD

Venture Scouts Silver Award, the top award similar to a Boy Scout earning the Eagle Scout award.

During a recent ropes course 50 feet above the ground, many of the Anderson Venture Scouts crew ended up in tears. In a simple test of mind over body, these teens and their two leaders were challenged to their core, forced to adapt and get through the situation.

"Just how far can you go?" said Venture Scout Drew Hogg. "You think you have these limits but (it's about) going above where you think you could go."

On Thursday night 17-year-old Mr. Hogg and four of his fellow Venturers received their Silver Awards, the equivalent of an Eagle Scout Award in Boy Scouts.

"It's ... wow! We've been working so hard for two years to get this far," said 17-year-old Carla Parker, a senior at Belton-Honea Path High School.

Miss Parker and fellow crew members Hannah Bolt, 18, and Hillary Bolt, 16, are the first three girls in South Carolina to receive the Silver Award. Mr. Hogg and crew member Charles Parker are the third and fourth boys in the state to receive the award.

Each Silver Award winner must be proficient in emergency preparedness (including standard first aid, CPR and safe swim defense), participate in a training called Ethics in Action, complete a leadership skills course and earn other Venturing awards, according to the Venturing Web site.

Venture Scouts is a division of the Boy Scouts of America, for young men and women aged 14 to 20. Venture allows Eagle Scouts to continue learning and growing, and gives girls the chance to be involved as well. Proficiency in various skills, teaching and volunteering are three major focus areas for these crew members.

“I think girls need this,” said Hillary Bolt, a flute player who’s in her junior year at the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville.

The Anderson Venture Scouts crew, No. 215, began a little more than two years ago, and was started by leaders Steve and Lynn McCarragher. It is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church in Anderson.

“It’s been an honor to be in the Venture Crew,” Mr. McCarragher said during the award ceremony Thursday night. “(These kids are) really the cream of the crop.”

Once crew members master an idea or a challenge, they have to teach it to others.

“We had to learn, then do it and teach it to someone else, because a big part of (Venture Crew) is giving back to the community,” Miss Parker said.

To receive the Silver Award, each Venturer had to spend a significant amount of time during three months volunteering in the community. They’ve spent time bagging sandwiches each Saturday for the homeless and less fortunate in Anderson, they completed a service project at Sadlers Creek State

Park and each did other volunteering on his or her own.

Mr. Parker, a 19-year-old Eagle Scout, volunteers with the fire and rescue squad in Honea Path when he’s not working full-time as an Anderson County 911 dispatcher. His sister, Miss Parker, gave her time at her church and worked with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans.

The Bolt sisters spent part of their time volunteering with their churches. Mr. Hogg did the same, as well as working with the local Boys and Girls Club and Boy Scout groups. All of that was done on top of projects the crew did together.

As an Eagle Scout, Mr. Hogg said there’s always something to do within the Scouting organization.

“Everybody’s going to kind of look to us,” he said. “It’s a constant journey of helping out, teaching — being the go-to guy.”

Next year he plans to attend the University of Colorado to study astrophysical and planetary science.

Venture Crew isn’t all about work, though. Skiing, camping, sleeping under a tarp and cave exploring aren’t exactly, well, work. Tough? Yes. Learning experiences? Definitely. Work? Not so much.

“It gets a little tough at times, but afterward it’s all smiles,” Mr. Hogg said.

Hannah Bolt jokes that if any of them ever get stranded on an island, they know what to do. The freshman at Tri-County Technical College is unlikely to be on that deserted island, but if that ever happened, she knows how to use her compass.

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD AND STILL ON THE MOVE

Troop 4, Yonkers, New York - "Yonkers First and Finest"

The following article appeared in the troop's 75th Anniversary program and was written by Barclay Muir Bollas - a Troop 4 Eagle and retired National News Editor of the BSA who now resides in Euless, TX.

As old as Scouting in America. That is the heritage of Troop 4. You can sit and chronicle the written history easy enough, but the story of Yonkers "First and Finest" Troop isn't really written as an annual insert in the February dinner program.

It is reflected in the eyes of a youngster studying the flames of his first campfire. It is caught in the moment of pride when an Eagle badge recognizes a milestone only two in 100 reach. It is the satisfaction of a 15 year old serving a four course dinner hot from the wood fire, when four years earlier he couldn't stab a fork into his first baked potato.

It's winning a Klondike Derby when, once again, Mother Nature failed to provide snow. Or standing on a mountain peak watching the sunset. It is shoveling snow from a neighbor's walk without being asked; or reminiscing at a party and realizing that everyone there, male and female, young and old, has had in some way an association with that same troop.

It is the Morse Lowerre's, the Jerry Traub's and the Bob Duvall's who gave up tens of thousand of hours of their own lives to work with other people's kids. And it is the satisfaction of having a former Troop 4 Scout - a Nobel Prize winner credit Scouting with bringing the outdoors to him, building his self-confidence, and for providing a cadre of close friends who a generation later were still sharing the quiet of the wilderness with him.

For 75 years Troop 4 has been training Yonkers boys. About 1000 of them. Of the 60 million who have been in Scouting as youngsters in America, that's a tiny drop in the bucket. But to put it in perspectives one should

remember that unlike Troop 4, the typical scout troop is in business only a little over a year. And, unlike Troop 4 which holds many of its members right on through high school, the tenure of the typical scout is little more than 12 months.

It was the Rev. William Sinclair, at Yonkers First Presbyterian Church, who in 1910 gathered together a group of boys from his congregation and decided to form a scout troop. He would use the Scouting program devised a few years earlier by British General Lord Baden-Powell to help build ideals of character, to train them in good citizenship, and to encourage physical fitness. It was a program rapidly growing in this country and already, not without its competitors.

According to the late Ralph Earl Prime, Jr., a member of Rev. Sinclair's congregation, a Lone Troop Charter from the Boy Scout National Office was issued to the Pastor in the spring of 1910. 'I remember," he wrote in a letter to the Troop in 1933, "because they went to camp that summer as a group of Scouts and participated as a troop in a reception in the fall for General Baden-Powell."

At the time he wrote the letter, Mr. Prime was the sole survivor of the group of men who brought about the organization of the Yonkers Scout Council in March 1911 after Troop 4 and the city's second troop, old Troop 2, had both been chartered. Clippings from Yonkers newspapers of that era confirm the new "scouting" activities.

Thus, we believe, did Troop 4 begin a matter of months after the formal founding of Scouting in America in February 1910. According to records of the National Council,

however, the Troop as never registered as such until September 1911. Records also show no registration for the year 1931, when for seven months apparently no registrations for any troops in Yonkers were processed by a depression hurt Council. (Thus the difference between our chartered tenure and our real tenure.)

Even so, of the nation's 55,062 Scout troops as this is written, only 52 can claim a longer registered tenure than Yonkers Troop 4, according to records of the National Council in Irving, Texas.

Early in its history, in 1913, the Troop won a cup for superiority among Yonkers troops in Council scouting activities," and a few years later after winning the cup two more times, it was given to the Troop permanently. During the First World War, Troop 4 led the Council Liberty Loan drives three times for the number of bonds sold by Yonkers Scout troops, and in one night alone sold \$175,000.00 worth in the theaters of the city. During the same period it helped organize a troop in what was the Immanuel Presbyterian Church, near the old carpet shop, and later aided in giving birth to a second unit, Yonkers Troop 26 which became a friendly rival for many years. The late Ed Allbee, the veteran Scoutmaster of that troop, later became a dedicated assistant leader of Troop 4 for many years. Another highlight of early years was a 24 day hike from Catskill to Monroe, N.Y. covering about 280 zig-zag miles.

During the '30s, under the leadership of Morse Loweree, Jr., Troop 4 Scouts became familiar figures at Camp Collins, the old Yonkers Council summer camp where one year the Troop made the Sunshine Totem Pole at the Council Ring, and at Kanes Open (Suffern, N.Y.), Schiff National Scout Reservation (Mendham,NJ), Bear Mountain and other local camping areas. At Kent, Conn. in 1939 Troop 4 camped with the American Indian Association.

It was during this era that the Troop developed its outstanding reputation as a camping troop--the key reason, most believe, why boys have stayed active while others their age have dropped out of Scouting. Clearly, year, after year, the active camping program has been the source of the Troop's leadership interest, Scout membership, training and the subtle growth of a camaraderie among those involved which more likely than not has lasted for years.

It was during this era too, that the Junior Leaders and Morse Lowerre--who went on to devote his life's career to professional Scouting--developed the Troop meeting format that has survived to this day: opening ceremony, instruction in scout skills, game, interpatrol competition, announcement, closing. About 1000 of us remember!

The -'30s also saw the Troop represented at the World's Fair Scout encampment in New York and at the National Scout Jamboree in Washington, D.C. This was the era, too, of minstrels and musical productions, an of the pilgrimages in honor of early scouting pioneer Daniel Carter Beard and former President Theodore Roosevelt, an avid outdoorsman.

In 1937 the Troop was filmed by the National Council in a motion picture entitled "Scouting Trails" which was used for many years throughout the country in camping training courses. Troop 4 Scouts were also featured in photos appearing in Box's Life, the Scout Field Book, Scouting magazine and in a variety of BSA pamphlets.

With the advent of World War 11, an emergency service unit of older Scouts was formed within the Troop, and Scouts assisted the civil defense organizations as messengers. Some 30,000 pounds of waste paper was collected during the height of the salvage drives--as were tons of scrap metal--and many Scouts earned the General Eisenhower Medal for their volunteer work. Others received the

Scouting War Service Medal for time and labor donated to homefront defense causes. In the Seventh War Loan Drive, \$240,105.00 in 185 pledges was raised with a Yonkers Council quota of only \$150,000.00; in the Victory Loan, Troop 4 also led all other units in the city with a \$101,000.00 in pledges obtained.

After World War 11, under Scoutmaster Gerald Traub, the Troop continued to be a camping troop, with parents and committeemen furnishing transportation for trips far afield. The tradition of a monthly camping trip became firmly entrenched and (with rare exceptions) survives today. In 1946 the Troop backpacked for the first time up Mt. Wittenburg in the Catskills; and scaled such peaks as Cornell, Slide, Panther, Plateau and Hunter. Closer to home, regular trips were made to Camp Collins, Pound Ridge (where the Troop maintained its own private campsite on Farmer Adams' farm from 1945 to 1967), and other sites in and around Westchester. A delegation attended the National Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge, Penn. in 1950 and some members of the Troop climbed in the Adirondacks, Great Smokies, Rockies and at Mt. Katahdin, Maine.

The Troop also won many prizes at Scout circuses, merit badge demonstrations and camporees for outstanding acts and Scouting work. It was during this period that its members were identified with quarter-stave contests and realistic first aid ... not that the two necessarily go together!

Many staff members were furnished for summer camps: Camp Collins, Camp Bullowa and Camp Read. For years the Troop's annual service project was the destruction of tent caterpillars in Yonkers in cooperation with the City Arborist. Aid was provided the Red Cross, the American Heart Association, Tuberculosis Association and other agencies. Citations were received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for conservation work at Camp Collins and from the Veterans Administration Hospital, Montrose, N.Y. for assistance given

patients there. And, each Memorial Day, Troop 4 turned out in force for the parade up South Broadway.

What was a typical year like in those days? Take a look at 1962 highlights. Dietmar Krause, a German immigrant who couldn't speak a word of English when he joined Troop 4 was presented with his Eagle rank in February. Then the Junior and Senior, officers decided to challenge themselves to a weekend of camping at Camp Siwanoy in 16 below zero weather. Despite the temperatures they produced a pot roast dinner.

Camping at Bear Mountain followed, and Scouts clipped away once again at Yonkers' tent caterpillar population. In April, over one weekend, members scaled Whittenburg, Slide and Cornell mountains. Three patrols won blue ribbons at the District Camporee held at the New York Military Academy at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson. There was the traditional Memorial Day parade and a summer of softball games at Trevor Park.

Rowing, swimming, canoeing and scuba were on the agenda of a summer weekend at Squantz Pond; and a delegation of younger Scouts attended long-term camp at Camp Read. At Pound Ridge that fall Scouts rebuilt a foot-bridge, but in October the Catskill trip was cancelled because of snow. The troop went in November instead --- and yes, it rained, snowed and sleeted! A December trip to Macedonia Brook was called off because of a shortage of cars.

January featured a bus trip to Philadelphia's Independence Hall and Franklin Institute and there was a ski trip to Fahnestock State Park.

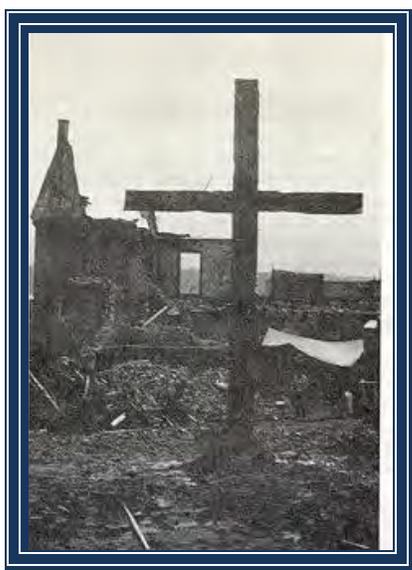
Other destinations in other years during this era? Skiing at Mohawk Mountain. A visit to the New York World's Fair. A NIKE base. Kettletown State Park and Purdy Scout Reservation. A tour of Parkway Police Headquarters at Hawthorne. A "heritage" campfire at suburban Philadelphia

Haverford College campus. Government in action at a Yonkers City Council meeting (rarely a dull event!) Decoration of graves on Memorial Day. A day on a working tug in New York

Harbor. A behind-the-scenes look at the Bronx too. Scenic camping on the grounds of the Mohonk Mountain House in the Catskills, and the religious setting of Graymoor property in Putnam County.

As the years went on, Troop 4 was represented at the '1956, 1960, 1964 and 1973 National Scout Jamborees as well as the 1967 World Jamboree in Idaho. By then the leadership reins had passed from Jerry Traub to one of his former Scouts Robert (Mr. Bob) Duvall.

In December 1968 an era came to an end. A disastrous fire destroyed the historic First Westminster Presbyterian Church, and with it came the loss of most Troop 4 mementos, memorabilia and equipment--and most importantly, its comfortable, spacious meeting space. Miraculously, after days of digging in the rubble, some of the scorched and water soaked Troop logs were recovered. The Troop moved with the church's congregation, first to the Yonkers YWCA and then to Palisade Avenue at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. With the move of the church from St. Paul's in January 1985 the Troop elected to meet in the church house on Northview Terrace.



As the '60s became the '70s and then the '80s, the Troop struggled to adapt to many changes. Consistent with problems faced by Scouting national], membership dipped and active recruitment became necessary. The period also reflected a slump in advancement, but not in the quality of the program offered. Meetings shifted between the church social hall and small basement room in the manse across the street. Scouts fought the insistence upon uniforms. New ways had to be found to finance activities hard hit by inflation.

After modestly successful fund raising efforts involving light bulbs and other items the Troop settled on an annual candy sale as its prime funding effort. Without it, year after year, much of the Troop activity would have had to have been curtailed.



Scouts participated in annual Council Expositions at the County Center, demonstrating First Aid, Quarterstaving, Woodcarving, and other skills ----- usually bringing home blue ribbons for their efforts. Swimming and Scuba instruction drew many to Durland Scout Reservation in Rye. Adult volunteers took an active part in soliciting and donating, along with parents, to Council SME (Sustaining Membership Enrollment) drives. Scout Keith Rey led a drive to collect paperback books for serviceman in Vietnam.

True to tradition, nothing stopped the emphasis on Scouting through outing. Even when National eliminated Camping Merit Badge as a requirement for Eagle, Troop 4 insisted the badge be earned. Earned it was through trips in a six state area.

If camping sounded like fun in the Troop's early days, Scouts of the '70s and '80s had their own share of adventure. Highland Lake, Kent Falls, Sprain Brook, Youmans Flats, West Point, Macedonia Brook, Delmont Scout Reservation in Pennsylvania, Valley Forge, Hunter Mountain, Boyce Thompson property, Copake Falls, Batsto State Park, Harriman State Park, Clear Lake, Burlingame State Park in Rhode Island, Croton Point, Hammonasset Beach, Blue Mountain Reservation, Seton Reservation in Connecticut, Malibu Dude Ranch, Camp Moses at Springfield, Mass. and others. One summer 16 members of the Troop participated in an international camporee with Canadian Boy Scouts at Star Lake near Ogdensburg, N.Y.

In 1974, Committeeman Bob Hillman offered his rustic property in the Catskills to the Troop for camping and, much as Farmer Adams' property was a generation before, "Hillman Acres" became a camping home. There, not only could traditional Scout skills be practiced miles away from others, but new skills such as rappelling, rifle, shotgun and skeet shooting were introduced and quickly became popular.

In the summers, it was back to Camp Read for the younger Scouts and for some Junior Leader's who were employed on the staff. It was back to Camp Read too for adult volunteers like Dietmar Krause and Ed Allbee who frequently were among those who gave up their personal vacation time to see that other people's children got a long term camping experience.

After a wild rafting ride on western Pennsylvania's Youghiogheny River one weekend, the adult leadership brought back to the Troop the excitement of river running.

Canoeing and rafting trips became popular on the Troop program these past 15 years, with frequent "runs" on the Lehigh, Delaware, upper and lower Hudson and the Housatonic Rivers.

Somewhere along the line in the early '70s, the wives of committeemen and leaders started protesting that their husbands and sons were having all the fun. It marked the start of an annual committee camping trip--an equal opportunity venture. Ma even learned how pa (and son) were able to create such delectable cakes and bread in the charcoal black Dutch ovens.

In the summers of 1978 and 1982 older Scouts and a corps of leaders participated in BSA high adventure canoeing in the northern Maine wilderness. Camping was supplemented by weekend trips to such places as the submarine base at Groton, Conn. and to the World War I air shows at the Rhinebeck Aerodrome. There were more historic trips to Philadelphia and Valley Forge, and educational ventures to the New York Planetarium and Museum of Natural History.

John Duvall represented the Troop at the 1979 National Scout Jamboree at Moraine State Park in Pennsylvania, while both Dietmar Krause and Barclay Bollas worked on the Jamboree staff. The 30,000 participants quickly named the site More Rain Park in keeping with the event's weather conditions, which were nothing new to Troop 4. Two other milestones that year were the retirement of Robert (Mr. Bob) Duvall as Scoutmaster as he turned over the reins to Stan Howie, and the switch in the historic meeting date from Friday to Wednesday evenings.

In 1983, former Scoutmaster Jerry Traub was honored at a dinner program for 50 years of service to Scouting; and recent Scout alumnus Edward Simko volunteered to take over the Troop's leadership from Stan Howie.

Over the years, advancement has gone along with the camping emphasis, as the 64 young men who have attained Eagle rank in this Troop will attest.

One of these, Paul Garnjost, became the highest ranking Scout in Yonkers history at that time with nine palms (45 merit badges) above the 21 required for Eagle. One Scout was made an honorary member of a London Scout troop; several have held the Vigil Honor, highest accomplishment in the Order of the Arrow, a service-oriented fellowship of honor campers. Alan Codd, in 1922, received his Eagle award from Scouting's founder, Lord Baden-Powell; and another, John Morrissey, was presented his Eagle award by the Secretary of the General Association of Boy Scouts of China in 1935. To former Scoutmaster and Mrs. Gerald Traub came an hour relatively few in the annals of American Scouting can claim: they have seen all four of their sons reach Eagle, the top rung of the Scouting ladder.

Troop 4 has long exemplified the spirit of brotherhood that stresses Scouting without regard to creed or color. In addition to earning Protestant, Catholic and Jewish religious awards, the first Alpha Omega award of the Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church went to a Troop 4 Scout, Al Schweizer, and Committeeman Robert F. Schlegal was the first in New York State to receive "The God and Service Emblem" award of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. In 1963 when David Hughes, Jr. earned his Eagle award he is believed to have been the first black Yonkers Scout to do so.

That its membership continues to serve a cross-section of youth in a changing community is a tribute to Troop 4's sponsor these past 75 years. Few of the Scouts in recent years have been parishioners at the First Westminster Presbyterian Church, the current name of the chartered organization of which the Troop is an integral part.

Yet the church, despite the problems wrought by the 1968 fire, has continued to give leadership, facilities and, over the years, financial assistance and encouragement. Its use of the Scouting program as an outreach to the community is a continuing demonstration of the volunteer "partner" relationship, which makes Scouting possible.

Behind this host of activities traditionally has been a strong Troop committee--one of the largest in the Council--an ambitious group of adult leaders and cooperative, interested parents.

Many of the committee and leaders also serve Scouting on the District and Council levels and with other local units. Outstanding service to youth of this city has brought Scouting's Silver Beaver Awards to Committeemen William F. Confalone, former Scoutmasters Gerald Traub and Robert M. Duvall, to former Assistant Scoutmaster Edwin Allbee, and years earlier to the late Ralph Earl Prime III. Former Scouts, by the dozens serve the movement as volunteers throughout the country.

Morse Lowerre, Jr. spent 8 years as Scoutmaster prior to World War II. Gerald Traub, who accepted the position on an "acting" basis devoted 16 years to its leadership. His successor, Robert M. Duvall led the Troop from 1960 to 1979. The "average" Scoutmaster holds his post for a little over a year according to the National Council. Morse Lowerre went on to enter professional Scouting and one former member, Bill Jenkins also devoted his full 47 year working life to the Boy Scouts of America. Another, Barclay Bollas, serves the organization today as its National News Editor and Associate Director of Communications.

Present Scoutmaster Ed Simko is an Eagle Scout product of Troop 4 and twenty-two of his present assistants and committeemen also are "graduates" of the Troop - men who have returned to help others as they were once helped.

To those who are today the Scouts, leaders and committeemen and women of Troop 4, it is a privilege to be associated with such an organization. We not only look back on a rich past as members of 'Yonkers First and Finest Troop, but we also look forward toward a fruitful future as we join with the almost 5 million Scouts and Scouter's in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of America's premier youth movement.

Barclay M. Bollas ***

Subsequent to its 75th Anniversary, the Troop continued under SM Ed Simko -- attending summer camp, weekend camping and doing the numerous things that the troop had done for many years. Ed Simko married and moved to Arizona in 2001 and the following since served as Scoutmasters: Henry Samoyedny for one year ,then Chris Geisler for five, followed by Alex Klymko for three years and currently under Gustavo Obbato.

In 1995, the First Westminster Presbyterian Church merged with the Dayspring Presbyterian Church -- giving the Troop its "own" permanent troop room once again.

One factor --which continues since the Federal court decision in 1981 requiring around the city busing of nearly all public school students in the city --has taken its toll -- recruiting and attendance -- especially on after school Cub Scout dens and troop patrol meetings.

Also, the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church is now located in an area of economically challenged immigrants and has not been able to draw the boys into Scouting . Additionally, aging church leadership and dwindling congregation has found it challenging to grow the church in membership and the local neighborhood has not been receptive to local BSA District/Council efforts to promote

Scouting and numerous one-parent families make it even more challenging.

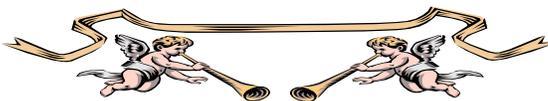
All of this has made re-chartering an annual "tooth pulling exercise" for the troop's leadership, especially its current chair, Steve Kubasek, Jr. and COR Chuck Aitcheson, both Eagle Scouts and both of whom were recently honored with the Silver Beaver and God and Service Award, respectively.

There are some good signs: seven Troop 4 scouts attended the 2010 National Jamboree -- the most ever and one Scout recently passed his Eagle Board of review! Two more are completing the Eagle Scout requirements!

This makes a total of 79 Troop 4 Scouts, as of this writing, who have earned the Eagle Scout Award and 11 adults serving with the troop have held the Silver Beaver award.

The church and troop look forward to the rest of Scouting's second century -- with faith, hope and perhaps a little good fortune!

Thanks to Bob Schlegel who updated this history of Troop 4 in August 2012



We were at an Eagle Ceremony the other day, and I thought the benediction might be of interest:

"This Scout benediction is based on an old Irish blessing, let us pray:

And now in your journey, may the trail rise up to meet your stride, May the sun shine softly on your backpack,

May the cool, clean waters carry your canoe safely to your next portage, May the wind bring warm blessings on your camp,

May Scouts find in you a fine example of the person they hope to be.

Peace be with you this day and forevermore. Amen"

Thanks to Diana and Wray Johanning

One of the joys of Philmont even exceeded the beauty of Baldy, the Tooth of Time, the lowlands and wildlife. That beauty was discovering many young people with depth and perception, compassion and, sometimes, confession of such honesty that one almost cringes as one sees oneself revealed also. One of the 2009 staffers sent this in an email this year and it resonated so strongly with your editor, it demanded sharing.



"On Mr. Paul"

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;" -- Ecclesiastes: Chapter 3, Verses 1-2.

"Excuse me, but I take issue with that." --Unknown

"Pardon?" --Ecclesiastes

"Yes, I'm not entirely happy with what you've just said." --Unknown

"Well, I apologize, sir, but I am stating the facts of life. Now I have quite few more verses to go here, and I would appreciate it if you would let me continue..." --Ecclesiastes

"But you haven't heard my objection, yet!" --Unknown

"Look, sir, if you have an issue with dying, I've got some news for you. Everybody, and I mean everybody, takes issue with dying. Now you..." --Ecclesiastes

"Oh, I don't have an issue with THAT. I understand that things have to die. No, it's the getting old that I object to. I know I have to go out at some point, but dammit, why did I have to get old first?" --Unknown

As long as there are restaurants, there will be regulars. Some are desired and some are not. When I worked as a waiter at J&P Illiano's Restaurant and Pizzeria, few things were more inconvenient than the sight of Mr.

Paul walking through the door.

Mr. Paul was a prime example of a universal archetype: the grumpy old man. He was short and hunched over with his head thrust permanently forward beneath the various ball caps that he always wore. He wore flannel shirts almost exclusively, and he plodded forward in shoes of no brand I could discern. With slow, purposeful movements Mr. Paul would enter the restaurant, and then the routine would begin.

Mr. Paul would ask for the exact same table, a four top smack dab in the middle of the restaurant, every single time. He was denied this only when the place was jam packed. He would then sit in the exact same seat, the one on the right facing away from the door, and he would lay down his pile of books and magazines down next to him.

Initially, the waiting staff did not realize that Mr. Paul liked his meal to reflect his sense of repetition. Now for a confession: even at the slowest time of day, it is the objective of every waiter and waitress to get the meal to the customer as soon as possible. As soon as the customer is finished, it is the waiter's task to (politely) get them to pay and leave in a prompt

manner. This only gets worse if a restaurant is busy. Mr. Paul was having none of that.

“Good evening, my name is Zach, and I will be your waiter for this evening. What would you like to drink?” I asked in my oh-so-professional manner.

“A glass of water with five lemons,” he answered in a clipped, cantankerous tone. Fair enough, I thought, I can deal with it if a customer doesn’t like me. I just give them their space, and things are fine. However, when I returned to ask him what he would like to eat, he shot me a burning look.

“I’ll call you over when I am ready.”

Well, eventually he did, and he ordered a bowl of Maryland Crab soup: hot with no crackers.

“Will that be all that you are having this evening, sir?” Again, he gave me the look.

“No. I’ll let you know when I’m ready.” He snapped irritably.

“All right, sir.” So, things would continue in this manner, with Mr. Paul signaling me over to give his order. In between each course, he would read whatever material was with him. It took him two to three hours to finish a meal. Eventually, I—and the other servers—reluctantly grew to accept Mr. Paul’s way of ordering and eating.

Slowly, the mild sense of annoyance between Mr. Paul and the rest of us began to thaw. Mr. Paul became less brusque and a little more open, and we in turn became more friendly rather than just professionally courteous. Nevertheless, Mr. Paul kept his

distance from me, and I kept my distance from him. It probably would have remained that way if not for my Film Writing class.

As I served Mr. Paul, I attended college, and the class I looked forward to the most that spring semester was my Film Writing class. I enjoyed attending it, and showing my prowess on each assignment. Most assignments were solitary affairs, in which you made up a story, wrote it up and shared it with the class. However, the final assignment required that you interview someone to obtain a single story from their life. I immediately thought of Mr. Paul.

Why Mr. Paul? He was old by golly! *Old people are bound to have a few interesting stories to tell*, I thought to myself. *I’ll interview him, write up the story, present it to class, and that’ll be it!* It was going to be a cinch. Little did I know that I was getting myself into something far more complicated.

One quiet evening, I walked up to Mr. Paul and asked him to tell me a story from his life. Just one. It could be any story he wanted. I would write it down and present it to my class. He told me he would think about it, and before I left the table, he smiled at me for the first time. I knew I would get my story.

Sure enough, towards the end of the night, he waved me over. I dutifully sat down, and he began:

“I suppose you could say this is the story of how a flatlander from Long Island, New York learned to ski. Until the war, I had never seen so much as a hill in my entire life. All I

knew was fields, level streets and the local duck and potato farms. Before I left for the service, I learned to love sports that required flat surfaces. Namely, basketball.” I was struck by the change that had occurred in his demeanor. Gone was the belligerent, defensive hunch of his shoulders. He now leaned in eagerly, speaking in a lively tone.

“I loved basketball, and I spent hours practicing. You could always spot me on the court because I had to wear a face mask in order to protect my glasses. I was on the championship Varsity basketball team in high school. I was a real athlete back then.

During the war, I was a radio man in the Air Force, and when the war was over I found myself in need of funds for college. Fortunately for me, at the time the United States was desperately in need of trained Airmen no longer in the service.

See, in nineteen forty-five Iceland elected a new government that decided it was going to get rid of American influence on the island. That meant that no American military personnel were allowed to remain in Iceland. Well, at the time Iceland was the stopping point for planes flying from North America to Europe. As you can imagine, Uncle Sam needed those airbases. So, they asked the Government of Iceland what they needed to do to keep the bases open. The Government of Iceland responded that if the airbases would be run by civilians they could remain open to American planes. The U.S. agreed and began recruiting former Airmen to work the air bases in Iceland. I was one of them.

Our air base was located outside Reykjavik. When we weren't working we passed the time doing two things: playing basketball and chasing girls. Basketball was straightforward enough. Every department on the base formed a team—the mechanics formed a team, the pilots formed a team and so forth—and we played against each other. Chasing girls caused more trouble.” He face cracked into a wicked grin as he said that.

“Now Icelandic women are amongst the most beautiful in the world, as beautiful as any Manhattan models, and we went out with them whenever we got the chance. See, even though the locals didn't want them going out with us, we had all the money. So we could afford to buy them gifts and take them out to the dance halls. The girls just loved us for that—and the men hated us. They couldn't stand the fact that we were stealing their women.

It all came to a head at the big basketball tournament. This is where every department played each other to see who had the best team on the base. All the locals were invited to come and watch. Things were going fine until one of the Icelanders yelled out:

‘Sure you can dribble a ball. But can you play a real sport?’ We looked over and saw it was one of the local men.

‘What sport did you have in mind?’ We asked.

‘Skiing of course. Now that's a man's sport!’ They jeered.

Now what were we supposed to say to that? I was a flatlander from Long Island and

most of the airmen on the base had never gotten the opportunity to ski in their lives. So of course we couldn't compete with them. They just laughed at us. It was at this point that I resolved that I was going to learn how to ski. Then I was going to go back to Iceland, challenge those Icelanders to ski, and I was gonna ski the shit out of them!

So after I my term was up in nineteen forty-eight, I flew to Switzerland by way of London to take a skiing course. It was my last day taking the course, and we were on the slopes when the blizzard hit." He held up his hand in front of his face. "I was terrified. You could barely see your hand in front of your face. And those Alpine slopes are so precipitous they might as well be straight drops. Anyhow we made it, and I got my intermediate skiers certification." At this point he stopped. I waited as he looked down at his hands. Slowly, he curled his fingers. They shook slightly.

"I never made it back to Iceland. I flew back to the United States, and I went to college to become a doctor. It didn't work out. Eventually, I got a job working for the government at the Department of Social Security. I married and had kids. Every once in a while I would get to ski in a place like New Hampshire, but like I said, I never made it back to Iceland. Life goes on you know?" He looked back up at me again. He was fighting back tears.

"I suppose if you have to tell your class anything, tell them this," He whispered as his voice began to crack. "You tell them that Paul Chalson learned to ski, when no one thought he

could, and he was proud to do it." He smiled. "There, will that work for you?"

I answered yes, and I told him that I would give him a copy of my paper as soon as I gave my presentation to my Film Writing Class. He left shortly after we finished speaking. I closed up the restaurant with my co-workers, went home, typed up a rough draft of his story while it was fresh in my mind and went to bed. Later that week, I gave my presentation to my class. I received an A. That was three months ago.

Since then, Mr. Paul has waited expectantly for his copy of the paper, and I have repeatedly failed to give it to him. I am angry about this; I silently rage against myself for my failings as a human being and a writer every time I see him. Yet, I don't hand him the paper because I know it isn't ready. Perhaps it never will be.

The fact is that talking to Mr. Paul made me realize that I treat Mr. Paul, and all other elderly people like him, with casual cruelty.

Oh, I don't intend to treat them like that. We all don't intend to treat them like that, but intention and outcome are two different things. The fact is, before I asked Mr. Paul for a story, I did my best to ignore Mr. Paul. When he came in the restaurant, I was polite, I gave him his meal, I followed his schedule, and then I let him leave. In other words, I was gently putting up with him until he wasn't around to bother me any more. Why do I treat him like that?

Because he is old. Old people are a stark reminder of our own frailty and mortality. No

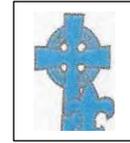
matter how much I physically condition myself, no matter how much I deny it, I cannot avoid old age. One day my energies will have withered, my faculties will have failed, my loved ones will have passed away, and I will have to wander the world alone. Eventually, I won't be able to take care of myself. I don't want to think about that; no one does.

Fortunately for us, we are busy people. There is always something to distract us from these thoughts as soon as they appear. Yet, this state of denial is completely irresponsible. By ignoring the elderly, we are denying them their human dignity. Once again, it comes back to the golden rule: treat others as you would wish to be treated.

So, I will not go and belittle Mr. Paul into an object of pity. That's not the way he wants to be remembered, and I'll be damned if that's the way I want to be remembered. He did right by me in telling me his story, and now I'll do right by him.

When I spoke with Mr. Paul, I came to know a man who lived, loved and laughed without remorse. He savored his successes and got through his failures. He stood on his principles and didn't hesitate to voice his ideas and opinions. He is a flawed man with some regrets, but he is also a man who went out and accomplished things. Mr. Paul went out and learned to ski, and no one can take that away from him. He has the God given right to take pride in that. He has lived a life that's full, and in the end, that's all anyone can ask for.

WHY NOT HONOR THE BEST IN PRESBYTERIAN SCOUTING WITH A SPECIAL GIFT?



We all rejoice in welcoming new Eagles, Order of the Arrow, Scout Leaders, Pastors, and parents of new Scouts to Presbyterian circles. \

Sometimes, there are large celebrations with ritual and plentiful food. Other times, it is a quieter but still warm and joyful occasion. Then there are the times when we want to recognize someone who has helped support our troop(s) over the years or for a special donation of time, money, or other service.

The NAPS membership and newsletter would be a memorable way to continue the welcome and thanks, a continuing gift of recognition. It costs little, but lasts a whole year, each issue reminding the one honored that you think highly of their *achievement* and gifts.

When you give the membership, if notified well in advance, a letter from the President of NAPS can accompany the gift, welcoming them to the NAPS family personally. A membership certificate, suitable for framing, accompanies the new membership, as does a NAPS' badge and lapel pin.

All of these make for presentation in a public or private ceremony that adds the option of a great photo op, with the results printed in the next edition of the newsletter or posted directly to the NAPS website.

Got someone you need to recognize or honor coming up? Give a NAPS membership and inclusion in one of the Presbyterian churches highest awards in Scouting:

[http://presbyterianscouters.org/membership/index.htm!](http://presbyterianscouters.org/membership/index.htm)



Religious Emblems Coordinator (R.E.C.) Orientation

1 - Become familiar with the REC position, the rationale and responsibilities

- View the REC video - [Religious Emblems Coordinator Video](#)
-  Visit the [P.R.A.Y. Learning Center](#) - View upcoming and recorded webinars on the REC position
-  Read the latest R.E.C. update - [Summer 2012 Update](#) (PDF)
- Read the newsletter - [Boy Scout Bulletin - Special R.E.C. Edition](#) (PDF)
- Print the summary handout - [Religious Emblems Coordinator Summary Handout](#) (PDF)
- [Council Religious Emblems Coordinator Job Description](#) (PDF)
- [District Religious Emblems Coordinator Job Description](#) (PDF)
- [Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator Responsibilities](#)
- [Working with the local Religious Emblems committees](#) (PDF)
- "Click and Go" Resource Sheet for REC's (PDF)

2 - Gather promotional resources on Religious Emblems

- http://www.praypub.org/partner_bsa.htm
- [Duty to God Religious Emblems Resource DVD](#)
- [How to Promote](#) (PDF)

3 - Make your plan of work

- Set goals - [Sample goals](#) (PDF)
 - [P.R.A.Y. Program Usage Data](#)
- Recruit - [Sample recruiting advice for REC Position](#) (PDF)
- Schedule presentations



4 - Stay connected:

- [Sign up for PRAY's Boy Scout E-Mail Bulletin List](#)

Spread the word (encourage adults to become REC in their districts/units):

- [Religious Emblems Coordinator PowerPoint \(All Slides\)](#) (PDF)
- [Religious Emblems Coordinator PowerPoint](#) (PPT, right click and "Save As")

Other R.E.C. Position Resources

- [Religious Emblems Retreat Guide](#) (PDF)
- Sample Encampment Resources
 - [Sample 2007 Schedule](#)
 - [Sample 2011 Schedule](#)
 - [Sample Flyer](#)

Duty to God Promotion Resources

- [Cub Scout Leader Scripts](#)
- [Boy Scout Leader scripts](#)
- [Venturing Presentation](#)
- [Round Table Orientation](#)
- [Pow Wow Presentation](#)
- [Handouts](#)
- [Duty to God DVD](#)
- [Duty to God Patch program](#)



P.R.A.Y. Update: December 2012

Recognize Your Adult Leaders

Boy Scout Sunday is coming up quickly. Plan NOW to recognize your adult leaders with an Adult Religious recognition. The adult recognitions are by nomination only. [Click here for a general description and for links to various religious awards.](#) Encourage your adult volunteers with one of these prestigious recognitions!

Building Faith in Youth Award for Adults

This award is designed to recognize adults who have used the P.R.A.Y. programs to disciple young people and their families and to support the Christian Education program of the local protestant congregation. [Counselors and Teachers of the P.R.A.Y. programs that stand out and have gone above and beyond the requirements of the program are ideal candidates.](#) Nominations must come from a protestant church; the only signature required is the pastor's.

Click here for the [Building Faith in Youth nomination form.](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

REC's Leading Religious Emblems/ Duty to God Courses for University of Scouting / Pow Wow, etc. – The How To's and Content for Leading an Hour-Long Session at Council and District Training Events

[January 7, 2013 \(Mon\) 1:00pm CST \(Central\) for 1 hour](#)

[January 10, 2013 \(Thurs\) 7:00pm CST \(Central\) for 1 hour](#)

Planning and Conducting a Duty to God Encampment (Including On-line Planning Tools and Templates) – Presentation by John Lyons, Council REC and Experienced Leader of Atlanta Area Council Duty to God Encampment

[January 15, 2013 \(Tues\) 1:00pm CST \(Central\) for 1 hour](#)

[January 17, 2013 \(Thurs\) 7:00pm CST \(Central\) for 1 hour](#)

The Learning Center

Visit our Learning Center at <http://www.praypub.org/learningcenter> for Webinar topics, upcoming workshops and tutorial videos. We encourage councils to link to our Learning Center to keep up-to-date on future events.

P.R.A.Y.

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SOME ASK WHO WE ARE

NAPS is a private nonprofit corporation serving Presbyterian and Reformed churches. NAPS membership is available to anyone whose affiliation is with a church that is Presbyterian by polity and Reformed in its theology. ECO, EPC, RCA and PCA are among the many groups that are fully welcomed into NAPS.

- for advocacy
- for service
- for mutual support
- for encouragement



so that program and resources of the Boy Scouts of America might serve the Church's ministry with youth.

Editor's Apology to Julian Marsland

At General Assembly Gene and I were honored to meet our Scouts and Scouters. I met one young man, Julian Marsland, who achieved Eagle rank in February and was immediately drafted to help his mother in her Fair Trade booth at General Assembly. He was a great help as I selected a few Christmas gifts.

As usual, I took his picture and promised it would appear in this issue. Somehow, the picture has been lost, but the memory of his example of Eagle Scout behavior has not.

Julian, I am sorry I lost the picture. If I ever find it, it will appear in the next issue.

NAPS Editor
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