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*Eagle Scouts Jordan Allen (left)
and Sean Bartell (right)
photo by Chris Fritchie*



known as the Boy Scouts was born.

One of the key elements of the original camp was the boys were from different social classes and backgrounds. That element still exists and scouts today continue to be from all social classes and nationalities. In the 1970s the scouts opened membership to older girls calling the group Venture Scouts. Membership was then extended to all girls, ages 6 to 25, in 1991.

The mission remains the same: to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices.

SCOUT RANKINGS

In the younger years, boys join Cub Scouts. In Cub Scouting there are Tiger Cubs, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos badges or ranks that can be earned. In Boy Scouts, the ranks include Scout, Tenderfoot Scout, 2nd Class Scout, 1st Class Scout, Star Scout, Life Scout and finally Eagle Scout. To earn the Eagle Scout rank there are several stringent requirements that must be completed. A Scout must earn a total of 21 merit badges including First Aid Citizenship in the Community, Citizen in the World, Communications, Personal Fitness Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Swimming (or Hiking or Cycling), Camping and Family Life. As a Life Scout he must plan, develop and give leadership to others through a service project designed to aid any religious institution, school or community. The project idea must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort, the Scoutmaster and troop committee and the council or district before the project begins.

100 Years of Scouting

By Wendy Crooks

AS DEFINED in the Scout law, a Scout is: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. This year marks the 100th year of scouting and the mission remains the same: to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

HISTORY OF SCOUTING

Lord Robert Baden-Powell, at the age of 50, was a lieutenant general in the British

Army and organized a camp for 20 boys off the coast of southern England. It was there on Brownsea Island that the worldwide scouting movement began. The purpose of this organized group was to teach boys outdoor skills and physical fitness. He later detailed his experiences in a book called *Scouting for Boys*. The scouting organization gained momentum when the boys decided to form small groups and persuade adults to lead them. They naturally used Lord Baden-Powell's book and principles as the foundation of their groups and the organization now

*William Crooks instructing his son, Will
photo provided by Wendy Crooks*

There is no question if a young man becomes an Eagle Scout he has shown great dedication and determination to succeed. It is no wonder there are so many men who have earned the rank of Eagle Scout go on to very impressive careers.

Today there are approximately 28 million Scouts worldwide and there are more than 500 million estimated alumni Scouts. Last year over 49,000 young men earned Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout.

LOCAL SCOUTING

Scouting is alive and well in the city of Frisco as part of the Circle Ten Council. This group encompasses the majority of the Central North Texas area and parts of Oklahoma. It includes: Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman, Navaro, Rains, Rockwall and Van Zandt counties in Texas and Bryan County in Oklahoma. Circle Ten Council was founded in 1910 and more than 80,000 youth and adults participate in scouting through the council each year.

Circle Ten is also home to an Order of the Arrow (OA) Lodge and six campgrounds. In 2006, the Council also had 809 Eagle Scouts.

Boys in 1st through 5th grade are eligible to join the Cub Scouts. A small group of



in outdoor, service and fund-raising activities. The annual Pinewood Derby is a highly anticipated miniature car race requiring the boys, with assistance from their parents, to make crafty little cars from a block of wood, wheels and axles. The cars are then raced at a day-long event and judged on speed, craftsmanship and originality. The Scouting for Food project is the annual food drive aimed at providing service for the community.

Boy Scouts is for boys in 6th grade and up and members belong to a Troop, Team or Crew. As the scouts get older and more experienced, the activities and projects require more skill and dedication. Camping, hiking, canoeing, public service work, National Scout Jamboree and their annual Scout Show are just a few of the opportunities available to scouts.

In 1923 a benefactor, "Daddy Wisdom,"

presented Circle Ten one of its finest gifts. John S. Wisdom, a local farmer, donated approximately 300 acres for use by the boy scouts. Mr. Wisdom donation was precipitated by him noticing a group of scouts holding a church service one Easter Sunday on property adjacent to his own. He was so inspired by what he saw that he invited the scouts to camp on his property whenever they liked. Their friendship grew and Mr. Wisdom was eventually nicknamed "Daddy Wisdom." The property, which is located 11 miles from downtown Dallas, is now called Camp Wisdom. Through the years the scouts obtained nearly 1,000 acres from additional land donations. The property was ultimately purchased by the Federal Government in order to build Interstate 20. It has been reduced to approximately the original size of 300

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake, and morally straight.

Cub Scouts is called a Den and a large group of Dens become a Pack. Local Cub Scouts participate in many activities to help prepare them to move on to Boy Scouts. Experiencing scouting at the cub level might include participating

acres that Daddy Wisdom donated. Camp Wisdom is one of Texas' oldest Boy Scout camps and full of fascinating history. On the same property is the Jack Harbin Scouting Memorabilia Museum which is home to many interesting local scouting artifacts.

Camp Wisdom is known primarily for Cub World, which is a two-day event (if you survive the "roughing it" aspect of the trip) in which Cub Scouts and their families participate in different outdoor activities.

FRISCO EAGLE SCOUTS

Frisco is proud to recognize seven scouts who earned their Eagle Scout rank this past summer. According to Calvin Winchester, advancement chairman for the Arrowhead District, the district is on target for having the most successful Eagle Scout advancement to date. "We will probably advance 80 to 90 Eagle Scouts this year which is a record for our district," Mr. Winchester estimates.

On June 19th, Frisco scouts Colton Johnson, Sean Bartell, Tyler Vogelsberg and Jay Winters from Troop 187 earned their Eagle Scout rank. Sean Bartell, a junior at Centennial High School had a supply drive for the NICU at Parkland Hospital in downtown Dallas for his Eagle Scout project. From September to December he collected necessary items such as pacifiers, bottles and diapers for babies in the hospital. "The paperwork was the hardest part of becoming an Eagle Scout. You really have to keep track of everything you do and really stay organized," said Sean.

A sophomore from Frisco High, Jordan Allen, also earned his Eagle Scout rank this summer. Jordan, who is with Troop 2187 in Frisco, held a bicycle drive for kids from the Boys and Girls Club of Frisco for his Eagle Scout project. After emails were sent to many individuals his parents knew, the bikes started rolling in. He collected 22 bikes in all and then the work really began. Jordan fixed up each bike with new parts to make them look brand new. "If it needed a new seat, we replaced the seat," Jordan said. While the project was a lot of hard work, Jordan said it wasn't the hardest part about becoming an Eagle Scout. "You have to earn 21 merit badges and that is the hardest part. With the project, it is one plan so it is easy

to stay focused and get the job done," Jordan explained. He said he plans to stay involved in Scouts and help other kids obtain their Eagle Scout rank.

Famous Eagle Scouts

- William Bennett,
Former Secretary of Education
- Gerald Ford,
38th President of the U.S.
- Murphy J. "Mike" Foster,
Governor of Louisiana
- James Lovell, Astronaut
- Ellison Onizuka,
Challenger Astronaut
- J.J. Pickle,
U.S. Representative from Texas
- Harrison Salisbury,
Pulitzer Prize winning Author
- William Sessions,
Former FBI Director
- Steven Spielberg,
Film Director/Producer
- Wallace Stegner,
Pulitzer Prize winning Author
- James Stewart, Actor
- James Brady, Former Press
Secretary to President Reagan
- William C. DeVries, M.D.
Transplanted first artificial heart
- Walter Cronkite
Journalist, T.V. Commentator
- J. Willard Marriott, Jr.,
President, Marriott Corporation
- H. Ross Perot,
Chairman, EDS Corp.
- Daniel J. Evans, Former US Senator
& Governor of Washington state

Travis Barnes and Mitchell Garrett from Troop 298 also earned their Eagle Scout rank during the summer. Travis assisted Frisco High School's marching band with his project and Mitchell built bookcases for the Boys and Girls Club of Frisco.

Mr. Winchester's term as Advancement Chairman has already spanned six years. He added, "I've had the opportunity to

meet many outstanding men who will be the future leaders of this country." For now, these scouts are certainly adding to our community.

NATIONAL SCOUT MUSEUM

Very close to home is one of the best-kept secrets in scouting, the National Scout Museum. It was relocated to our area from Murray, Kentucky in 2002. Located in Irving and as large as the size of a football field, this wonderful museum holds many treasures from scouting history. Whether you're a scout or not, you will enjoy touring this fantastic museum. At the entrance, an art gallery complete with original Norman Rockwell scout paintings is on display. Then as you enter the museum, you will get the chance to learn more about the history of scouting and see the progression of scout uniforms. On a more interactive level, you may enjoy target shooting, knot tying and small derby car racing.

Admission to the museum, located at 1329 West Walnut Hill Lane in Irving, is free on Mondays from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. To learn more about the museum call 800.303.3057 or 972.580.2100 or visit their website at www.bsamuseum.org. Adjacent to the National Scout Museum is the National Council office.

THE DAWN OF A NEW CENTURY OF SCOUTING

This year also marks the opening of the new Collin County Service Center and Scout Shop located in Allen. Prior to its opening, Frisco Scout leaders would have to drive to Sherman to get their supplies. A beautiful shop full of everything a Scout would need is now at 816 W. McDermott in Twin Creek Village, Suite 336.

Scouts are forever moving forward and looking ahead. According to District Director, Tim Anderson, "We have plans to use the 2010 Capital Campaign to build a new 8000 square foot building in the district to house the scout offices, meeting rooms and scout shop."

With such a strong foundation and committed leadership, we can look forward to another 100 years of scouting.

Wendy Crooks is a freelance writer living in Plano with her Eagle Scout husband and four children.