



The Bison

PLANTING SEEDS TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF BOY SCOUTING IN WEST TEXAS



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While the Permian Basin's economic outlook has grown, so has its population. The bustling metropolitan area has brought new challenges for our children. Scouting remains one of the best methods to address those challenges.

Leadership and BBQ

How often do you walk into a business owned and operated by Eagle Scouts? If it's a successful restaurant by the name of "Mac's", the answer would be "every time".

Wes and Derek Webb are Eagles from Troop 232, Midland, Texas. The brothers were born in Houston but moved to Midland around 1990. Wes first became interested in Scouting when he attended a hunters safety course at First Baptist Church. A leader from Troop 232 convinced him to give it a try and after a few Monday night meetings and several campouts, he was hooked. He earned the rank of Eagle in his Junior year of High School.

"Balancing everyday life—school,

Scouts, football, and even work made it difficult," Wes says. "Sometimes I might have found myself being negative about it but then when I saw everyone else helping each other out, it made it all worthwhile. That's why (here at Mac's) we're really big on helping everybody. Even if there's something that we might not want to do, like jumping in and helping with dishwashing, we do it anyway."

"Running a business is a little like running a patrol, you gotta make sure everyone's in line," observes Wes.

Earning the Cooking Merit Badge was one of the troop requirements. Derek, the younger of the two, notes, "Every camp out, 6:00am, we'd hear Mr. Blaylock's voice, 'Cooking Merit



Eagle Scout brothers, Wes and Derek Webb, are the face of Mac's BBQ, Midland, Texas

Badge boys, get up!' If you were five minutes late, you got dish duty."

"You didn't want dish duty because you had to take them all down to the river and wash them there."

Please see **LEADERSHIP PAGE 3**

The Father Factor: Scouting's Solution to Society's Growing Problem

Fathers, it seems, are perhaps *the most important factor* in the future of their sons lives. But ironically, fathers' involvement in their children's lives is being encroached upon. Work is one of the biggest culprits but more and more, fathers are vanishing from the family unit altogether and children are the ones who are paying for their absence.

A 2012 study shows that the average dad spends just 56 minutes a day with their son. If that isn't striking enough, consider that in 1997, the average was

Please see **FATHER FACTOR PAGE 2**



A father and son from Pack 1908, Odessa, share a moment at the Duty to God Hike

FATHER FACTOR (continued from Page 1)

one hour and forty-six minutes. That translates to a nearly 50% decrease in just 15 years. What does this mean for our youth and our society?

The problem goes much deeper than you may think. Lack of paternal involvement is linked to negative factors such as increased poverty, emotional and behavior problems, lifelong health, incarceration, crime, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, education, and obesity. That's a lot to swallow.

More specifically, children in father-absent homes encounter:

- Four times the likelihood of being poor



Dad and lad discuss the activities at Cub-O-Ree

- More frequent diagnosis of asthma
- Greater incidence of obesity
- Twice the likelihood of repeating a grade in school
- Twice the likelihood of being involved in early sexual activity
- Greater risk of substance abuse
- A poor parental bond with one's father resulting in higher incidence of depression

“Babies with a father’s name on the birth certificate are 4 times more likely to live past 1 year of age.”

If all this seems like some serious doom and gloom, fear not. There is a solution. Scouting provides a solid foundation of opportunity for fathers to spend essential quality time with their sons. And, in the case of single-parent mother's, Scouting gives boys a chance to interact with positive and appropriate adult male role models. It's been doing this for over 105 years now.

What's great about the program is that, no matter what the activity happens



A Cub Scout learns archery from his father

to be, boys with more involved fathers experience fewer behavioral problems and score higher on reading achievement. Those boys are better off on almost every cognitive, social, and emotional measure developed by researchers. For example, high levels of father involvement are correlated with sociability, confidence, and high levels of self-control in children. Moreover, children involved with fathers are less likely to act out in school or engage in risky behaviors as adolescents.

Scouting aims to specifically address the development of boys by giving them what they need most: time with Dad.

* Statistics compiled by the National Fatherhood Initiative

Popcorn Sales Create Sense of Ownership, Confidence, and Pride for Scouts

One of the best ways to help Scouting at all levels is to purchase Scout popcorn during the traditional sales months of October and November. 70% of proceeds go toward Scouting. And, corny though it may be, selling popcorn can have a long-lasting impact upon a young boy's life.

Perhaps one of the most important things a Scout learns through popcorn sales is the value of the dollar. He works hard to earn his commission

and when he spends it on things like Scout camp, activities, program materials, or uniforming, he develops a sense of pride and ownership in the program.

Scouts also learn goal setting as a result of the incentives program. Those incentives include everything from iPads and collector's edition patches to free summer camp. They can even earn money for college.

Popcorn sales are also a vital part of funding the Scouting program at various levels. For

troops, this includes such things as project and program materials, camping equipment, transportation costs, etc. For the council, Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch, service centers, training, direct service to Scout units, Scout shops, and much more.

So the next time a cute little Cub Scout or a polished young Boy Scout knocks on your door with popcorn in-hand, be sure to tell them how much you appreciate their effort.



Boys often go from door-to-door while hauling their goods in-tow



A top young salesman wins a prize

**SMARTER
GIVING:
Dollars &
Sense**

When it comes to funding programs, breaking ground for new buildings, endowing the future, or sending underprivileged kids to camp, nothing beats cash as the preferred method to drive all projects. *Long live the king!*

However, gifts of real estate, business interests, equipment, cars, securities, and even personal property can also make good sense for reducing tax burden while benefiting the Scouting program.



A Warm Welcome and A Fond Farewell



38 years. One company. That's a pretty good stretch for anyone.

For Dan Damon, 38 years made a pretty good career as a camp ranger for the Boy Scouts. 30 of those years were spent at BTSR. It's easy to understand how a person might become attached to a place after that amount of time. Almost as easy to comprehend is how a group of Scouts and Scouters might become attached to someone who had given the kind of service Dan Damon has. He leaves some pretty big shoes to fill.

Although his official retirement date is not until December 31st, he's working on some new full-time business interests while getting his new homestead up-to-snuff a few hours east of camp.

His replacement is none other than Theron Whitfield. Theron, his wife, and their six sons join us from East Texas where they spent a number of years living on a small ranch and running their own horse auction business. Theron has stepped up to the challenge of stewardship of the camp and is happy to have successfully made it through his first two major camping weekends. He's looking forward to gearing up for summer camp in 2016.

Be sure to give Theron and his family a warm welcome the next time you visit Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch.



Leadership

Continued From Page 1.....

continues Wes. "I think everybody probably had a little bit of dish duty from sleeping in at camp," he adds with a slightly sheepish grin.

Perhaps due in-part to Scouting, cooking has always been very high on both brothers' list.

"I cooked a lot with Dutch oven. Even after being in Boy Scouts, I'd camp with the family and make biscuits and cobbler at night and just make the dough from scratch," says Wes. "There are times here (at Mac's) that I just want to bust out the Dutch oven and start cooking."

Derek adds, "And on Steak Night, we've got such a great bed of coals that it would be really nice. But there's just too many folks to cook for."

The Webbs have a lot of family in and around the Brady area and loved eating at Mac's as boys. So when the restaurant there came up for sale, Wes and a friend leaped at the opportunity to purchase it. A bit over a year ago they began catering to the oilfield in the Permian Basin at which point Wes says, "I told my brother, Derek, that I couldn't do it without him so that's how we got started in Midland."

Ultimately, running Mac's comes down to patrol method, organization, delegation, teamwork, discipline, and the



A future leader from Troop 175, Midland

values of Scouting.

"It's so easy these days to be dishonest. But honesty, to me, means a lot," states Wes. "I think about the Scout Law all the time. Whether it's employees or customers, people can tell when you're being honest. But being honest gets you so much further—whether its bookkeeping or cooking properly."

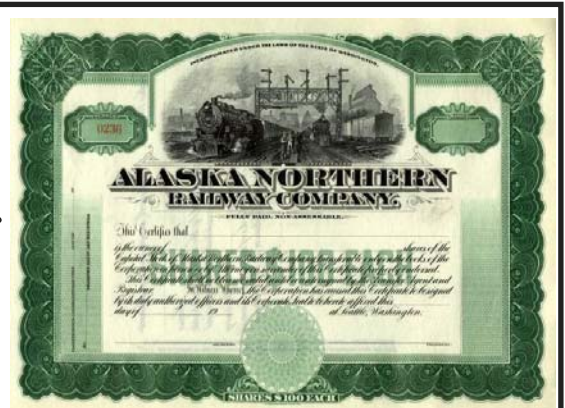
"The Scout Oath is the same way," adds Derek. "'On my honor, I will do my best' pretty much says everything you need to base your business on. Because you're doing it for the community."

But what does "leadership" have to do with BBQ? The only way you will be able to both fully understand and appreciate that is by making a trip down to Mac's at 2400 W. Illinois (just off Wall Street behind Tampico's) and let your taste buds and your tummy tell you all about it.

Beat the IRS. Give the Gift of Appreciated Stock.

The tax planning benefits of donating appreciated shares of stock or a fund include deducting the amount of the charitable donation AND avoiding the unrealized gains on the appreciated shares. This is because of the general rule that the deduction for property donated to charity is equal to the fair market value of the donated property.

To put that in context, a donation of an initial investment of \$10,000 which has appreciated to \$20,000 could result in a capital gains savings of 20% plus an additional 25% (or more depending on your tax bracket). To sum it up, you are getting about \$7,000 in tax benefits for a donation



of property with a current value of \$20,000 that originally cost you only \$10,000. It's a double play for you and for Scouting! Just make certain that you've held the stock for longer than one year. Also, if you have a non-stock appreciated item (such as jewelry, artwork, real property), special limitations may apply.

Not quite sure about how to go about making a gift of stock? Call Aaron Bedell at the Scout Office (432) 570-7601.



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Leadership: The Scouting Connection

Some say, "Eagles don't flock. You have to find them one at a time."

True, leaders stand apart from others. They are often motivated by things that many people simply don't see or understand. The elements that draw them together are skills and values such as the ones Scouting imparts to youth from an early age.

"Once an Eagle, always an Eagle." Scouting's top rank is attained by only about 2-3%. But *every boy who participates* is equipped with the skills and values necessary to become a leader.

A distinct difference between the Eagles in the wild and the Eagles you find in Scouting is their ability to work together with others as a team. But that doesn't stop them from rising to whatever challenge they may encounter.

Scouting has some great examples of individuals who have become leaders in their fields of expertise, whether in business, science, arts and entertainment, or

in government. You can find them throughout our nation or right in the middle of our own community. Texas has a proud heritage of leadership that finds its base in Scouting—many of whom are Eagle Scouts.

Texas State Representative and Eagle Scout, Brooks Landgraf remarks, "Scouting fulfills so many components of what an entire community can be proud of."

Representative Tom Craddick, another Eagle, states that, "Being an Eagle Scout (is not something) you go out and advertise. But when people *hear* you're

an Eagle Scout, they say, 'Oh, you're an Eagle!' It shows that you can accomplish something and you *have* accomplished something."

According to Eagle Scout and former gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams, "People want to deal with someone with integrity. My word is my bond. Fits right in with the Boy Scouts."

Both our immediate past governor, Rick Perry, and current governor, Gregg Abbott, are Eagle Scouts. Can anyone truly claim the tie between Scouting and so many of our beloved leaders is mere coincidence?

