



# The Bison

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



▶ ARE THE "TIMELESS VALUES" OF SCOUTING STILL RELEVANT AFTER NEARLY 105 YEARS?.....1



▶ DONATING APPRECIATED STOCK AND SECURITIES MAY BE MORE APPEALING THAN EVER.....2



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▶ COMMUNITY SERVICE TEACHES OUR CHILDREN THE VALUE OF THINKING OF OTHERS FIRST....4

*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.*

## New Generation, New Values?

**M**ake no mistake, the new generation of Millennials and "Generation Z" live in a vastly different technological and cultural environment from those who may still pine after the Ronald Reagan era. Driven by fast-paced marketing campaigns, in-your-face sports and music stars, email, text messaging, instant credit, cell phones, video games, fast food, fast cars, and Hollywood special effects, it may be difficult to draw similarities between them and generations raised in far simpler times.

It almost seems as if all the changes may have outpaced the Boy Scout program which has been around since 1910. *Almost.*

Although Scouting's focus is still based upon the same tenets, values, and principals that made the country we live in the greatest nation in the world, the techniques and even program used to attract youth have continued to grow with the times. Kids are

still excited about the outdoors, they're just more interested in the high adventure aspect of things like rock climbing, white water rafting, and mountaineering. Scouting has accommodated these aspirations by creating new merit badges, expanding camping areas, and broadening the overall scope of the program.

Not to be downplayed, the role of technology is becoming ever more important. Badges such as Robotics and Game Design have become very popular and are soon to be followed by Computer Aided Design, and Advanced Computing. Tech has also altered the way Scouts interact with others and even the world. Scouting has always had an international element. If travel and experiencing new languages and cultures are of interest, there's plenty of opportunities. Camp staff abroad programs are available for dozens of different countries. Buf-



Patrick Myers takes part in a ceremony to honor the American flag at Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch.

falo Trail Scout Ranch has hosted a number of international Scouts in very recent years.

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Honorees Charles Acker and Gary Bullock, Asset Manager and representative for Whiting Petroleum.

## First Annual Sustainability Awards Honor Innovation

The Sustainability Awards Luncheon was held on August 13th at MCM Grande in Odessa. In addition to recognizing Charles Acker, an Eagle Scout from Monahans, as its youth honoree, Whiting Petroleum was also honored for its North Ward Estes CO2 Flood Project. The company has poured more than \$850 million and countless man hours into the project

since 2007.

Acker was the first recipient of the youth version of the award which is accompanied by a \$1,000 university scholarship. He's taken part in multiple conservation projects at several Scout camps and the National Jamboree. He gave leadership to his last project, as a part of

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# Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch Update: Another Successful Summer Camp Season To Be Followed by Major Camp Improvements

Pay a visit to Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch and you're likely to be impressed by its rugged beauty. Mountains that spire toward a deep blue sky, fresh air scented by desert flowers, and quiet star-filled nights – it's Boy Scout heaven!

There's a lot to love about the place. More than 3,300 campers who stayed a week there for last summer's program can attest to that. That's why we're working hard to improve the camping experience. Buffalo Trail Council is gearing up for a major capital campaign that will touch nearly every part of camp while still preserving or even enhancing the respect for nature, history, and long-standing traditions of BTSR.

One of the most visible improvements that is scheduled for completion by early November 2014 is the new First Year Camper Pavilion. This 5,000 square foot, solar-powered building will be the cornerstone of the program with the same name. Located above and on the

same side of the canyon as the amphitheater, the pavilion will have a sweeping view of camp that should provide inspiration for generations of first year campers to come. Although it's primary purpose will be daily program for BTSR's youngest Scouts, it will also function as a back-up location for campfire programs during inclement



A Troop poses in front of the teepee at BTSR

weather as well as a perfect place for outdoor training and events during the off-season.

Funding for the pavilion was obtained through the generosity of a local foundation which is also providing the money necessary to purchase four new UT-

V's and put the finishing touches on the new shower house and lavatory at WB Stowe campsite.

Additional funding was made available by S. Javaid Anwar, president of Midland Energy Inc. to purchase our own bulldozer, a Caterpillar D4K. The dozer has already been put to good use over and over again throughout the camp as well as to help clear a spot for the First Year Camper Pavilion.

Phase One of planning for the capital campaign is well under way. JSA Architects (Odessa) has been contracted to provide feasibility studies and conceptual drawings for upcoming projects which will likely begin with a new warehouse and will eventually include many other major improvements such as a new dining hall/office facility, a nature/ecology/sustainability center, high adventure program facilities, program pavilions, conference center, a water slide for the pool, astronomy center, and much, much more.



Site of the brand new First Year Camper Pavilion as seen from the Yellow Trail



The new Caterpillar D4K



A possible conceptual design for the new Sustainability Center at BTSR

## SUSTAINABILITY (continued from Page 1)

the requirements for his first William T. Hornaday Award which involved the removal of an invasive species of plant that was preventing access to an essential part of Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch.

The event emphasized Scouting's commitment to environmental education programs. To enhance those programs, a new Sustainability Center is planned for Buffalo

Trail Scout Ranch. In spite of having a wealth of opportunities to observe and work in a rich outdoor environment, BTSR does not yet have a permanent facility to provide the most cutting edge sustainability-minded program and activities to its thousands of youth participants. The establishment of such a facility has become a top priority for Buffalo Trail Council. Early estimates for

the Sustainability Center are in the range of \$500,000 or more. Such a center would provide enhanced, interactive learning experiences as well as access to exciting new technologies for generations of Scouts to come!

## WIN-WIN IRA STRATEGIES

Is it time to take advantage of what may be a last opportunity for the so-called IRA charitable roll-over? Donating IRA assets to charity has a number of tax advantages. Charities, unlike individual beneficiaries, do not need to pay income tax on withdrawals from these accounts. And while there is no income tax deduction for a donor's contributions, the sum going to charity is not included in his/her adjusted gross income or AGI. Unlike other donations, these are not subject to percentage limitations on charitable deductions. Plus, donating these assets, rather than taking minimum required distributions, may also enable older donors to avoid certain penalties that come with a higher AGI, such as higher Medicare premiums. (excerpted, Deborah L. Jacobs, Forbes, Nov. 2013)







Scouts from Troop 1908, Odessa, salute the flag during camp reveille at BTSR.

# Values

From Page 1.....

The 2015 World Scouting Jamboree will be held in Japan for those who would like to experience a broad spectrum of world culture.

What is the future of Scouting if changes like we've seen over the last two decades continue? It's a lot like trying to predict the stock market. One thing is for certain, new generations will bring new change. But the leaders of the BSA have taken the organization's motto to heart, "Be Prepared."

While the program may have been altered slightly to accommodate the new generation's challenges, the core of Scouting's ideals and methods - character building, leadership skills, self-confidence, patriotism, duty to God, and traditional family values remain perfectly intact. Scouting will continue to provide a well-rounded program without peer or substitute.

Here in West Texas, we know that the same values that powered a generation of leaders who carried us through troublesome times are the same ones we want to continue to impart to our youth. But that can't be done with a simple nod of the head or thinking pleasant thoughts. Any member of the community who is concerned about the future welfare of our people must take an active part - whether that be by becoming a volunteer leader, a Scout parent, or a financial supporter. Every level of support is absolutely essential for the continued advancement of the Scouting movement.

The next 105 years will hold many wondrous things in store for our Scouts. What will be the next new merit badge? Nano Technology? Space Travel? Which Eagle Scout will become President of our country? Stay tuned and continue to support the Boy Scouts of America to find out!

# SMARTER GIVING: Is Cash Still King?



When it comes to funding programs, breaking ground for new buildings, and endowing the future, cash is still the preferred method to drive all projects.

However, gifts of real estate, business interests, equipment, cars, securities, and even personal property can all be viable means of reducing tax burden while benefiting the Scouting program.

## Royalty Round Up

Has your CPA said to you, "You need more deductions"? There are plenty of options.

One that is often overlooked is to donate a producing, non-cost bearing, mineral, royalty or over-riding royalty interest to the Buffalo Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and take a charitable deduction of the "fair market value" of the property.

Questions about donating royalties? Call Charles House at (432) 352-1335.

**"A \$100 per month royalty could translate into a few thousand in potential tax benefits."**

CHARLES HOUSE, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



## Tax Woes? Consider a 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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# “To Help Other People...”

The value of doing community service means more than just helping those on the receiving end. *Scouts learn the importance of thinking of others first.*

The annual Scouting For Food campaign gives Scouts an opportunity to put what they've learned into practice and, in doing so, make the world a better place to live.



One of the core elements of the Scouting program is giving back to neighbors and the people in our communities through a variety of different service opportunities. Each time Scouts recite the Scout Oath and Law, they're reminded that we are to do this at all times. "A Scout is helpful, courteous, and kind." *Scouting for Food* is a wonderful chance to demonstrate to citizens throughout the Permian Basin that Scouting is a vibrant and active organization that delivers on its promise.

The next campaign will take place

throughout the Buffalo Trail Council on Saturday, January 17th. Scouts in full-dress uniform will be manning stations in local markets like Albertson's and HEB as well as going from door to door inviting members of the community to have a personal share in the season of generosity.

Last year, well over 3,000 pounds of food was collected for West Texas Food Bank to help feed the needy of our area. In the coming year, the goal will more than triple to account for greater participation from Cub and Boy Scouts in every area of

the council.

Food is one of the basic needs of life. Helping to feed others, particularly families with small children, is one of the most noble causes anyone could take part in. There are plenty of reasons why someone might be facing such hardship. As written on the Food Bank website, "Maybe they've had a rough month. Maybe it's been a rough life. (Maybe) there is too much month left at the end of the money." Scouting teaches youth to detect such needs and then act on them promptly, kindly, and responsibly.

**For more information, contact Aaron Bedell, Development Director and CFO, at (432) 570-7601 or email [aaron.bedell@scouting.org](mailto:aaron.bedell@scouting.org).**