



The Bison

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



▶ **NORMAN ROCKWELL: WHO WAS THE MAN BEHIND SO MANY BELOVED PORTRAITS OF AMERICANA AND SCOUTING?.....1**



▶ **EXCITING NEW IMPROVEMENTS AT BTSR AIM TO ENHANCE PROGRAM.....2**



▶ **CASH IS A GREAT WAY TO DONATE TO CHARITY. BUT SHOULD IT REMAIN KING OF YOUR YEAR-END GIVING?.....2**



▶ **CUB-O-REE IS JUST ONE WAY THAT SCOUTING PREPARES YOUTH FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.....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.

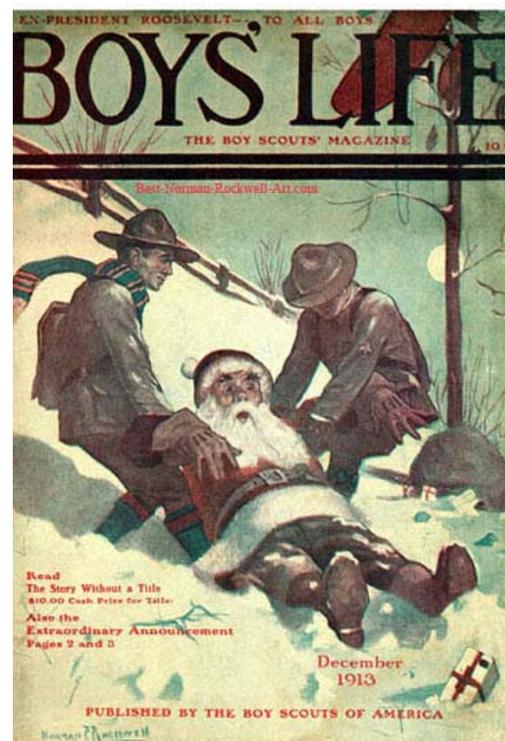
The Rockwell You Never Knew

You are almost certainly familiar with the likes of Michelangelo, Rembrandt, or Donatello. Then there's Monet, Degas, Vermeer, Van Gogh, Da Vinci, Rodin, and others. Without question, these masters have left their marks upon history and the way we view not only art but perhaps even our own humanity and spirituality. While we consider learning about such individuals as foundational to our cultural education and while their names are world-renowned, there are few *modern artists* who can claim to have made such an impact upon our identification with and perception of ourselves as Americans as Norman Rockwell.

This man, who iconified the Scouting program almost from its very inception, had a very colorful life (*pardon the pun*); a life worth examining almost as much as the images of Americana he became so well known for. The irony is that he was a man

who, in his youth, would have been a poster child demonstrating the need for Scouting's traditions, values, and strong male role models. Not that he was a rabble rouser, womanizer, or trouble-maker. Quite the opposite, in fact. However, he often sought the inner character espoused by the Scouting program and seemed intent upon capturing it through various mediums on canvas or paper.

Born in New York City in 1894 to modest means, his life seemed underwhelming from an early age. A wiry young Rockwell lived in the shadow of his older brother, Jarvis, who excelled in both sports and academia. Fortunately for him, he was talented in other ways and the explosion of magazine publication after the turn of the century created new worlds of possibilities for someone with Rockwell's talent and vision. If it wasn't for his initial success with the



A vintage issue of *Boys' Life* magazine from December 1913 with cover by Norman Rockwell.

Saturday Evening Post, the first half of his life might have been considered to be
Please see **ROCKWELL PAGE 3**



Cub Scouts in pushmobiles sprint to the finish

Pushmobile Races: No Gasoline? No Problem!

Remember back when you were a kid, dreaming of sitting behind the wheel of a race car and seeing the world fly by outside your window? Maybe you even put together your own hot rod of clattered together pieces and parts and had a go of it. Fortunately, the days of elbow grease and boy power are still alive and well! Just ask one of hundreds of Cub

Scouts in Buffalo Trail Council—they'll tell you that one of the biggest highlights of the year are the Pushmobile Races. The races pit groups of similarly aged boys in a friendly and frantic competition with one another.

The boys are given an opportunity to design and build their own pushmobiles (with certain
Please see **NO GASOLINE PAGE 2**

Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch Update Number Two: *Improvements to the Ranch Continue with Final Touches Being Added to Crucial Projects*



The foundation of the First Year Camper Pavilion is ready to be poured



Workers smooth the concrete foundation



The finished pavilion stands ready for use

If a picture is worth a thousand words, a book could be written on the progress being made at BTSR. In the last quarter of 2014, ground was broken and building completed on an all-new, solar-powered First Year Camper Pavilion. The pavilion will be the new home of an venerated and highly successful Trail to Eagle (TTE) program designed to give new Scouts a big jump toward Scouting's ultimate rank. All activities for the program will take place at the new facility (with the exception of swimming). As the TTE program has grown in popularity and reputation across the state of Texas and surrounding region, the increasing numbers and space requirements have reflected that interest—to the point that the program's former home at the chapel could no longer adequately contain all the activity. "With 5,000 square feet, the program now has plenty of room to spare," said David Chapman, Scout Executive. "It also boasts the best view in Base Camp."

With more than 3,000 boys attending camp each summer, the facility is destined to see plenty of use.

The pavilion is actually just the start of a new campaign for capital improvements which will take place at the camp over the



A father shares a moment with his Cub Scout during Cub-O-See at BTSR

next three to five years. Funding is currently being sought for new program areas, a kitchen/dining hall which can accommodate 600+ people per meal, a cutting-edge ecology-conservation and earth science program facility, a conference center, waterslide for the pool, zip-lines, and a number of other infrastructure improvements. Naming opportunities will be available to major donors.



The First Year Camper Pavilion from Campsite 3

Rounding out another improvement is the new WB Stowe Showerhouse which now has a roof and will be ready for use by the late-spring 2015 camping season. Next in line will be the relocation of the maintenance facility to make way for the new kitchen/dining hall.

If the prospect of contributing to the future of thousands of children through camp sounds appealing, email Aaron Bedell at aaron.bedell@scouting.org.



The WB Stowe Showerhouse and Restroom Facility now has a roof

NO GASOLINE (continued from Page 1)

specifications and under adult supervision, of course). The resulting vehicles are an interesting combination of boy-like bravado and innovation. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. But the outcome is always a great deal of fun for participants and spec-

tators alike. The race is run in heats with a winners' and a losers' bracket. It's always exciting to see an underdog come back to take the crown in the end. However, the day is not all about winning. The opening ceremony includes a parade with American, Texas,

and Cub Scout flags. Hundreds turn out for BBQ tailgate style. To the boys' delight, even the adults get to take a turn behind the wheel in the final race. It's difficult to say who has more fun but in the end, Pushmobile is an experience most never forget.



Cub Scouts taste victory at the Pushmobile Race

**SMARTER
GIVING:
Is Cash
Still King?**

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 all be viable means of reducing tax burden while benefiting the Scouting program.



September Flood: Clean-Up Efforts Continue



On September 13th, the worst flood in at least 30 years struck Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch. In its wake, big strides of recovery, particularly in the area around the maintenance building, the Old Folks Home, and the area around and above the chapel have been made thanks in no-small-part to many volunteers and the generosity of Yellowhouse Machinery of Odessa. However, there is still much work left to do. The area around the base of the pool has been seriously affected by washout (see inset photo) and requires serious attention before it can be considered secure again. Time and effort are needed as well as funding for concrete reinforcement and heavy machine work.

If you are interested in helping with muscle, machine, or money, please contact David Chapman at (432) 570-7601.



Royalty Round Up

Has your CPA ever told you, “You need more deductions?” There are many 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

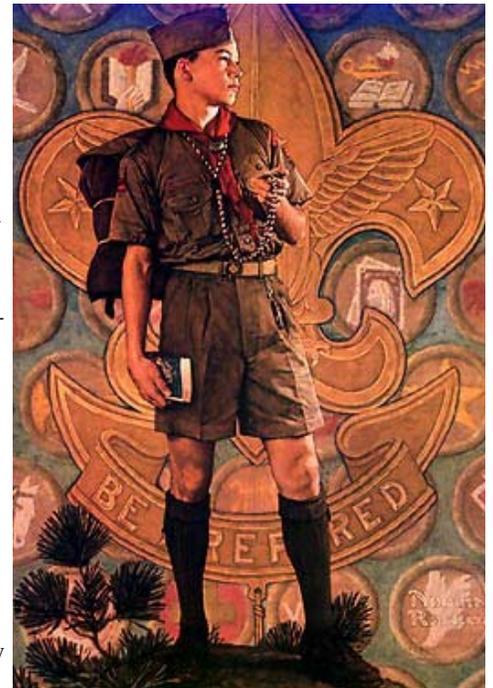
Rockwell

Continued From Page 1.....

something of a failure both commercially as well as personally. Although he was an almost instant hit with readers when his first cover appeared on the Post in the May 20, 1916 issue and although he was paid handsomely for it (\$75), he still seemed to seek reassurance and consolation from portraits he often pieced together, part from fantasy and part from almost random individuals culled from their participation in civic rituals and daily comings and goings.

Perhaps one of the most stark examples of his personal struggles might have been three different marriages and his sense of uneasiness with his parents, spouses, and three sons. Although his immense talent made him a household name, whenever approached, he always responded modestly with comments on the impending doom of his career. While many of his subjects showcase traditional family and sometimes even spiritual settings, he eschewed organized activity and declined to set foot in church.

In spite of many detractors, whether real or imagined, he had a great many things that caused him, intentionally or otherwise, to become associated with the most foundational elements of American culture, including the Boy Scouts of America. In later years, he was a proponent of social justice



Tomorrow's Leader, 1959

and equality. He was not afraid to work diligently for what he believed was right.

Today, his extreme dedication to the most minute details and his wry sense of humor continue to shine through his work—amazing renderings that have ensconced a great many noble and cherished images of Scouting in the minds of generations past and for many more in the future. For that, we salute the vision and talent of Norman Rockwell.

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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Cub-O-Ree Aims For the Future

Preparing young people for the future is about more than just being book smart; it should include a healthy dose of experiential learning, as well.

One of the best ways to accomplish this is in a wholesome and safe environment; preferably in the presence of positive adult role models. This is one of the ways Scouting accomplishes its aims.

They shot BB guns, bows and arrows, raced sailboats, rode in rustic stage coaches, practiced teamwork in relay races, told big tales around the campfire, and climbed into the saddle to explore the rugged landscape of the Davis mountains. It almost sounds like some sort of adventure race or competition like you may have seen on television. But the Cub Scouts who participated in Cub-O-Ree during the month of October at Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch were there for fun and fellowship with their families and

friends.

For the uninitiated, Cub-O-Ree is an opportunity for boys aged six through ten to experience the great outdoors. Their participation in the events over the weekend aim to encourage good social skills, enhance communication, build strong family bonds, and maybe, just maybe, give them a glimmer at the wonder and adventure of all that the Scouting program promises to offer them in the years to come.

Most importantly, their participation in

Cub-O-Ree and other Cub Scout programs helps instill confidence, build character, and gives a foundation upon which to build happy and successful lives in the future. In spite of the trappings, Scouting is really a character education program at heart. Participating youth are far more likely to graduate from high school and move on to college than their non-Scout peers. Scouts are more likely to have successful interpersonal relationships and even earn higher wages. Scouting is more than fun, *it's an investment.*

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