

THE CORPORATE SCOUTER

GREAT TRAIL COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Programs Expanding to Welcome Girls



This past October, the Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors unanimously approved to welcome girls into its iconic Cub Scout program and to deliver a Scouting program for older girls in 2019 that will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout. The historic decision comes after the organization evaluated the results of numerous research efforts, gaining input from current members and leaders, as well as parents and girls who’ve never been involved in Scouting in order to understand how to offer families an important additional choice in meeting the character development needs of all children.

“This decision is true to the BSA’s mission and core values outlined in the Scout Oath and Law. The values of Scouting – trustworthy, loyal, helpful, kind, brave and reverent, for example – are important for both young men and women,” said Michael Surbaugh, the BSA’s Chief Scout Executive. “We believe it is critical to evolve how our programs meet the needs of families interested in positive and lifelong experiences for their children. We strive to bring what our organization does best – developing character and leadership for young people – to as many families and youth as possible as we help shape the next generation of leaders.”

Families today are busier and more diverse than ever. Recent surveys of parents not involved with Scouting showed high interest in getting their daughters signed up for programs like Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, with 90 percent expressing interest in a program like Cub

Scouts and 87 percent expressing interest in a program like Boy Scouts.

This decision expands the programs that the Boy Scouts of America offers for both boys and girls. Although known for its iconic programs for boys, the BSA has offered co-ed programs since 1971 through Exploring and the Venturing program, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

The Great Trail Council will be launching Family Scouting for Cub Scout Packs beginning June 1st. For more information about the expanded opportunities for Family Scouting, please visit www.scouting.org/familyscouting. □

Eagle Scouts Honored at Annual Dinner



The 2017 Class of Eagle Scouts was recognized at the annual Eagle Scout Recognition Banquet held on Sunday, March 11. In 2017, there were 251 Scouts who earned the rank of Eagle in the Great Trail Council. Nationwide, 55,494 young men became Eagle Scouts last year. As the highest rank in Scouting, only four percent of all Scouts achieve it.

Annually, the Great Trail Council honors this achievement at a special event where Scouts have the opportunity to be guests of community leaders and distinguished Scouting volunteers. This year marks the 58th anniversary of the council hosting the event.

The keynote speaker for the event was Matthew Wilson, Eagle Scout and President of The University of Akron. President Wilson was named the 17th President of the University of Akron in 2016. Before his presidency, Wilson served as dean of The University of Akron School of Law from 2014-16. □



Partnership with Bent Tree Coffee Roasters

The Great Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America is proud to announce a partnership with Bent Tree Coffee Roasters for their 2018 annual product sale. During this annual fall fundraiser, Scouts will now have the opportunity to sell local coffee, in addition to the traditional popcorn products. The campaign will now feature a variety whole bean coffee product, roasted and distributed locally.

Bent Tree Coffee Roasters is a small batch, artisan coffee roaster located in historic downtown Kent, Ohio. Founded in the Summer of 2011 by friends Ryan Brannon and Mike Mistur, their concept is simple: seek out and start with only high quality Arabican green coffee beans and carefully roast them to perfection. Bent Tree Coffee only sources coffee from those dedicated to taking an active role in all aspects of high quality coffee.

“We couldn't be more excited to partner with the Boy Scouts of America. We respect and appreciate their long history of fostering youth development and look forward to working with the Scouts and Scout Leaders



to make their fall fundraiser successful,” says Brannon.

In 2017, nearly 5,000 Scouts in Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Summit and Trumbull Counties sold \$1.9 million in popcorn. Proceeds from the campaign went directly to support local Scouts, camp operations at three Council camps in Peninsula and Canfield, and a number of other operations across the Council. With the addition of the Family Scouting program in 2018, in which girls will be welcomed into the Cub Scouts, the Council looks to further expand its outreach into the community.

“More than ever, our annual product sale, now including coffee, will be vital to our Council’s success”, said Jody Gildersleeve, Director of Development for the Great Trail Council. “We are thrilled to work with local, enthusiastic partners like Mike and Ryan at Bent Tree Coffee.”

The annual fundraiser will kick off in August 2018, culminating in November. For more information about Scouting in your area, visit our council website at www.gtcbasa.org. To learn more about Bent Tree Coffee Roasters, go to www.benttreecoffee.com, or purchase their products at various local retailers. □



New sign at Camp Stambaugh in Canfield among camp improvements coming in 2018.

The Great Trail Council continually updates its friend and alumni files. Please complete and return this section to:
Great Trail Council, BSA
P.O. Box 68
Akron, OH 44309-0068

Name: _____

Address: _____

Business: _____

Phone: (w) _____ (h) _____

- I am an Eagle Scout
- I have or my family has history in Scouting
- I would welcome a visit to discuss Scouting programs & volunteer opportunities

The Great Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America is one of the largest youth programs in the 5 1/2 county area we serve in Northeast Ohio. More than 10,000 young people are part of Scouting locally and join more than three million members nationwide.

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is 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.

For more information about Scouting in Northeast Ohio, visit our website, gtcbasa.org.