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Contacts: Jeff Agnew 703/ 203-8720
Michele Bisceglie 317/ 418-7565

Local Scout Council's Centennial Camporee draws 8,000 campers

Goshen draws today's youth - preparing to become tomorrow's leaders - for 'once in a lifetime' event

WASHINGTON, DC (May 28, 2010) — Thousands of Scouts from the National Capital Area Council (NCAC), Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have gathered at Goshen Scout Reservation in Goshen, Va. to celebrate "Scouting in Action: A Century of Values" this weekend during the Council's Centennial Camporee. A wide-ranging group of participants, including Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers and their family members will celebrate 100 years of rich Scouting experiences and welcome Scouting's bright future.

"A commemoration of this caliber is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I am honored to have these outstanding young citizens celebrating in the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell. "The tremendous group of Scouts gathered in Goshen is representative of the organization's robust direction."

The weekend's program offerings feature Scouting re-enactments spanning the past 10 decades, skill games, leadership contests and a large-scale arena show, which will be taking place on Sunday evening. The unique program combinations give Scouts of all ages a lesson in history and challenging them with unique physical activities that have become a hallmark of Scouting, including:

- Cub Scouts as human rockets, zipping to the Space Derby finish line in the larger than life Derby during Cub Fun Day on Kipling Field;
- Boy Scouts engaged in Patrol challenges in which they compete in activities such as the Plutonium Portation and the Lava Flow Rescue as well as becoming Iron Scouts as they morph into Iron Man competitors and crisscross Lake Merriweather in kayaks and canoes; and
- Venturers on the exciting COPE Course, testing their courage by climbing, rappelling and daring to take a turn on the Giant Swing, the Zipline, and the Flying Squirrel!

"The number of good deeds, values taught, and lessons learned in Scouting's 100 year history are innumerable," said Scout Executive Les Baron. "The Centennial Camporee is a celebration of all these things, and I believe the next century will be even more remarkable for Scouting and our community."

In addition to the thousands of Scouts from NCAC, the Camporee is also hosting state and local dignitaries from the Council's service area, as well as Scouts and Scouters from neighboring councils.

From citizenship training to character development to fitness, the life skills offered through BSA's programs have provided more than 110 million U.S. youth over the past 100 years with the inspiration and the confidence to become leaders in both business and their communities.

With the support of more than 1.1 million volunteers and 127,119 community-based organizations, the Boy Scouts of America provides educational programs for 2.8 million young people in building character, developing leadership capabilities, training in the responsibilities of active citizenship, and developing personal fitness. The National Capital Area Council (NCAC) was organized in 1911 and today stands as one of the oldest and largest councils in America. The council territory includes the District of Columbia; Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties in Maryland; and in Virginia the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, Fauquier, Spotsylvania, Caroline, King George, Stafford and Culpeper as well as the independent cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas, Manassas Park and Fredericksburg. As 2009 drew to a close, traditional membership totaled 50,087 youth - plus another 17,648 youth enrolled in Learning for Life - for a total youth membership of 67,735. The coveted rank of Eagle Scout was attained by 1,220 Scouts last year while 23,559 adult volunteers are registered this year to provide leadership for 1,717 traditional units (packs, troops, teams, crews, ships), 35 Learning for Life programs and 64 Explorer posts.

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