

# Protestant Committee on Scouting

Heart of America Council • Boy Scouts of America  
Steve Walton, Committee Chair • Alan Sanders, Staff Advisor



Fall 2007

Dear Ministry Friends:

Week in and week out, your church sees Cub Scouts and/or Boy Scouts coming and going from your facility for their weekly meetings, campouts and outdoor adventures, but how often are those youth exposed to people of faith through your Scouting programs? After all, "Duty to God" is one of the foundational tenets of the Boy Scouts of America, yet most of its members are unchurched and have no one to teach them spiritual truth.

The Protestant Committee on Scouting exists to provide opportunities for Christian growth through local Boy Scouts of America (BSA) programs. We are an adult volunteer committee of the Heart of America Council, BSA, and we direct several local ministries for Scouts. We believe that we have a great and unique opportunity to make an eternal difference in unchurched Scouts' and adult leaders' lives as they participate in Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs.



Our biggest ministry each year is to provide chaplain services at two Scout camps in the Kansas City area. Summer camp is an ideal place for Scouts to discover God, so we place resident chaplains each summer who make faith a regular

and healthy part of a boy's experience at camp.

Each session of camp, our resident chaplains lead chapel services, offer small groups and serve the Scouts and adult leaders in the name of Jesus. They also lead volunteers who attend camp as short-term lay chaplains each summer. The Protestant Committee provides the resident chaplains' summer salaries and ministry supplies, and we also offer Gospels of John at no charge to Scouts who do not already own a Bible and who promise to read it.

Let me introduce you to our summer 2007 chaplains:

## **Theodore Naish Scout Reservation, Bonner Springs, Kansas**

At the Naish Reservation, Nathan Schwepler (on the left) served for his fifth summer of ministry to Scouts at Naish, and Kreg Welch served his second year. They are both teachers at area Christian schools during the year, which has enabled them to come back year after year and shape the camp ministry and maximize its effectiveness. Both are certified as chaplains through the Boy Scouts' National Camp School. Nathan and Kreg each worked half of the sessions at camp this summer, so that there was always one chaplain in camp each session.



**H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, Osceola, Missouri**



At the Bartle Reservation, Cindy Cone, BS, MDiv and Eagle Scout mom, returned for her 11<sup>th</sup> year of chaplain service. Since becoming the full-time summer Reservation chaplain in 2005, she has built a highly visible and robust ministry with a team of eighteen short-term volunteers who minister with her in camp each summer for ten days at a time. Cindy is a fixture of the Reservation leadership team that the returning Scouts, adult leaders, camp staff and volunteer chaplains look to each summer for effective ministry. During the year, she works as the After-School Program Director and Pastoral Assistant at Calvary Lutheran Church, LCMS, in Kansas City, MO. She also trains Scout chaplains for troops and packs across the Kansas City area, and is a regular trainer at the Boy Scouts' National Camp Schools for chaplains at other camps across the Midwest.

Only the Holy Spirit knows what eternal difference that our camp chaplains' ministries made this summer, but here is what we know from the numbers:

Program	Naish	Bartle	Total
Scouts, adult leaders & staff under the Protestant chaplains' ministries:	8,546	9,910	<b>18,456</b>
Attended chapel led by a Protestant chaplain (approximate):	7,200	5,500	<b>12,700</b>
Participated in a small group with Protestant materials:	815	2,680	<b>3,495</b>
Took a Gospel of John with a Scout's promise to read it:	450	1,540	<b>1,990</b>

We are making a difference in the lives of unchurched Scouts and adult leaders in camp! And while the ministry is partially self supporting (we collect offerings at many of the camp chapel services), the ministry nonetheless has a deficit each summer.

The Protestant Committee on Scouting is looking for churches in the area that share our desire to minister in the name of Jesus to Scouts in camp that will help us share this cost with modest financial gifts. Will your church or small group consider a financial gift to this ministry at this time?

While we will be pleased to receive gifts of any size, our recommended donation is \$100. Checks are payable to the Heart of America Council, BSA, and can be mailed to the address above. Please note in the check memo that gifts are for the **Protestant Committee on Scouting, account #1-2306-010-00.**

Please let us know if you would like further information about this ministry (including a spread sheet documenting our revenues and expenses). We will be pleased to provide you with written materials or with a committee member to speak in person (or by phone) with an individual or group in your church.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Walton  
Committee Chair  
[www.scoutchaplains.org](http://www.scoutchaplains.org)