

Protestant Committee on Scouting

Heart of America Council • Boy Scouts of America
George Flanagan, Committee Chair • Alan Sanders, Staff Advisor



January 2006

Dear partners in ministry:

As I reflect on the accomplishments of this ministry to Scouts last year, I want share them you before 2005 gets too far away from us.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) remains committed as ever to each of its members' duty to God. Every member – youth and adult – must affirm his or her belief in God in the Scout Oath and Law. Similarly, each adult must subscribe to the BSA's Declaration of Religious Principle. (See below.)

Locally, this provides our Committee access to Scouts and adults to minister as Jesus' ambassadors all year long. We continue to be welcomed and supported in the Heart of America Council as we minister in Jesus' name.

Here are some of the highlights of 2005:

- **Summer Camp Ministry:**



- **Bartle Scout Reservation (Osceola, MO)** – We staffed the Reservation with one full time chaplain, Rev. Cindy Cone. Chaplain Cindy is an Eagle Scout mom and an ordained Lutheran minister. She also has a heart for both Jesus and the Scouts in her charge. Cindy lived at camp throughout the summer, and her summer salary was underwritten by the Protestant Committee.

We also staffed the Bartle Reservation with fifteen volunteer chaplains, each who served camp on the camp staff for ten days to minister to Scouts and adults.



- **Naish Scout Reservation (Bonner Springs, KS)** – We staffed the Reservation with two full time chaplains, Nathan Schwepler in Bear Camp and Krissy Kearney in Boy Scout and Webelos camp. Both Nathan and Krissy work throughout the year in education, so they were able to minister at camp during the summer. Their salaries were underwritten by a partnership between the

Protestant Committee and the Naish Reservation.

- **Other 2005 Camp Highlights** – Over 10,000 Scouts and adults attended our camp chapel services, most of whom for which this was their only “church” service that attended all year. Over 2,300 Scouts and adults participated in introduction-to-faith small group programs while in camp. Over 700 Scouts received New Testaments in camp chapel services, and each one committed to reading it as a prerequisite. And innumerable Scouts and adults were reminded countless times that God is important by our chaplains' presence in camp.

- **Other Ministries:**

- **Chaplain / Chaplain Aide Training** – This event for the spiritual leaders of local troops and packs provided information and training to equip them to encourage faith week in and week out with the youth in local Scout programs.



- **Religious Emblems Programs** – Over 250 Scouts earned recognitions in classes taught throughout the city by members of the Protestant Committee. These classes teach essentials of the Christian faith and discipleship to Jesus. Classes meet once or twice monthly for eight months.



- **Crisis Intervention** – Our cadre of trained, certified, and (some) ordained chaplains serves the Kansas City area Scouting community by being available to serve Scouts and their families who are in crisis.

All of this adds up to many thousands of unchurched Scouts and adults who have been shown Jesus' love through a Scouting ministry in 2005. We invite you to celebrate with us that Jesus was revealed to many who would not have otherwise seen Him had it not been for your support of this ministry.

On behalf of those Scouts and adults, thank you very much for your support in 2005.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. George Flanagan
Chair, Protestant Committee on Scouting

<p>THE SCOUT OATH or PROMISE</p> <p>On my honor I will do my best To do my duty to God and my country And to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, Mentally awake, and morally straight.</p>	<p>THE SCOUT LAW</p> <p>A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.</p>
<p>Excerpt From the Declaration of Religious Principle</p> <p>"The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God and, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. The Boy Scouts of America's policy is that the home and the organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life. Only persons willing to subscribe to the Declaration of Religious Principle and to the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America shall be entitled to certificates of leadership."</p>	