

Protestant Committee on Scouting

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



June 2007

Dear Ministry Friends:

As the Boy Scout camp season gets under way, I am writing to share with you our hopes and expectations for this summer's ministry to Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts in the Heart of America Council, BSA.

In some ways, it is hard to tell a new story each time that I communicate with our ministry friends and donors. Each summer, we send chaplains to camp who tell Scouts about Jesus and minister to them in His name; that is what our camp ministry is all about, year in and year out.

But each first year camper who comes to camp, especially if he is unchurched and has never knowingly met a person of faith, is a new story. Every time Scouts attend camp chapel services – and that is the only time that thousands of them will “go to church” all year – it is a new opportunity for boys (and adults) to discover the God who loves them. And over and over again this summer – in the hundreds of one-on-one and small group encounters that camp chaplains will have with Scouts and adults – Jesus will be lived out, faith in Him will be proclaimed, and good works will be performed in His name.



At both the Bartle and Naish Scout Reservations this summer, all three of our salaried chaplains are returning from summer 2006. At the Bartle Reservation, Cindy Cone, BS, MDiv (and Eagle Scout mom!), will be returning for her 11th year of chaplain service. She became the full-time summer Reservation chaplain in 2005, and has built a more visible, better staffed, and overall more robust ministry than we ever had in the ten years prior of the ministry's existence. She is a fixture of the Reservation leadership team that the volunteer chaplains (of all faiths), staff, adult leaders and returning Scouts look to each summer for effective ministry. She also has an active ministry training Scout chaplains for Troops and Packs across the Kansas City area, and is a regular trainer at BSA National Camp Schools for chaplains at other camps across the Midwest. During the year, she serves at Calvary Lutheran Church, LCMS, in Kansas City, MO, as a Pastoral Assistant and the After School Program Director.

At the Naish Reservation, Nathan Schwepler (on the left) is beginning his fifth summer of ministry to Scouts, staff and adult leaders. He has shaped the ministry there over time to reflect his personal style in order to maximize his effectiveness. Kreg Welch is beginning his second year of ministry at Naish. Both have been certified at a BSA National Camp School. They are both teachers at area Christian schools during the year, which enables them to come back year after year.



In addition to our three salaried chaplains, here is

how the summer 2007 camp ministry is shaping up:

- We have placed 18 volunteer chaplains at the Bartle Scout Reservation, each of whom will serve for one 10-day session of Boy Scout Camp.
- We have partnered with the local Catholic Committee on Scouting to place a volunteer chaplain for a one-week session of Rotary Camp for Scouts with disabilities.
- We expect our chaplains to minister to about 17,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and adult leaders in camp this summer. Between 10,000 and 12,000 of them will attend a chapel service led by a Protestant chaplain.
- Approximately 3,000 Scouts and adults will opt to participate in small group "Introduction to Faith" programs with Protestant camp chaplains or other qualified adult leaders. (You can see the small group curriculum at our local website, www.scoutchaplains.org/workbooks.html.)
- The Protestant chaplains will give out nearly 2,000 Gospels of John (NIV[®]) at camp chapel services to Scouts who do not already own a Bible or New Testament, and who made a good-faith commitment to read it.



We are very excited this summer's ministry, and believe that God has both called our staff to minister this summer and has already prepared Scouts' and leaders' hearts to be open to Him through our chaplains.

Will you consider a financial gift to this ministry at this time?

We would be grateful to receive any amount. The bulk of our funding comes from the coins and small bills that we collect in offerings at camp chapel services, and the remainder comes in the generally modest gifts from ministry friends like you. But in the end, I am always amazed at how those small gifts add up to create a large enough annual budget to support all of the truly amazing that God had called us to do at our summer camps.

So your gift of \$100, \$50, \$25, \$15 or any other amount will really make a big difference.

Thank you very much for your support of this ministry in years past. We ask God's blessing on you as you consider supporting it again in 2007.

To God be the glory for His work in Scouts' lives this summer!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Steve Walton

Steve Walton
Committee Chair