



Scout Executive's Corner Jeff Stout, SE

The Lincoln Trails Council and the Boy Scouts of America have been faced with several obstacles over the past two years when it comes to recruiting new youth. We have had schools that have not allowed boy talks to be presented to the youth, we have had fliers dropped off to schools and not distributed to the youth, other school events scheduled on the night in which we are trying to recruit youth and so on.

In looking at the problem it is not that we can not recruit because we can. It begins back in the local Pack, Troop or Crew with the Quality of program that is being received and the fun that the youth are having in the program. First a council must provide quality training for all leaders and assistants, as a trained leader will have a longer tenure in our program as well as the youth that they work with. Second we must provide quality activities for our units to participate in such as Day Camp, Camporee, Klondike Derby, Cuboree, Boy Scout Summer Camp, etc. Third we must hold ourselves accountable to make sure that the quality program is occurring.

All of these items discussed happen because of strong volunteers in the council, district and unit level. District Committee and Commissioners staffs are critical to the success of our units. The units are successful when they attend training and work with District volunteers in planning quality programs for their unit.

When youth are having fun and enjoying the program that they are in, they will invite their friends to be a part of the program as well.

I challenge you to provide a Quality Program to your youth!!!!

Wood Badge Reunion

Saturday, March 15
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Wesley United Methodist
Church - Charleston



Please make plans to join us in a Wood Badge reunion. There are several reasons for this event. We will use this event to raise funds to provide scholarships for untrained Scouters who are interested in attending Wood Badge, and this will be a good opportunity to reconnect with other Wood Badge trained Scouters and enjoy an evening of good BBQ, fellowship, and fun. We are also seeking help in recruiting Scouters to attend future Wood Badge courses.

The evening will begin with a social hour (soft drinks and munchies) from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. The Charleston BSA Troop 141 is hosting the evening and Ron Stearns BBQ is catering the meal. We'll have brisket, ribs, and pulled pork with beans, potato salad, and coleslaw. Dessert will be a variety of cookies and perhaps some other sweets. Before we eat, we hope you will browse through the items that are up for bid in the auction. The formal program will include information about upcoming courses, discussions about future reunions, and other items of interest. The evening will end with door prize drawings and the live auction.

We are asking for donations for the auction and door prizes. If you have access to higher-end items, we'd greatly accept those for either door prizes or the live auction. We also want to encourage you to bring some personal decorations that you can set on the tables denoting your patrol or training cycle and location. The cost of the event is \$20 for Wood Badge Trained Scouters, \$15 for spouses or guest, and \$10 for each Wood Badge recruit. Reservations must be made by Friday, March 7th. For more information please contact Jeff Boshart at 217-345-5882 or jgboshart@eiu.edu.

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