

# Lincoln Pilgrimage

This year's Lincoln Pilgrimage was held on March 29th, 2008. The pilgrimage was a dedication to our nation's 16th president during his time here in Decatur. The march attracted over 290 people this year which is an increase from last year's attendance. The opening ceremony begin with an address from Decatur Mayor Paul Osbourne at Millikin University. After the opening, the Millikin home-stead was the next stop, and then the march continued on until the end reaching the Lincoln Theater. At the theater, everyone was treated with the presence of a Lincoln impersonator's rendition of the Gettysburg address. "Mr. Lincoln" was also available afterward to take pictures with units wanting to have something to remember the day by.

Starbucks once again provided the hot chocolate and coffee before the event. Troop 104 provided breakfast and Pack 104 had a mini Scout Shop open for the event. The chairman for this year's pilgrimage was Kim Bauer who did an excellent job in helping orchestrate this year's event. Special thanks go out to Mr. Charles James who designed the patch for the event and to Ken Barker for handling the registration. We also would like to thank all of the troops and pack in attendance. Without you, this event would not be possible.



# 2008 Caterpillar Merit Badge Fair

Over 270 Scouts and volunteers were in attendance for the merit badge fair held at Caterpillar in Decatur on February 16th. Roven Knight, Caterpillar Employee and Council Vice President of Scoutreach, was the chairman of the event. Caterpillar provided over 30 volunteer counselors for the event which covered topics from drafting to auto mechanics. Breakfast and lunch was served as part of the \$5 fee. Scouts and adults received a special patch featuring one of Cat's large mining trucks. New Leader Essentials Training was conducted for Scouters in attendance as well. After the training there was a plant tour and a showing of the movie "Down and Derby". A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Knight and all of the other volunteers that helped make this event a success. The council would also like to thank Caterpillar for all the opportunities this gave to our Scouts.



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# Keeping it Together

Summertime is definitely NOT the time for Scouting to "take a vacation". Keep it together through the summer and your Scouting group will thrive all year long!

*"Our May pack meeting is the final pack program of the year...."*

*"We don't do much in our troop in the summertime....Too many vacations, little league...You know...."*

**WHOA! WHOA! WHOA! HOLD ON THERE PARTNER....WHAT???**

May is not the end of the year! Why,

the best part of Scouting **begins** when school lets out! Summertime is the best time to put the **OUTING** in Scouting!

Here are a few suggested activities that will keep your Scouting group together and keep 'em active 'til school starts again!

### Cub Scouting

- June Resident Camp  
Day Camps
- July Parent and Pal  
Webelos Woods
- Other Street Fairs, Parades, Pool Parties, Fishing Derby, Food Drive, Tree Planting

### Boy Scouting

- Summer Camp at Rhodes France
- High Adventure Activities
- Service Projects
- Outdoor Meetings
- Hiking

Boy Scout troops can earn the National Camping Award by camping at least 10 days and nights in a 12 month period. In fact, there are awards for 20, 30, 40, and 50 days and nights of camping. There are even cumulative awards for days and nights of camping by your troop since 1991.