



## Scout Executive's Message Christian J. Long, SE

I have yet to meet a Cub Scout or Boy Scout who has told me that he joined Scouting to have his character developed, be trained in citizenship, or get more exercise. On the other hand, most will tell you that one of the reasons that they did join was to go camping! Camping in the BSA provides young people with an outdoor classroom where they learn new skills, interact with their friends, develop an appreciation for the world around them, and yes, have fun.

Is your unit signed up for camp this year? Opportunities abound for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and families to get involved in the most wonderful educational program in the world, and in a fun, recreational way! Sure, we'll develop your boy's character, teach him citizenship in his community, nation, and world, and he'll get his opportunity to stay physically fit, all while having the time of his life at one of our many camping experiences. Summer camping participation is one of the major activities that keep our Scouts involved in Scouting, and as we learned many years ago, the longer a boy stays in the Scouting program the better.

Please discuss Scout Camping at your unit's next committee meeting. You'll be doing your Scouts a great service and help Scouting to "Deliver the Promise" of a fun, exciting adventure this summer!

Yours in Scouting,

Christian J. Long  
Scout Executive

## 2009 Caterpillar Merit Badge Fair



The Caterpillar Merit Badge Fair will be Saturday, February 21st at the Caterpillar Decatur Facility. The event will run from 7:00am - 4:00pm. Registration will begin at 7:00am and continue until 8:30am. Breakfast WILL NOT be served. Lunch is included in the \$10 fee.

Merit badges being offered this year are: American Labor, Automotive Maintenance, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Computers, Drafting, Electricity, Emergency Preparedness, Engineering, First Aid, Law, Plumbing, and Traffic Safety. There will also be Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster Specific training and a knot tying session for adults attending.

Registration forms must be turned in no later than Friday, January 23rd, 2009. All registrations and \$10 entry fees per person must be sent to the Caterpillar Facility at 27th St. & Pershing Rd. Attn: 2009 Merit Badge Fair, Decatur, IL 62526. Registration forms are available from the Council Service Center and on the website at [www.lincolntrailsCouncil.org](http://www.lincolntrailsCouncil.org). NO WALK INS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Come prepared to learn and have fun.

## 2009 Lincoln Pilgrimage

The 2009 Decatur Lincoln Pilgrimage will be held March 28th. This event will recognize the exciting life of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. His journey to the presidency and his steps as a lawyer will be examined during this hike. Exact stops will be announced soon. All units are encouraged to attend this event. If you have questions, contact Lawrence Trimble at 217-429-2326 or [lawrence.trimble@scouting.org](mailto:lawrence.trimble@scouting.org).

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Monday through Friday

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*The Trailblazer* is available online at [www.lincolntrailsCouncil.org](http://www.lincolntrailsCouncil.org). To be added to the distribution list please contact Matt Kaufman.