



# TAC in FOCUS

February 2010

## Happy Birthday BSA!!

Wow, we are 100 years old! Whether you are a veteran Scouter with memories of the 50 or 75-year celebrations or brand new, thank you for helping us to reach this milestone! We tend to think of BSA as an organization, but I think we are different. We are a collection of people from all different walks of life trying to make a difference--each in our own way. Tens of millions of volunteers have each contributed and made a difference. Some have reached one Scout, others have reached many. Some have been in the forefront, while others stay in the background and support. All of us in some way have tried to make a difference. Because we are a volunteer-based team, we are dynamic and ever-changing. We are always looking for tools can we create to deliver the aims of Scouting. While the tools have changed, what we are trying to accomplish has not changed. Our goals remain: to be the premiere youth development movement in the world, building a nation of responsible, concerned adults, confident in their abilities and in others to dare to make a difference. As we pause to think and to thank those who have brought us this far, let us resolve to continue to keep Scouting a dynamic, safe, and, above all enjoyable way for youth to spend time with their friends. Let us recommit to our values of character development, citizenship training and personal fitness. Thank you for helping us to celebrate 100 years of making a difference. Thank you for continuing the journey and launching Scouting's second century of greatness.

To learn more about the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration link to our web pages.

<https://sites.google.com/site/tac100yearsofscouting/>

## Transatlantic Council 2009 Centennial Quality Council

Congratulations to our volunteers and thanks!! Our council has achieved Centennial Quality Council for 2009. We have earned this distinction every year since 1996, one of the longest streaks in the annals of the Boy Scouts of America. It is not an easy award to earn, and this year was especially challenging as we had to show net, youth-membership growth rather than growth in market share. The last time we showed net growth was in 2001. This year, thanks to your efforts in bringing and registering more youth into Scouting, TAC has a 1.6% gain in membership. The only area that suffered a loss was 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Cub Scouts. We had increases in Tigers, Webelos, Boy Scouts and Venturers. We continue to serve over 50% of the available Cubs and Scouts. Rheingold, Horizon, Mediterranean, Mayflower, and Barbarossa all achieved gains in youth membership. We achieved our Friends of Scouting objective, Quality Units, and objectives for district and council volunteers. Thanks for a job well done.

Our 2009 Centennial Quality Districts are:

Barbarossa Mike Lardie, District Chair, Terry Fulner, District Commissioner, Ray Vail, District Executive  
Mayflower Nick Airey, District Chair, Dave Dittmer, District Commissioner, Tony Dvorak, Asst. Scout Exec  
Mediterranean Bill Nupp, District Commissioner, Jeremy Woods, District Executive

Congratulations to the district teams and thanks to all of our district leaders for their great efforts in 2009.

## **National Centennial Quality Units**

One of the jobs you have to become a Centennial Quality Unit is to set your goals for 2010. The goals pertain to training, youth retention (figure what % of youth you are trying to keep in Scouting besides those who are scheduled to or who do transfer) and program. Set a path where you would like to go!

You can find the form and more information—just navigate down the left-hand menu bar at [www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html](http://www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html)

## **Friends of Scouting**

*We are Scouting in Europe*

The Transatlantic Council first formed because volunteers petitioned to the National Office of the BSA for a charter to provide a formal structure for the BSA in Europe. One of their commitments in asking for a charter was that the volunteers and families that constituted our council would financially sustain the council. Today, we must make the same commitment. We will not only work to deliver quality programs and support to youth but we, as the BSA Europe, will raise all the funds needed to sustain our program. We are blessed to receive more than \$500,000 in Morale Welfare and Recreation funds to sustain Scouting. That is an important contribution. What many people do not realize is that leaves us more than \$1,000,000 that we have to generate on our own. Friends of Scouting is an important part of this effort and is the largest piece of the \$1,000,000 “pie” that we need to raise. All of us who want the BSA to continue in Europe have a stake in our future. We generate our revenue from our membership. Here we do not have the strong corporate giving structure that other councils enjoy in the US. Our companies although having US names generally have few US personnel. Therefore they see little return on investment from a doination. We do receive some excellent support notably from Ernst & Young and Boeing. We are responsible, however, to provide sufficient financial support to sustain the BSA program in Europe.

You can help! Contact your District Executive or District Finance Chair with a date for a presentation of the Friends of Scouting message for families: Blue and Gold Banquets and Courts of Honor are best. Volunteer yourself to be a presenter (scripts provided)! Help us to contact every unit and every parent and to tell the story of Scouting. Help everyone to understand that their help is needed and they have a “stake” in the outcome.

We do have a “fluid” environment with staff with most districts starting with new teams. If you have trouble contacting someone, please let me know ([v.cozzone@tac-bsa.org](mailto:v.cozzone@tac-bsa.org)) (Vince Cozzone). We will find a way of having you help us.

There are other ways you can help during the course of the year but nothing replaces the FOS campaign.

- 1) Shopping at the TAC Scout Shop
- 2) Popcorn Sales
- 3) Bowl-a-Thon
- 4) NFL Sales and promotions

These besides Friends of Scouting help us to continue our work of bringing the BSA to our families in Europe.

Friends of Scouting Goals for the Centennial Year 2010: \$200,000

	Goal	Recorded as of 11 Feb
Transatlantic Council	\$15,000	\$8909
Barbarossa	\$21,000	\$500 (contributions on their way to office)
Charlemagne	\$31,000	\$3,105
Mayflower	\$67,000	\$16,340
Edelweiss	\$26,000	\$40
Rheingold	\$30,000	\$11,174
Mediterranean	\$10,000	\$1980
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$42,047</b>

## Scouters' Annual Conference and Gala Dinner

Join us at the Marshall Center on 20-21 March in Garmisch, Germany. We have a full slate of interesting courses for new and veteran volunteers on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. We are offering the College of Commissioner Science open to all Scouters and conducting Trainer's EDGE to support the development of local trainers. We will have our own Scout Shop on site. The cost for two days of training is \$40 including lunch and breaks. It is \$25 per day. We will have a child-care program at the conference.

On Saturday evening, we will gather at the beautiful Kongresshalle in Garmisch for a Bavarian buffet, and an evening of fun and fellowship. Help us to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well as BSA's 100<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$35 per adult and \$20 per youth (6 to 14) with children under 6 joining us for free. The Kongresshalle provides a great location for our evening and to help as many of you as possible to join us we have underwritten part of the cost.

We have not booked any particular hotel for the conference, and there are several to choose from including the Armed Forces Recreation Center's Edelweiss Hotel. Hotels range from simple guesthouses to luxury accommodations. You can find out more about Garmisch at [http://www.gapa.de/p\\_thielker/en](http://www.gapa.de/p_thielker/en) However a search of "Discount Hotels in Garmisch" will yield many websites and options.

One of the questions is what do we need to do if we are not a Department of Defense ID card holder. We can assist with access but we need your help as well. Please e-mail the following information to our office at [admin@tac-bsa.org](mailto:admin@tac-bsa.org) or call us at 0039 050 54 7760 so we can submit all the requests for access and do our best to prevent unnecessary delays. We need these no later than 10 days before the Conference (10 March)

Arrival Date and Departure Date  
Guest(s) Official Full Name (as stated on passport)  
Guest(s) Official Passport Number  
Guest(s) Passport Citizenship  
Guest(s) Passport Expiration Date

## **National Day Camp School for Cub Scout Day Camp 5-7 March**

Join us at the only BSA Overseas Camp School on 5-7 March. We are conducting training for the leadership for Cub Scout Day Camp. It is a great (but intense) course that will certify you for five years as a Camp Director and Program Director. The course fees cover the camp leadership, but the course is open to interested leaders. The course is being held in Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. It is about 90 minutes from the Ryan Air Hub at Frankfurt/Hahn. We will also be holding Shooting Sports certification.

You can find information about the course and how to register on our home page (middle column about halfway down) at [www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html](http://www.tac-bsa.org/Home.html)

Day Camp is something that our Cubs look forward too. We have had very large day camps serving our largest communities and we have had smaller day camps. Day Camp is a super venue to recruit new youth as well as new adults and to share in the fun and excitement in Cub Scouting. Day Camp, however, must have the BSA “stamp of approval” and one of the key components is having BSA-trained leadership.

Go to the course!! It will be great!

## **Summer Camp Registration is Open**

Troops and Packs are booking already for one of the busiest summers in TAC’s history. We have Camp Baden-Powell in England, followed by Camp Alpine for one week in Switzerland, and our new camp that is part of our “old” history, Camp Bayern in Garmisch, followed by Camp Freedom in Oberdachstetten. For the Cubs we have Camp Tuscany in Livorno, Italy (10 minutes from Pisa’s airport) and Camp Freedom Cub Resident Camp. We have been asked if Camp Tuscany is open to any TAC Cub and the answer is “OF COURSE!!!” We are glad to have you.

We have been receiving registrations so book your camp with a \$100 deposit by going to our web site at [www.tac-bsa.org/Camps.html](http://www.tac-bsa.org/Camps.html)

## **Eagle Scout Reception**

On May 29<sup>th</sup> Transatlantic Council history will be made with our first council-wide Eagle Scout reception. Every Eagle Scout, young--and more experienced--is invited to Heidelberg, Germany for an evening reception (not dinner). Since this is our first one, we will recognize any youth who earned his Eagle in Transatlantic Council (following years, we will recognize that year’s class of Eagle Scouts). We will also recognize publicly any youth who earned his Eagle in another council and was not recognized at a council function. We will conduct a roll call of youth Eagles and present each with a small token of congratulations.

This is a gathering of Eagle Scouts so all Eagles are invited with their spouses or friends. Parents of Eagle Scouts are most welcome to attend. Whether they are currently active in Scouting or not, we hope they will attend.

The cost is \$25 with the cost for youth Eagles being underwritten. We are looking for corporate sponsorship to help make this possible but youth Eagles will be our guests.

Now, we can use your help. We do not have an Eagle Scout database to send out invitations. We need a list so we can determine whom to invite from each Pack, Troop, and Crew. We need to spread the word in community papers, church bulletins, and English speaking publications that we are seeking all Eagles living in Europe for a reunion. Please send your requests for invitations to [advancement@tac-bsa.org](mailto:advancement@tac-bsa.org)

We do know that some areas of our council are too far away. We are happy to support gatherings in other locations so that the Eagle Scout fraternity can grow and nurture further growth in our Scouting program.

## **Mark your Calendar!!**

Our Normandy, Omaha Beach Camporee will take place on 15-17 April 2011. It is always a special event. Information and registration will start in the summer of 2010. We look forward to not only our own units participating but we have already had contact with several US councils who will join us in a Jamboree-type experience (but not 40,000).

## **Training**

August seems far away, warm balmy days, with sunshine....but it isn't..it is right around the corner. For the first time, we are offering Wood Badge in August. For many of our volunteers the June date just didn't work so we are trying something different. Wood Badge is the training course designed to cap off your training as a leader (although being a leader is a life-long learning experience). It is designed so that you get the most out yourself and to help you to leave a legacy among the youth and the volunteers you touch. Wood Badge for me was a chance to see Scouting from a "boy's-eye view" or a "youth's-eye view with Venturing." Transatlantic Council has a great Wood Badge tradition, and this year's course will continue and--perhaps I dare say--surpass what we have done before. We have assembled a great volunteer team, and if you consider yourself a "Scouter" it is something that you owe it to yourself to do. If you have already done it pre-2000, then maybe you would like to "Go back to Gilwell again."

Information: you guessed it! Check the site at...

[www.tac-bsa.org/Woodbadge.html](http://www.tac-bsa.org/Woodbadge.html)

## **Intercamp**

Intercamp is the annual international camporee hosted by Scout associations affiliated with the Intercamp Committee. This year's Intercamp will take place 21-24 May at Viersen-Dülken. Now, I know you all know where that is, but I didn't remember (and I served Grefrath military community in the distant past). It is just across from the Dutch city of Venlo in Northwestern Germany. Registration is open and like last year you need to register directly with Intercamp and not go through your council or district.

The website is <http://www.intercamp.info/en/> It is a great time and a wonderful chance to interact with European scouting groups.

## **Venture Adventure Weekend 26-28 February**

Can you help us find "Waldo" in the streets of London? Well you won't if you don't hurry up and grab the last few beds for this wonderful weekend. We will gather on Friday evening for fun and fellowship and a little bit of sleep at the Baden-Powell House. Then on Saturday gaggles of Venturers will get their day pass and travel through London trying to have their picture taken with Waldo--maybe even seeing a few sites on the way. We will have a great evening of Venturing fellowship before we all make our way home on Sunday. There is only a slot or two left, and it is open to any registered youth or adult 14 or older. Information is on the home page of our website.

## **Order of the Arrow**

The Order of the Arrow has a full agenda on tap for the Centennial Year. We had a super winter banquet and our best attendance in years even with a raging snow storm. Our Lodge Leadership Development weekend was well attended. Now is the time to conduct troop OA elections. Find out the latest requirements at <http://www.tac-bsa.org/OA.html>

Also if you have not paid your dues for 2010, please do so!! If you wear the flap you should make sure you are a registered OA member. Just a note: our registrar is moving (don't worry she isn't leaving), so if you don't receive your card in a timely manner for the next 30 days, we haven't forgotten about you!

## **Thank You**

Thank you one and all for your leadership and support and what you do to make a difference for our youth. Thanks to our International Committee for organizing our participation with the Peacelight Ceremony. Thanks to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary leadership and team for all your efforts. Thanks for the efforts to organize Pack 65 in Wiesbaden, a new troop in Vilnius, a new pack in Milan, a troop in Vilseck and all of you give so generously of your time.

God Bless all of our deployed members of the Armed Forces. Thank you for what you do and please come back to your loved ones safely. You remain in our thoughts and prayers.