



Press Release

Scouts Kick-Off 100th Anniversary Celebrations

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| Event | 100 th Anniversary Kick-Off Event |
| Date / Time | Monday – August 3, 2009 5:30 pm / Gathering 6:30 pm / Program Begins |
| Location | Morris – 1 st Source Scout Center 1340 South Bend Avenue / State Rd. 23, South Bend (Next to Parisi's Restaurant) |
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(South Bend, Indiana / July 23, 2009) – The year 2010 will mark the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scouts of America and the LaSalle Council is already feeling the excitement. A 100th Anniversary Kick-Off Event is planned for Monday, August 3rd from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at the Morris – 1st Source Scout Center. A brief program will begin at 6:30 pm.

The evening will offer many “firsts” including the unveiling of a magnificent steel sculpture named: *“An Eagle Takes Flight,”* by area artist: Richard Stack. This sculpture of an eagle with a 6’6” wing span was commissioned by the family of Thomas C. Naquin in memory of their father and in honor of L. Craig Fulmer. Both gentlemen are from Elkhart County and received the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. Stack, the artist, is also from Elkhart. With a son who is an Eagle Scout, he has enjoyed the opportunity to express his appreciation for the Boy Scouts through his work: *“Scouting is such a great organization and it was an honor to design this sculpture as a tribute to the program.”* The eagle itself is perched on a tree trunk atop a base of stone, making the entire presentation nearly 7 feet high. According to the Naquin family, their father greatly valued what he learned as a young Eagle Scout. Those values were enhanced during his years as an officer in the Navy. As a result, the eagle has become a symbol that is very meaningful to the family since their father’s passing in 2005. *“Richard’s sculpture is even beyond the vision that we had – the intensity of the eyes and the position of its stance bring to light the*

power and integrity of the Scouting program,” comments Liz Borger, one of Tom Naquin’s daughters. The sculpture will be a permanent fixture at the entrance of the Scout Center, lovingly presented by the Naquin Family: Mary Naquin, Thad and Rachelle Naquin, Jeannelle and Brian Brady, and Liz and Tom Borger. They feel it is a wonderful tribute for all those who will receive the National Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in the future, including Van Gates, who is receiving the distinction this year. The LaSalle Council and Naquin Family offer special thanks to South Bend’s Steel Warehouse, for its donation of the Cor-Ten steel material used in the sculpture.

Those in attendance will also enjoy a special visit by the Century of Values Travel Team in their custom painted All American Homes (formerly Coachmen) RV celebrating 100 years of Scouting. The striking 32 foot motor home includes a beautiful exterior mural depicting famous individuals, places and events in Scouting history. Their stop is one of over 300 visits to councils throughout the U.S. as they continue their 45,000 mile journey. Team members will present a framed anniversary mural to the LaSalle Council Scouts, to commemorate the occasion. The mural was created by professional illustrator and Eagle Scout, Bill Morrison, who has completed design work for Disney and Hollywood animation studios.

As guests enjoy the sculpture outside, they will also find a Troop Dutch Oven Cook-off, Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Demonstration, and a Modern Day Campsite. Inside, they’ll enjoy a BSA Historical Display and 100th Anniversary Chair, Ken Sherry, will unveil the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Council Shoulder Patch. A plaque will be on display highlighting LaSalle Council’s National Distinguished Eagle Scouts: L. Craig Fulmer, Thomas C. Naquin and Van E. Gates. The beautiful Thomas C. Naquin Scout Shop will be open for those wishing to browse the latest Scout attire and accessories, including the 1st day of sales for the new Scout Handbook, now in its 12th edition.

The Scouts are just beginning to celebrate as they have much more planned for the 100th Anniversary in May of 2010. Preparations are underway for a memorable occasion at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds, with anticipated attendance up to 4,000. *“It’s really a once in a lifetime opportunity, and we are truly making the most of it. Scouting is so much more than camping and merit badges. It is about teaching our youth the in-depth values so they learn to become well rounded citizens and a benefit to the community. That’s really something worth celebrating,”* says Ken Sherry, Chairman, LaSalle Council 100th Anniversary Celebrations.

“This is a great time for us to give thanks to the thousands of volunteers who have given so freely to further the values of Scouting here in our community for 100 years. It is also a time to reflect and enjoy our great history and prepare for future generations, so they can experience the wonderful opportunity to be a part of the Scouting movement. It is our privilege to pass on the same core values that made Scouting what it is today – a program that impacts the fiber of America,” Pat Bridges, LaSalle Council Scout Executive and CEO.

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