



# THE COMMUNITY PAGE

## SCOUTING AND CHARACTER BUILDING: DESERVING OF YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

### *Scouting Success in 2005*

The Boy Scouts of America organization was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and subsequently chartered by Congress in 1916, to facilitate founder Robert Baden-Powell's vision of providing educational programs for boys and young adults that build character, citizenship, and develop personal fitness. In the face of a climate of cultural change intent on institutionalizing the values of the "MTV generation," Scouting remains the activity of choice for youth in Eastern Idaho.

The Grand Teton Council of the Boy Scouts of America achieved significant milestones in 2005. In all, 21,427 youth are involved throughout the region—an increase of 121 over 2004. Fifty-six percent of all available youth in Idaho participated in Scouting, including 127 individuals involved in units for mentally disabled or "special needs" Scouts.

This growth in participation necessitated the creation of 36 new units, raising the number of operating units to 1,791—another record. The caliber of these units improved across the board with 60.5% of all Scouting units achieving the "Quality Unit Award" for trained leaders, quality programming, and youth leadership.

Achievement for individual Scouts saw pronounced improvement as well. Under the tutelage of 10,043 volunteer and registered adult leaders, 11,734 rank

*Clearly, Eastern Idahoans value the Scouting program and what it does to build the character of our youth.*

advancements were garnered at all levels of both Cub and Boy Scouting. With the assistance of an additional 3,000 volunteer merit badge counselors, 27,126 merit badges were earned. In 2005, 757 boys received their Eagle Scout Award, a phenomenal increase of 33.5% over 2004 levels. Eagle Scout Projects totaled over 53,500 hours of service, with a benefit to local communities of over \$347,000.

Such a record of accomplishment cannot be realized without substantial community support. Clearly, Eastern Idahoans value the Scouting program and what it does to build the character of our youth. This notwithstanding, the United Way has decreased allocations to the



Photo: Courtesy of Post Register/Randy Hayes

*Providing young men a moral compass to help develop character will positively impact our communities for generations. In these tough times of cultural conflict, the Boy Scouts deserve your support.*

prevents societal problems before they start. Such tangible success in the development of high caliber youth demonstrates that the Scouting program is clearly in a position to positively impact our community for generations to come. Beneficial programming of this variety is obviously worthy of direct financial support from every good citizen in Eastern Idaho.



*The Grand Teton Council serves youth in Southeast Idaho and Western Wyoming including Malad, American Falls, Salmon, West Yellowstone, Jackson, Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, Pocatello, and all areas in between.*

Boy Scouts in 2006. Fortunately, individuals have moved in to make a difference. Fifty-eight new contributors joined the James E. West Endowment Fund, now numbering 266 members, by making contributions of \$1,000 or more during the year. The Friends of Scouting campaign raised \$948,903 in 2005, once again in record fashion, reaching its annual goal by June 30. An additional \$198,200 was raised through product sales and special events, including the annual Holiday Auction, popcorn, and fair booth Tiger Ear sales.

Surprisingly, not everyone agrees that it is a good investment to build high moral character in young men and boys through Scouting. They fail to recognize that such character development