

# THE COMMUNITY PAGE

## SCOUTING INTO THE FUTURE

### Scouting for Food 2006

Since its founding in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has positively impacted multiple generations of American youth with the values and ethics that came to be known as the "American Way." The stereotype of a Scout helping the proverbial "little old lady" across the street is a well deserved and respectful recognition of the positive influence Scouting has had on our society. Ninety-six years ago, very few had considered exactly what made solid citizens out of young people. Today, the "Six Critical Elements of Healthy Youth Development" perfectly reflect every aspect of Scouting:

- Strong personal values and character
- A positive sense of self-worth
- Caring and nurturing relationships with parents, other adults, and peers
- A desire to learn
- Productive and creative use of time
- Social adeptness

Despite living in the most prosperous and technically advanced society in history, many children have demonstrated an inability to meet the challenges of personal responsibility, respect for others, personal integrity, and self-esteem. In short, the rapid and deleterious effects of social change occurring in modern America have created a crisis of character

among many youth.

In this time of social upheaval, Scouting remains unsurpassed as a character builder in young men. Scouting programs instill the values found in the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting helps youth develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives. Scouting provides young men the opportunity to try new things, provide service to others, and reinforce the values they live by.

Perhaps the most recognized Scouting activity is the annual "Scouting for Food" drive. There is no greater tragedy in our society of abundance than a hungry child or malnourished person. The disabled, the elderly, the homeless, the unemployed, and children are all significantly helped when large amounts of food are donated to the hungry in our community. Youth learn the value of each individual and the need to care for everyone.

Scouting for Food 2006 involved more than 11,000 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from the Grand Teton Council supported by 2,000 adult leaders and volunteers. In Eastern Idaho, it is one of the yearly service projects that every troop or pack plans on performing for the good of the community.



The November 18, 2006, collection of non perishable foods resulted in a total of 392,519 items contributed to area food banks. This donation of food represents 294,400 meals that will be available for the hungry. More participation from troop and unit leaders and better weather helped get the food collected and distributed to under-supplied area food banks just in time for the heavy demand that accompanies the onset of winter and the Holidays.

According to Jay Kunze, the Boy Scouts Chairman for the Scouting for Food collection, the program benefits both the needy and our youth. "Not only does the Scouting for Food Program go a long way towards feeding the hungry in our area, but the Scouts learn valuable lessons in performing a needed service for their communities," he says. "They definitely achieve a sense of pride in helping others."

### Tradition Meets Tomorrow

As the 2010 Centennial Celebration of Scouting in America approaches, Eastern Idaho's Grand Teton Council is poised for a season of growth expected to last into the next decade. Through the leadership of retiring

Grand Teton Council Scout Executive Kim Hansen, Council President David

Smith, and the many dedicated Executive Board Members, a comprehensive five-year strategic plan has been implemented in anticipation of projected annual growth of 1.5% over the next five years.

While the U.S. Census Bureau reports the state's growth at 10.4% over the past five years, Scout leadership plans to increase the number of troops and packs by 200 for a total of over 2,000 by the end of 2011.

The plan also establishes a Leadership and Standards Review Committee for handling serious issues concerning safety, youth protection, and leadership standards. To better serve the increasingly diverse needs of area youth, new staff positions will be created. This vision is supported by a capital campaign to fund a Leadership Training Center at Krupp Scout Hollow and Cub Scout Day Camp/Training facility in the Pocatello area.

One additional full-time executive and two part-time employees are required to facilitate Hispanic Outreach, Juvenile Diversion, and Learning for Life Programs. Additionally, enhancing the lives of teenage young men and women will mean developing the needed training and program aids to support a vibrant Varsity Scouting program.

Building character in young men through Scouting during their formative years results in hard-working, responsible and ethical adults. Scouting is a better investment for society than courts and prisons. Developing such character in youth is an endeavor worthy of support from everyone in the community.

## SCOUTING: A LIFE'S WORK

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. This observation from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rings as true today as it ever has. In measuring a man, one cannot turn to jaded enemies or even biased loved ones. The most

honest sources will be those who have seen him in the trenches handling challenges and facing difficulties—personal, professional, public and private.



Kim Hansen

A mile in local Scout Executive Kim Hansen's shoes reveals personal dedication to the Scouting program, which began in his youth. His exceptional leadership skills were evident even then. From becoming the staff cook at 15 years of age, to refining the service orientation of the Order of the Arrow when a student at BYU, Kim exhibited an uncanny ability to see through problems and to design solutions that were long-lasting and productive.

Kim's first professional Scouting assignment came in Idaho Falls, but his exceptional talent for designing quality programs, training events, summer camps, etc., very soon led to his promotion to Field Director in Salt Lake City for the second-largest program in the country. His acknowledged skills led to a tripling of participation in the Scout-O-Rama in his area, and the National Scouting organization

took notice.

A perfect example of his extraordinary abilities was how he approached a mouse-infested, broken down camp storage facility that needed replacement, with no funds in hand. Kim's solution: auction off any Scout memorabilia stored therein to raise the money.

Continuing promotions took Kim to Boise. Hart Bullock of Salt Lake City, formerly Director of Area 2 and Director of LDS Scouting Relations, actually shed tears in describing Kim's impact on Scouting. He used words such as "integrity," "willingness and desire to be of service," "selflessness," and "a blessing to the community."

In Boise, Kim had taken over direction of a council whose spirit was epitomized by the falling plaster of the rundown shack of a council building. Through his focused, gifted abilities he turned the program around, which included the funding of a new building that is now one of the finest in the country.

At a recent retirement party held in Kim's honor, hundreds of grateful colleagues and parents lined up to individually thank Kim for the pivotal role he's played in Eastern Idaho's Scouting programs.

David Smith, President of the Grand Teton Council, with unmasked emotion, reports that he would trust Kim Hansen with his last dollar, with any of his children in any circumstance. "He is a man of impeccable integrity, and quite simply one of the finest human beings ever to have walked on the earth."

Kim Hansen is not the first man of integrity to

suffer the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," and he won't be the last. Even in this onslaught, he has chosen to remain silent. He has maintained his demeanor, commanding the admiration of all who know him.

The *Post Register* has unsuccessfully tried to re-create the persona of Kim Hansen for its subscribers using unfounded accusations, misleading headlines, and innuendo. Kim's accomplishments define his performance. Despite the constant barrage of criticism from the *Post Register*, Kim Hansen has taken the high road. He is a 33-year Scout veteran who has demonstrated effective leadership by guiding thousands of young men through the Scouting program before entering adulthood. Throughout his tenure Kim has exhibited strong character and outstanding leadership. The Grand Teton Council and the community at large have been well served. We wish Kim all the best in his future endeavors.