



# Adventures In Scouting

An Update On Scouting In Central Maryland For Our Business And Community Friends

SUMMER 2010

VOL. 1 #4

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## Not the Average Eagle Scout Service Project...

When most Eagle Scout candidates contemplate their Eagle Scout service project, they consider something close to home and conventional..... Not Alex Griffith.

Alex's project began when he was looking through a photo album from when he was a baby at Children's Hospital No. 20 in Krasnoyarsk, Russia. Alex spent most of his first year at this facility until he was adopted by Dwight and Jenny Griffith of Jarrettsville, MD. The photos showed a rather inadequate, dilapidated playground with one swing and a mud-filled sand pit. Inspiration struck - Alex would refurbish, or rebuild as it later became, the playground for his Eagle Scout leadership service project!

Alex contacted Linda Perilstein, the executive director of Cradle of Hope Adoption Center, in Silver Spring, MD. Ms. Perilstein connected Alex through FRUA with OrphanAct, a Rotary International program that supports orphanages, children's shelters and related facilities around the world. OrphanAct connected Alex with his eyes and ears on the ground in Russia for the next two years - Tatiana Khegay, president of the Krasnoyarsk-Yenisei Rotary Club.

Next Alex found Playworld Systems in Lewisburg, PA. The company builds custom-designed playground systems giving Alex complete artistic license over the design. He chose a highly symbolic design - all elements of the playground symbolize international friendship. The playground is not only red, white and blue, the colors of both countries' flags, but includes the Russian bear and the American eagle. Alex even decided to include totem poles, carved from a 20-foot Alaskan cedar log, of a bear and an eagle at the playground entrance.

Next, Alex recruited volunteers who formed crews to assist him with many tasks. Crews were assembled for installation and procedures instruction development, quality-check and pre-assembly, shipping and crating, safety and security, and on-site installation. There were even volunteers who handled photography, publicity and the project's website ([www.KrasPlayground.org](http://www.KrasPlayground.org))!

Fundraising was also a group project with Alex at the lead. The

members of Alex's troop, Troop 809, assisted in raising a large portion of the funds through various fundraisers. Local Rotary clubs contributed dollars and secured a matching grant from the Rotary Foundation.

After two and a half years it was finally time to head to Russia. On July 29, 2009, the installation crew made up of Alex and his dad, Scoutmaster Dave Kraft and fellow Scouts Zach Kraft, Christian Posko and Shane Rymer, left for Russia.

Construction began on August 3 with a group of Russian volunteers, many of them members of Rotaract, Rotary's young-adult arm, working alongside the American Scouts. Of course, as often happens with Eagle Scout service projects, there were challenges. The grader and auger weren't available, they couldn't get the lumber as expected for the borders, and many of the hand tools had disappeared during transport. Oh yes, and there were the language barriers.

On August 12th, Alex's 16th birthday, all the hard work culminated in the playground's grand opening. This festive occasion included a children's choir, ringing church bells and speeches by the deputy mayor, Khegay, the hospital administrator and Alex. Attendees included dozens of volunteers, hundreds of neighbors and CNN and nine Russian television stations.

In the end, Alex's Eagle Scout service project did more than provide the children at Children's Hospital No. 20 in Krasnoyarsk, Russia with a new playground. It built lasting friendships between Russia and America. As a result of Alex's project, two additional playgrounds in Russia, one at a tuberculosis hospital (now complete) and one at a hospital for



Eagle Scout Alex Griffith

the mentally ill, will be partially funded. Christian Posko and Zach Kraft, pledged to return to Krasnoyarsk as adults to refurbish the children's hospital. Khegay's son, Max, after not having known what Scouting was, has pledged to start a Cub Scout Pack when his son is old enough.

All in all, Alex Griffith's project was extraordinary. It was made possible by 634 volunteers from 78 cities, 23 states and five countries who invested more than 1,867 hours in the project all in addition to Alex's 838 hours. They raised \$62,856 in funds for the project and six of them, Alex and Mr. Griffith included, spent \$12,000 of their own funds to travel for the installation of the playground.

Alex not only earned his Eagle Scout Rank but has inspired other Scouts to follow in his footsteps. As Scoutmaster Dave Kraft said "Alex has proven himself as a true representative of the values instilled by the Boy Scouts of America and has passed those qualities on to others around the world."



**Scouting Builds CHARACTER**

Exploring the great outdoors has always been a key part of Scouting and perhaps the most visible one. For nearly 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America has existed to provide a program to develop strong, well-rounded citizens from the youth of this country. That objective has not changed. As a result, Scouting has evolved to become the largest and most inclusive youth organization in the world dedicated to developing the character, citizenship and personal fitness of its members.

**Scouting Builds VALUES**

The 12 traits that make up The Scout Law read like every parent’s wish list for their children. Along with the motto of “Be Prepared,” and the Scout Slogan “Do a Good Turn Daily,” Scouting sets expectations of cooperation, respect and goodwill – all success factors in helping build lifelong personal and family values by reinforcing ethical standards.

**Scouting Builds COMMUNITY**

Scouting is anything but a self-contained environment. Its connection to the community is absolutely vital. Each Scout unit is chartered by a community

organization that provides the unit with a place to meet, leaders and guidance. Community service projects are a requirement of every Scouting program. These projects find the Scouts and leaders working side-by-side, often earning the funds to offset their dues and other expenses throughout the year. Income from other sources, including bequests and individual contributions, help provide additional support like leadership training, outdoor programs, council service centers and camp.

**Scouting Builds FAMILIES**

Parental involvement is one of the strengths that makes Scouting unique. Currently, there is one registered adult volunteer for nearly every three Scouts. You will appreciate getting more involved at different times and levels during your child’s Scouting development – whether it’s organizing a meeting, cooking, for an event or teaching for one of the many Merit Badges. Your investment will be rewarded with an experience that is unmatched in the difference it can make in your child’s life, as well as your own... and it’s fun!

**Scouting’s Co-ed School Based Character Education Programs Going Strong...**

Learning for Life is a co-ed program offered by the Boy Scouts of America to enhance character education in different learning environments. Learning for Life offers seven programs designed to support schools and community based organizations in their efforts to prepare youth to successfully handle the complexities of contemporary society and to enhance their self-confidence, motivation, and self-esteem. The seven programs focus on character education and career education. Learning for Life programs help youth develop social and life skills, assist in character development, and help youth formulate positive personal values. It prepares youth to make ethical decisions that will help them achieve their full potential. There are two program methods. We have six school based programs and one worksite based program. Adults involved in Learning for Life are selected by the organization in which they work (i.e., schools, local businesses, community organizations, etc.).

At a time when drugs and gangs are ravaging many of our schools and

communities, Learning for Life programs can be a catalyst to help stop this trend. The program uses age-appropriate, grade-specific lesson plans to give youth skills and information that will help them cope with the complexities of today’s society. Learning for Life makes academic learning fun and relevant to real-life situations in age appropriate and grade specific material. As a result, the positive character traits and skills learned by participation in Learning for Life not only make students more confident and capable, but also give them an invaluable understanding of how things work in the real world. School and community demands for character education and career education programs have greatly influenced the dramatic growth of Learning for Life. Learning for Life has been adopted by more than 20 schools and organizations in Central Maryland, serving over 4,900 youth, such as Academy for College and Career Exploration (ACCE), Franklin Square Elementary School, and Northeast Middle School just to name a few.

**How can you help Learning for Life continue to provide these programs?**

Each year we offer the Learning for Life program to our local schools, new and old. Unfortunately, we have had to start reaching out to our schools to pay for the program to help offset the costs we pay to provide the program. We renew our programs every year in September. The program costs \$5.00 per student plus the cost of the teacher guidebooks, recognition wall charts and

stickers for each classroom.

So how can you help? Sponsor a school or part of a school! We are looking for individuals or local companies that would be willing to sponsor a local school. The average school costs approximately \$1,000.



**2010 Gathering of Eagles Reception  
 “Inviting all Eagle Scouts”**



*Edward A. Pease  
 Senior Vice President  
 Rolls-Royce North America, Inc.*

**WHEN:** November 9, 2010  
**WHERE:** Baltimore Marriott Waterfront  
**WHAT:** Welcome, fellowship and recognition of all Eagle Scouts living in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area. Guest speaker will be former Congressman and current Senior Vice President Rolls Royce N.A., Edward Pease. During the course of the evening we will present four awards including the youth Eagle Scout Project of the Year Award.

To RSVP or request more information to Denise Shoemaker, call 443-573-2504 or [dshoemaker@baltimorebsa.org](mailto:dshoemaker@baltimorebsa.org)

Learn more. Click on Podcast at [www.baltimorebsa.org](http://www.baltimorebsa.org)

**TREATING POISON IVY AND ITS COUSINS**

- Poison ivy is a green plant that grows low to the ground. It always appears as a shiny cluster of three reddish-green, teardrop-shaped leaves.
  - Poison oak looks a lot like grape ivy. It is a vine with clusters of three leaves, sometimes three clusters to a branch; all of the leaves are wavy-edged.
  - Poison sumac is usually found on trees in forests, but it can also grow on a bush. Its leaves are pointed like a palm fan and grow in pairs, except at the tip where there is always one leaf. Symptoms of the irritation caused by the three poison plants include red rashes (sometimes accompanied by small blisters), itching, possible headache and fever, and a blistering rash. Coming into contact with poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac is rarely fatal. In fact, it does not require professional help—unless a person suffers a severe allergic reaction. However, it’s important to treat symptoms from poison ivy and its cousins because it can spread to other parts of the body. It can even spread from clothes to skin. Follow these steps:
1. Take off all clothes that have come in contact with the poisonous plant and wash them in hot water.
  2. Wash any part of the skin (especially where a rash appears) that might have come in contact with contaminated clothes or the plant itself. Use soap and hot water.
  3. Wipe the skin with a cotton ball, a tissue, or a washcloth dipped in alcohol.
  4. Apply calamine lotion to relieve discomfort and itching.

**We Want To Hear From You! What Do You Want To Know About Your Investment In Scouting?**

*Adventures in Scouting* is a publication of the Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America’s Development Office designed to help you, our friends and supporters, learn more about what your investment in Scouting is helping to accomplish in the lives of Central Maryland’s young people.

Is there a program you want to learn more about? Something you’d like to see featured in a future edition? Do you have a question about Scouting or your gift to Scouting at work that isn’t being answered?

Please contact: Sonya Greene at 443-573-2539 or [sgreene@baltimorebsa.org](mailto:sgreene@baltimorebsa.org)



# Baltimore Area Council Elects New Chairman



Barry F. Williams

At the recent Council Annual Meeting, Barry Williams was elected Chairman of the Board of the Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America for a one-year term.

As the top volunteer for Scouting in the Baltimore Area Council, Mr. Williams will provide leadership to the 70 member Board of Directors as they carry out their governance role. The Baltimore Area Council annually serves over 35,000 youth, 15,000 adult volunteers in 342 Packs, 353 Troops, 256 Crews and 35 Posts.

Prior to election as Chairman of the Board Mr. Williams served as Vice-Chair of Learning for Life and Vice-Chair of Scoutreach. In these roles he was instrumental in expanding the Learning for Life program throughout many of our schools as well as extending traditional Scouting programs throughout Baltimore City to many of its at-risk youth.

Mr. Williams is the Director of the Baltimore County Office of Workforce Development. In this position he oversees a county agency that helps businesses find the workforce that they need and help job seekers acquire the skill sets necessary to become more marketable.

Besides being a long time supporter of Scouting and the Baltimore Area Council Mr. Williams has a number of other philanthropic interests. He serves as the president of several organizations including Workforce Investment Network, Concert Artists of Baltimore, and ONOSE (a men's group that helps struggling young men with promise attend college through scholarship assistance). Mr. Williams is the first vice-president of the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the Audience Participation Committee of the Walter's Art Museum and on a review board for several religious orders.

Mr. Williams first became involved in Scouting in 1964 at the age of 11 when he joined Troop 764. He then earned his Eagle Scout at the age of 17. Since then, Mr. Williams was on the Camp Spencer staff at Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation for seven years, served as Lodge Chief of Nentico 12 and served on the National Camp Staff for one summer. In 2003, Mr. Williams was awarded the Silver Beaver award.

When asked why he is involved with the Baltimore Area Council, Mr. Williams cites his love of Scouting and the influence it has had on his life. "Because of Scouting, I chose to have a career in public service. Hence, I have worked in the public school system and currently work in county government. Through Scouting, I first

discovered my interest in leadership and have learned life-long lessons. Outside of my family and my church, Scouting has made the most impact in my life. Many opportunities opened for me as a result of Scouting and I would want those same opportunities for every boy."

Mr. Williams succeeds three-term Chairman Barry Gossett. Mr. Gossett served as Chairman from 2007 to 2010, years that once again resulted in a number of noteworthy accomplishments including growth in membership, a balanced budget in these tough economic times, increased diversity of the Executive Board, and hiring Ethan Draddy as Scout Executive.

Mr. Gossett, who began his Scouting career in 1950 as a member of Pack 299 in Hyattsville, MD, will continue to serve on the Board of the Baltimore Area Council as Nominations Chair.

Of his tenure as Chairman of the Board Mr. Gossett said "This service with the Baltimore Area Council has been the most wonderful experience because of so many great people I have worked with."



Barry Gossett

## 100th Anniversary Star Spangled Camporee News

Will we CU @ The Fort? Are you planning on attending the 100th Anniversary Star Spangled Camporee at Fort McHenry? Don't miss this once-in-a-life-time event! For more information visit [www.baltimorebsa.org](http://www.baltimorebsa.org)

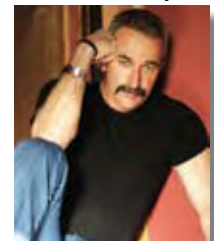
All the opportunities are too many to list – there are more than 40!

- American Flag Foundation Living Flag
- Scouts Can Earn the Historic "Splendid Service" medal
- Historic Re-enactors
- Scout Will Have Advancement Opportunities
- Visit from Baden Powell
- Day shows by Baltimore School of Rock and Maryland Sings
- Representatives from the National Guard
- The Baltimore City Police Blue Thunder Unit
- The Baltimore City Fire Department Boathouse

- Saturday evening will be capped off by a performance by Country music star Aaron Tippin and a Special Effects Show by Image Engineering!



Fort McHenry  
Photo Credit: National Park Service



Aaron Tippin

## 2010 Henry A. Rosenberg, Sr. Distinguished Citizen Award Reception... A Huge Success... THANK YOU!!!

On behalf of the Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, thank you for your support of the 2010 Henry A. Rosenberg, Sr., Distinguished Citizen Award event honoring Alan D. Wilson, Chairman, President & CEO of McCormick & Company, Inc., at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel held Tuesday, May 18th. It was a memorable evening for everyone who attended, especially with the added feature of Ray Rice being interviewed by Scott Garceau.

As the Scout speaker Irving Joshua Quiles said, "Scouting is an organization that has given me confidence to come out of my shell, make new friends, be a good son, friend, neighbor and citizen. Scouting has helped me make good decisions to do the right thing in difficult situations, despite peer pressure, which can be pretty strong." Irving spoke of his excitement about being part of the Scouting family and his desire to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.

We know there are many more stories like Irving's.

Because of your generosity and continued support, we are able to provide Scouting opportunities to over 35,000 youth in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties.

Thank you again for your support.



Ray Rice with BAC Scouts, Ethan Draddy, Barry Williams and Gerry Holthaus



Ray Rice and Scott Garceau

**BALTIMORE AREA COUNCIL**   
**A Message From The Scout Executive**



Dear Friends:

Today's young adults have so many choices to make. Many more than were at the fingertips of our generation just a few years ago. For generations of Central Maryland youth, however, Scouting has provided the confidence and stability in a world that is increasingly smaller, faster, and often dangerous.

If you are like me then you believe that young people can shape the rest of their lives by the decisions they make today. That's why it is critically important that the basic values of Scouting continue to provide the foundation to help develop the leaders of tomorrow, to develop future adults who know the difference

between right and wrong, to develop citizens who want to do the right thing for their family and neighbors... right here in our backyard.

Specifically, Baltimore Area Council is the local organization that helps manage and direct overall Scouting efforts across Central Maryland. With a world often challenged for values and leadership, our Scouting community remains committed to inspiring leaders of tomorrow right here.

Good Scouting,

Ethan V. Draddy  
 Scout Executive/CEO

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