



BUILDING FOR THE NEW CENTURY

A Campaign for Boxwell Reservation

Winter 2020

GOAL:
\$10,600,000

RAISED TO DATE:
\$6,574,496

Dear Friends of the Middle Tennessee Council,

Thanks to all for the generous support we have received for the “Building for the New Century: A Campaign for Boxwell Reservation”. Our Campaign is still going strong and our plan is to reach 100% of the \$10.6 million goal by the end of 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to share information about the BSA bankruptcy so you can rest assured that Scouting remains a safe and positive place for youth. You have more than likely heard commercials on television, and through other media, where plaintiffs’ attorneys have been advertising for people who were allegedly abused in Scouting to call a 1-800 number and report their abuse for potential compensation. The BSA Nationally is creating a victim’s trust as a part of the BSA bankruptcy to fairly compensate those who are legitimate victims of abuse while participating in the Scouting program. I firmly believe one case of abuse is one too many.

Based on plaintiffs’ attorneys advertising and media campaigns, you might think that abuse is prevalent in BSA programs. That is not the case. Most of the claimants of abuse come from the pre-1980s, before very strict youth protection policies were put into place. The BSA did not “cover up” abuse, instead they kept files on individuals who were suspected or convicted of abuse so they couldn’t register as a leader in a different troop in a different location. In the last ten years or so, plaintiffs attorneys were able to access these files and use them against the BSA. I tell you this to give you some perspective on why the BSA is in bankruptcy.

When I started as a professional Scouter in 1986, the strict youth protection policies that are now in place were in their infancy. It started with two-deep leadership for all Scouting programs. No one-on-one contact between leaders and Scouts was allowed. This is still a strict policy with additional youth protection policies being added over the last 30 years. No other youth organization was or is addressing this issue as vigorously as the BSA.

Today, Scouting programs in the BSA are as safe or safer than any youth serving organization in the Country. Instead of providing information in this letter on our current youth protection policies, I have included a chart on page 3 of this newsletter that shows the barriers for abuse in place in Scouting. Our volunteers, parents and staff work diligently to ensure these barriers are upheld by everyone. I can assure you that I take the trust and accountability to keep youth safe at the forefront of everything we do very seriously.

We are forging ahead to keep Scouting safe and strong in the Middle Tennessee Council. Again, thank you for all that you do to support Scouting in our communities.

Sincerely,

Larry Brown
Scout Executive

STEERING COMMITTEE

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Harris Haston

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Rob McCabe

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Scout Executive

Larry Brown

Assoc. Development Dir.

Linda Carter

A Note from Campaign Chair, Harris Haston

The Campaign Steering Committee recently met to discuss how and when to restart our Boxwell capital campaign considering the effects of the BSA national bankruptcy and COVID. We should have a clearer picture about the status of the legal issues by June and the increasing numbers of inoculations are hopefully going to allow us to return to our normal life routines by mid-summer.



We have raised more than \$6.5 million, about 62% of our goal of \$10.6 million. The proposed new Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr. Leadership Center is estimated to cost more than \$7 million. As all who have visited the Stahlman dining hall know, we urgently need to replace that facility with more efficient kitchen equipment. We need to diligently work towards achieving our campaign goal by late this year to be able to deliver a new facility by 2023 summer camp.

The members of the Steering Committee are considering several ideas about how to initiate a restart of the campaign when the fundraising path is clear. Stay tuned for announcements about future 2021 events. Council leadership including the Boxwell Campaign Steering Committee is looking forward to preparing our Council for the next 100 years to continue delivering valuable training to our Middle Tennessee youth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harris Haston".

Harris Haston - Campaign Chair

2021 WEBELOS WINTER CAMP AT BOXWELL RESERVATION





Scouting is Safer than Ever Before

EFFECTIVE
BARRIERS
TO ABUSE

MILLIONS OF PARENTS TRUST
THE BSA TO PROVIDE
**MEANINGFUL
PROGRAMMING**
IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

**RECOGNIZE
RESPOND
REPORT**
1-844-SCOUTS1

Barriers to Abuse

Together, these expert-informed barriers help keep kids safe



PROJECT UPDATE

As of February 22, 2021, the Campaign for Boxwell Reservation has secured \$6,574,496 in pledges with 72% of that total already received. That is fantastic and has made it possible for construction to begin on several new projects. The 3rd shower house is being built and all three will be ready for camp this summer! We look forward to Scouts and leaders enjoying these new facilities.



The new Veteran’s Gateway in honor of Boxwell’s 100-year anniversary will be completed to greet visitors as they arrive for the start of camp. Names are still being collected of Boxwell Scouts and leader alumni who have or currently serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. If you or someone you know has not yet identified as such please contact Linda Carter, Assoc. Development Director, at lcarter@mtcbsa.org.

One of the most exciting projects of the capital campaign is the new Skilled Trades Center being built at Camp Parnell. We are hopeful that this facility will be ready for summer camp to offer hands-on learning for the trades related merit badges of automotive maintenance, electricity, home repair, plumbing, painting and welding. American Business, American Labor and Architecture are in the works for classroom learning.

The Council is excited about the progress being made and for the enthusiasm that continues to be shown to keep Boxwell Reservation at the forefront of camping experiences for youth in Middle Tennessee and beyond.

ROY GRINDSTAFF SKILLED TRADES CENTER

