



# A Campaign for Boxwell Reservation

Fall 2023

Goal: \$15 million  
Raised as of December 15, 2023: \$8,635,671

## ROY GRINDSTAFF SKILLED TRADES CENTER OPENING

On Thursday, October 12, the Middle Tennessee Council celebrated the opening of the Roy Grindstaff Skilled Trades Center at Boxwell Reservation. Council President, Dr. John Bright Cage, thanked everyone for attending, and gave special recognition to Executive Board members, Scout leaders and volunteers.

Scout Executive, Larry Brown, thanked the lead supporters of the project – Robin Grindstaff Hurdle and the Maddox Foundation of Hernando, MS, and Drs. Pamela and Philip Pfeffer and the Pfeffer Foundation. Additional support was also received from Regions Foundation of Tennessee, as well as Steve and Kay Phillips of NAPA Auto Parts of the Upper Cumberland.

The program also included a report about the facility and the Skilled Trades program from Council Camping Director, Jason Flannery, and a reflection from the Chair of the Skilled Trades Committee, Jeff Rich.

Jeff shared, “The new Grindstaff Skilled Trade Center is a golden opportunity for business and labor to come together and assist us in what we in Scouting do best, to offer hope for the future. In making available new opportunities of discovery through the Merit Badge Program, we can bring more avenues of success to young people than ever before. By showcasing skills and careers in the Skilled Trades we can bring success to a generation who have never considered the trades as part of their future. I am excited to be a part of this program and proud that this facility in the Middle Tennessee Council is the first of its kind nationwide. This is why we are here.”

Guests were also given a tour of the facility, including demonstrations from Scouts in the areas of Welding, Automotive Maintenance, Painting and Plumbing. In addition to those, merit badges were also earned this summer in the fields of Home Repair, Architecture, American Business and Labor, and Electricity.

The Skilled Trades Center is a project of the Campaign for Boxwell Reservation. For more information about the Skilled Trades program at Boxwell contact Jason Flannery at [Jason.flannery@scouting.org](mailto:Jason.flannery@scouting.org).



# STEERING COMMITTEE

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## Scout Executive

Larry Brown

Assoc. Development Dir.

Linda Carter

Council Camping Dir.

Jason Flannery

## A NOTE FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Fellow Scouts, Staff and Supporters,

Throughout the fall, our Boxwell Reservation Capital Campaign has diligently worked to increase funding to allow our Council to begin the demolition of the Stahlman Dining Hall and construction of the new Harwell Leadership Center after 2024 summer camp. The new facility includes needed private meeting rooms, and a functional, modern kitchen and dining hall. We have made great progress, but our fundraising job is not yet completed.



Several important Council programs are delivered to our Middle Tennessee youth at Boxwell Reservation. Since the capital campaign began, we have raised more than \$8 million which has been used to construct new shower and toilet facilities, a new secured Gateway entrance and a new Skilled Trade Center. However, we have two projects remaining with the Harwell Leadership Center being the most significant. This project must be completed so we can sustain our programs. Our total campaign goal is \$15 million.

Summer camps at Boxwell allow our Scouts to earn merit badges which may not be earned or available within their districts or troops. We have no more important need and duty than to maintain camp facilities to advance our Scout programs, and the Harwell Leadership Center is a critically important facility to be constructed to support those programs.

Our Council has loyal and capable staff, volunteers, and supporters. We have been blessed to have had the finest leadership for more than 100-years, and it is our responsibility to ensure that our Council is prepared to continue to deliver these character and leadership-building skills and services for another century.

We hope you will consider including the Capital Campaign for Boxwell Reservation in your giving plan this holiday season. There is no finer youth organization than our Council which serves 37-Tennessee counties and Ft. Campbell, KY, in which to invest your money.

Best in Scouting this holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harris Haston". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Harris Haston



## ***DONOR SPOTLIGHT***

I didn't grow up knowing much about Scouting. My family lived several miles out in the country, and our daily trips to school in town took a lot of our mother's time and energy. Adding extra trips back to town for Scout meetings would have been more than we could ask.

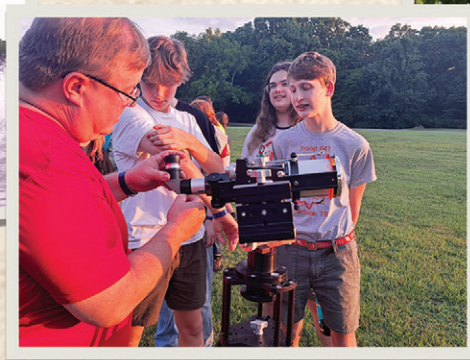
It was only much later when my nephew started in the Scouting program with Troop One when it all began to sink in. He took to it with all he had and excelled. My brother may not have been a Scout when he was growing up, but he got involved as a Scout leader for the troop because he saw the intrinsic value of what the Scouting program stands for - preparing young people to meet the challenges in life by ingraining in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. With those in their minds and hearts, they are more ready to make the moral and ethical choices that face them every day. In a world where legislation dictates what can be taught in school, the Scouting program has made the decision to promote the values the country was founded upon.



I doubt the people who donated the land for Boxwell had any vision of the impact it would make on thousands of young people and adults who come together every year to experience its benefits. Here they would learn leadership skills, be challenged to try new things and discover their own talents, make new friends, and foster deeper relationships with those around them. They have the opportunity to be mentored by hundreds of adults and other Scouts who demonstrate the values instilled by the Scout Oath and show them the path to service to others. It's a Community of extraordinary young people and adults like none other.

Years of constant use have taken their toll on the Boxwell facilities, and we need to step up to make improvements to the property. The Scouts of the present and future deserve the chance to take advantage of everything that Boxwell offers for the development of future generations of responsible citizens. Thank you in advance for your help in making this possible.

Mary Ann Brown Peugeot



# ***FAMILY AND STAFF LODGE CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN***

The Middle Tennessee Council is excited to announce that construction will begin on the new Family and Staff Lodge in early 2024. The facility will be located in the area behind Stahlman Dining Hall. The majority of this project has been generously funded by the Jeanette Travis Foundation in Nashville. The Travis Foundation is a long-time supporter, especially in the areas of STEM and Venturing, and we are grateful for their vision in providing this facility to enhance the camp experience at Boxwell.

The Lodge will be similar to the large participant lodge at Latimer Reservation. The building will be climate controlled and will sleep up to 28 people with single beds (56 with bunk beds) in ten sleeping rooms (combination of eight small rooms and two large rooms). Restrooms with showers are included inside the building. In addition, the Lodge will have a large living/meeting great room with a kitchenette with a full-sized refrigerator, microwave and sink. The Lodge will have two porches with the larger one being on the back of the building facing the lake. The building will be ADA compliant with a roll-in shower in one of the restrooms.

The architect for the project is Rob Ponder, of Ponder and Ponder Architects of Norcross, Georgia. Rob was a camper and on camp staff as a youth. He also designed the 100th Anniversary Veterans Gateway that secures the entrance at camp.

Larry Brown, Scout Executive, said, “One of the challenges we have each summer is securing qualified camp staff members who are willing to live in tents for five weeks. The new Family and Staff Lodge will provide the Council with the ability to provide better accommodations for the senior staff and give us the opportunity to recruit staff members we could not previously hire because of the rustic living conditions. New facilities and programs like the Skilled Trades Center and the STEM Center generally require older staff with expertise in these areas. In addition, for weekend programs, the facility will enhance our efforts to recruit adult volunteers to support these programs as well as increase our participation in adult volunteer training programs. This facility will be a game changer for recruiting camp staff and volunteers for Middle Tennessee Council program leadership.”

Pictured below: Rendering of the Family and Staff Lodge



**For more information about the Campaign for Boxwell Reservation,  
contact Larry Brown, Scout Executive, at [lbrown@mtcbsa.org](mailto:lbrown@mtcbsa.org) or 615-383-9701**