



BUILDING FOR THE NEW CENTURY

A Campaign for Boxwell Reservation

Spring 2021

GOAL:
\$10,600,000

RAISED TO DATE:
\$6,625,826

CELEBRATING OLDEST LIVING BOXWELL ALUMNUS AND VETERAN

James Leon Parker was just 13 when he first attended summer camp at Boxwell. The year was 1939 and camp was located in Linton, Tennessee on the Harpeth River. Mr. Parker went on to reach the rank of Eagle and then was drafted into service during WWII. After the war and starting a family, Mr. Parker continued his participation in Scouting by serving as the Scoutmaster for his son, James's, Troop 4 in Tullahoma, Tennessee. He would next attend Boxwell in the 1960s at its current location in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Now, at age 95, Mr. Parker sat down with Major General William Hickman, U.S. Army (retired) to talk about his love of Scouting and how he will be the oldest living veteran to be honored at the new Gateway being built at Boxwell Reservation. The new Gateway is being built in honor of the 100th anniversary of the camp that has flourished across ten decades at four locations. Major General Hickman is leading the effort to recognize veterans and current service members who attended Boxwell as Scouts or leaders.



Leon Parker and Bill Hickman

Mr. Parker was born and raised in Nashville. He said he worked hard all of his life and being a Scout helped teach him values that helped prepare him for life. When asked what he enjoyed most during his time at Boxwell Mr. Parker said, "I loved everything about being a Scout and being at camp. There wasn't anything I didn't like. I remember taking the streetcar to west Nashville where a truck from Linton would pick us up and take us to camp. We'd all jump in the back and away we'd go. One thing I remember well is the cook at the dining hall coming out with a platter of biscuits and tossing them to us. Those were the best biscuits I have ever eaten." As a Scoutmaster, Mr. Parker shared that he took his troop on a camping outing every month. One in particular sticks out in his memory because it snowed so much that the tents collapsed. "We just covered ourselves with blankets to stay warm," he said.

Working for the Tennessee Central Railroad helped him hone skills that he would use when he was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. Following basic training, Mr. Parker worked with the railway battalion in Wyoming before leaving to serve as an engineer at an airbase on the Azores Islands off the coast of Portugal. Upon his return he resumed his work with the railroad until his career took him to the Arnold Engineering Development Center located on Arnold Air Force Base near Manchester, Tennessee where he worked until his retirement.

Being involved in Scouting has been a highlight in Mr. Parker's life. Both he and Major General Hickman agree that being a Scout in the Middle Tennessee Council, and attending camp at Boxwell, made a positive impact on their lives and taught them skills they called upon while serving our Country.

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A Note from Campaign Chair, Harris Haston

The Middle Tennessee Council has seen a resurgence in Scouting activity and programs over the last month. We had over 1,000 Scouts and leaders attend one of our council camporees recently, and over 50 NEW Scouting Packs, Troop, Posts, Crews and Labs have started or are being started. The commitment of our Scouting leaders to keep programs going through COVID is amazing. Our Council is fortunate to have such a strong core of committed volunteers and staff who want to ensure current and future generations of Scouts receive leadership training, character development and a spirit of service. Our 100th Council Anniversary is being celebrated this year with camporees, jamborees, luncheons, speakers, and a rededication by our professional and volunteer staffs to continue providing our Middle Tennessee youth with the skills to become the leaders of tomorrow.



Boxwell Reservation is our council's showcase camp, located within an hour's drive time from all our district's scout troops. As you know from past editions of this newsletter, Boxwell Reservation is the primary beneficiary of our capital campaign. Funds collected to date have delivered three new shower houses, the third one funded by The Christy-Houston Foundation, Inc. is just in time for our June summer camp opening and is among other needed camp projects. More than 1,000 people attended the 100th Anniversary Camporee at Boxwell in early May and summer camp is fully booked for its five-week term and will host more than 2,000 Scouts.

Over the last sixty years at its current location, more 500,000 Scouts have passed through the Boxwell Reservation gates. We know that the families who funded the construction of Boxwell in 1960 would be pleased with how their investment has paid off in building strong character and making lives better.

There could no better investment than to give to the Middle Tennessee Council's Boxwell Capital Campaign. Our campaign's largest capital project, the construction of the new Harwell Leadership Center, needs our financial support. This anchor facility for Boxwell Reservation will provide a base for camp operations for the next 100 years. Our oath as a Scout is 'To help other people at all times.' This facility will help us help others to learn what it means to be a Scout for life.

Please help make the next 100 years at Boxwell as great for our council as the last 100.

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

Harris Haston - Campaign Chair

RUTHERFORD COUNTY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SCOUTING



The Christy-Houston Foundation, Inc., located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, is a leader in supporting youth in Rutherford County. The Foundation recognized that the camping experience at Boxwell Reservation has and will continue to have a life-changing impact on youth of all ages. Getting young people outside and away from the constant distraction of electronic devices is of benefit to their health and well-being. This is especially true as pandemic restrictions ease and Scouts are invited back to summer camp. In addition, the camping experience helps increase a young person's self-esteem, teaches leadership skills, provides a love of nature, and encourages teamwork.

Tens of thousands of youth from Rutherford County have attended camp at Boxwell over the past 60 years at its current location. In recognition of that, the Foundation made a generous gift to build the third new shower house, located at Camp Stahlman, that will be available for youth and leaders to use this summer. This illustrates the care and concern the Foundation extends to support activities in which Rutherford County youth are engaged.

The Middle Tennessee Council is grateful for the trust The Christy-Houston Foundation, Inc. has placed in the work being done to improve facilities at Boxwell to serve youth for many years to come.



Building for the New Century: A CAMPAIGN FOR BOXWELL RESERVATION



Gift Range	# Gifts Needed	Goal	As of 05-24-2021	# Gifts Received
Legacy \$1,000,000	1	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	1
Benefactor \$500,000- 999,999	7	\$3,000,000	\$500,000	1
Leadership \$250,000 - 499,999	10	\$2,600,000	\$1,450,000	5
Strategic \$100,000 - 249,999	20	\$1,800,000	\$2,369,523	21
Major \$50,000 - 99,999	25	\$1,500,000	\$350,031	7
Investor \$25,000 - 49,999	30	\$700,000	\$585,000	23
Less than \$25,000			\$271,272	58
Gifts in Kind			\$100,000	1
	93	\$10,600,000	\$6,625,826	117

* In addition to outright and pledged gifts, \$86,000 has been received for a maintenance reserve fund

CELEBRATING OLDEST LIVING BOXWELL ALUMNUS AND VETERAN (CONT.)

The Council has received more than 200 names that will be included in the initial recognition of veterans at the 100th Anniversary Gateway at Boxwell when it is completed next summer. If you attended Boxwell as a Scout or leader and went on to serve in the military and have not yet shared your name with the Council please contact Linda Carter, Associate Development Director, at lcarter@mtcbsa.org or 615-463-6335. Names and branch of the military will be grouped by the decade camp was attended so please include that information as well.

Campaign information online
<https://www.mtcbsa.org/boxwellcampaign>

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Please Contact Larry Brown, Scout Executive, at
lbrown@mtcbsa.org or 615-383-9701 if you have
 questions or would like to make a gift.