



Members of

Churches of Christ for Scouting



Front Row, Left to Right: Adam Jones, Gary McCracken, Rich Roper, Gael Cooper, Kent Barnett, Regina Harrison, Chip Turner, John Meeks, Karen Elswood, Johnie Simpson, Houston Costolo, Ralph Wallace, Billy Walker, Greg Alty. Back Row: Terry Smith, Norm Hoffman, Danny Jones, Steve Leddy

Philmont 2006

Philmont Training Center, near Cimarron, N.M., served as the setting of the *Scouting in the Church's Ministry* Conference July 16-22, 2006.

During the conference, Scouters, ministers, youth ministers and other church leaders joined to share insight and encouragement as they gained more resources for working with youth and families.

About 12 MCCA participants attended the

conference, taking part in activities such as hiking, building crafts, playing games and spending time in fellowship.

For related stories and pictures from this year's event, please look inside this newsletter. The next conference is scheduled to take place in July of 2008. Please contact Kent Barnett, MCCA Executive Director, at (325) 674-3739 for more information.

from Kent



Kent Barnett
Executive Director

We at Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting have begun to compile an honor roll of Eagle Scouts who are affiliated with Churches of Christ.

If you or someone you know falls into this category, we would appreciate your assistance with our *Once an Eagle, Always*

an Eagle search.

Please fill out the form below and return it to: MCCS • ACU Box 27938 • Abilene, TX 79699-7938.

ONCE AN EAGLE, ALWAYS AN EAGLE

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST, Zip _____

Phone _____

Current Age _____

Where did you become an Eagle Scout? _____

~ MCCS Co Regina Harrison,

ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMISSIONER IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF OAK RIVER DISTRICT



Regina Harrison has been affiliated with Scouting for about 10 years.

Regina Harrison returned from the 2006 Philmont Conference energized by the direction MCCS is moving.

"MCCS has renewed our dedication toward providing a means for youth to not only show but share their faith in Church of Christ Scouting units and the use of the updated *Servant Leadership* curriculum," she said.

"MCCS servant leaders and Church of Christ Scouting Units will make *Duty to God* the priority again."

Harrison has worked in Scouting for about 10 years, with Venturing Crews for half of that time. She says she enjoys the versatility that

Venturing offers, allowing youth to direct their own programs. Venturing Crews offer young people ages 14-20 activities to explore the importance of values, ethics and life skills. Harrison says this focus allows Venturing Crews to fit nicely with the mission of MCCS.

"Venturing looks to be a vital tool for churches to develop their youth ministry," Harrison said. "It is an untapped resource."



Regina Harrison, center, presents Philmont mugs to afternoon presenters Karen Elswood and Steve Leddy.

Left to Right:
Rich Roper,
Johnie Simpson,
Karen Elswood
and Regina
Harrison
participate in an
afternoon
breakout session
under the trees
of Philmont.



Connections ~

The Trailblazers



Ready for the Trail.



In 1986, eight men traveled to Irving, Texas, to the National Boy Scout office to request Church of Christ religious emblem awards be available to scouts.

"We wanted to develop a curriculum that fit our biblical understanding, traditions, and needs — a program that was solely biblical and not just patriotic," said Charlie Marler, one of these eight Trailblazers.

It was the vision and perseverance of these men that gave birth to Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting. They developed the curriculum for the religious emblem awards that are the cornerstone of the recognition program administered by MCCS today.

To address the issue of funding, the Trailblazers each pledged to "give or get" gifts totaling \$1,000

each year to purchase printed materials, patches and medal awards for those who completed the curriculum. They also reached out to others who showed an interest in Scouting within the Churches of Christ.

In June of 1988, eight Scout leaders attended the Philmont Training Center's *Scouting in the Church's Ministry* conference near Cimarron, New Mexico. The seventh of such conferences took place July 16-22, 2006. To date, about 200 MCCS adult leaders have taken advantage of this training.

The Bible speaks of "giving honor to whom honor is due." This year MCCS celebrates 20 years of service, providing the perfect time to show honor to our original trustees, the Trailblazers who began this ministry.

The vision continues.



1) Don McClaugherty, Lowell Johnson, Lawrence Ray Smith, Gayle Reams, Charlie Marler, John Clardy, Jim Swafford (deceased), Ralph Wallace comprised the first MCCS Board of Trustees.

2) John Clardy, Jim Swafford (deceased), Gene Linder, Glen Johnson, Bobbie Lee Wolfe, Charlie Marler, Don McClaugherty, Ralph Wallace were the first MCCS members to attend Philmont, 1988.

Troop 73



Leader Sherry Luster has worked with the girls of GSUSA Troop 73 for three years.

Girl Scout Troop 73 in Mt. Pleasant, Texas is affiliated with Sheppard Street Church of Christ and places much focus on spiritual volunteerism.

Troop Leader Sherry Luster became involved in the troop when she began looking to sign up her daughter three years ago. That's when she connected the new troop to the Sheppard Street Church.

"I went to the church and asked some of the girls who were active in the youth group and their parents if they would be interested in Scouting," she said. "They signed up, and that's how we started."

Today the troop includes about 10 cadettes and senior scouts who spend much

of their time singing to the elderly in nursing homes and assisted living units. They've also volunteered at a domestic violence shelter in Mt. Pleasant and made visits to shut-ins.

"It's such a blessing to have a Girl Scout group filled with church members," Luster said. "Planning activities to help others is not a struggle because we are all on the same page."

Luster said the MCCS *Servant Leadership Series* has been instrumental in strengthening the faith of her troop.

"It's really nice to have something worthwhile to do, and I'm glad that young people can see that."

MCCS Facts

- 587 Church of Christ scouting units have been chartered across the United States.
- Thousands of Bibles have been distributed to scouts at national and regional jamborees.
- During the past two years, more than 500 Church of Christ Religious Emblem Awards were presented at award ceremonies.
- Gifts from generous friends are what make the facts presented above possible.



From the Heart Newsletter
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Editor: Kent Barnett, MCCS Executive Director
Managing Editor: Amy Wilson, James A. Ravanello & Associates

Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting
ACU Box 27938 • Abilene, TX 79699-7938
(325) 674-3739 • www.goodservant.org
e-mail: mccs@acu.edu