



MCCS NEWS

MEMBERS OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST FOR SCOUTING

MCCS PHILMONT CONFERENCE IS COMING SOON!

MCCS is actively planning its biennial Philmont Conference which will be held at the Philmont Training Center (PTC) in the foothills of the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northeastern New Mexico. Our conference is listed as the "Scouting in the Church of Christ" conference. **The dates are August 3-9, 2014. Register online by June 30th!** To register, go to www.myscouting.org and register under the Events link. Please refer to the Philmont Training Center website www.philmonttrainingcenter.org to learn more about your week at PTC.

This conference is for members of all MCCS affiliated programs and will provide valuable information for leaders affiliated with BSA, TLUSA, AHG, GSUSA and youth ministry. **If you are interested in attending, please email Kent Barnett at kent.barnett@goodservant.org or call Kent at 325-370-1679.** If you are not a member of BSA please contact Kent Barnett and he can discuss options available to you to allow you to attend this outstanding training opportunity.

MCCS has participated in conferences every even year since 1994, with the exception of the year 2010, when the conference was held in 2011 to celebrate our 25th anniversary.

The week provides a mountaintop experience for conference participants and their families. PTC provides a qualified, staffed program for families and participants of all ages. It's a great vacation for the whole family as well as the individual Scouter participating in the conference. Family friendly activities fill the evenings for those who desire to participate. It is an exciting environment for making memories and developing new friendships!

Kent Barnett, MCCS Executive Director, said he hopes the 2014 seminar can, "continue to improve relations between churches and Scouting, and inform Scouters about MCCS's ministries." There will also be opportunities for worship and singing, Barnett said, and, "obviously, we'll have plenty of fellowship."

For those family members not attending the seminar, Philmont offers various staffed activities for the entire family. As an option, youth aged 14 - 20 whose parent(s) attend(s) the Philmont 2014 conference will also be guaranteed a backpacking experience on a Mountain Trek, at



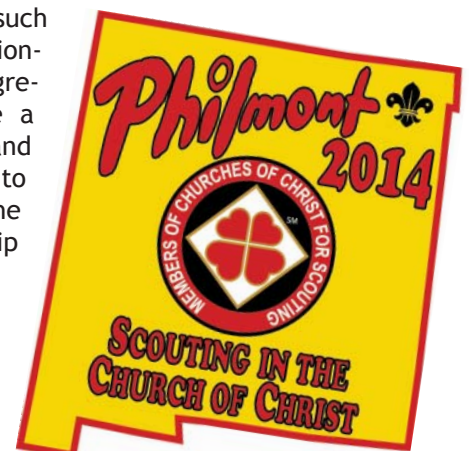
PHILMONT'S LEGENDARY TOOTH OF TIME LANDMARK

an additional cost. This is a great backcountry experience for young people.

PTC offers exciting, educational experiences for the entire family. Conference schedules permit ample time for family activities in the evenings. The participants will have Wednesday off to do Philmont activities such as hikes, horseback rides, handicraft, museum tours, shop the trading post or drive to nearby mountain towns such as Red River, Eagle's Nest and Taos.

There are staff-led programs for all ages during the day while the participant is in the conference training. Families eat three meals a day together in the dining hall. Spouses are kept busy with tours, hikes, crafts and activities - as many or as few as they choose to attend.

Conference participants will cover topics such as, developing relationships with local congregations to promote a scouting ministry and encouraging youth to utilize and earn the Servant Leadership Religious Awards.





MCCS is off and running in 2014! Our first big event occurred in February when many of the trustees descended on Abilene, TX for the annual trustees meeting. A two day workshop was held prior to the meeting during which trustees polished the recently revamped curriculum for the Good Servant Award. Bible study for the new version will focus on the book of Mark. If your son or daughter is currently working on the older version of the Good Servant curriculum, don't panic. They will still earn the award!

a note from Kent

One of the highlights of the February 15th meeting was the approval of an MCCS scholarship endowment. **To date, contributions of \$10,000 have been made toward this endowment which will provide scholarships to youth entering college.** MCCS will disperse its second round of scholarships during August of this year.

In March, Houston Costolo, our new national chairman, and I traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Tulsa Soul Winning Workshop. The MCCS exhibit was available to participants allowing them to learn more about the servant leadership religious awards.

April's Easter weekend saw ten trustees and advisory board members scattered around the country sharing the news about MCCS. These individuals manned MCCS exhibits at seven different locations of the Lads to Leaders and Leadership Training for Christ (LTC) events. These locations included: Louisville, Nashville, Atlanta, Orlando, Houston, and two in Dallas.

During May, five MCCS trustees attended national committee meetings during the Annual BSA meeting in Nashville. We are currently planning for the August 3-9 conference "Scouting in the Church of Christ" to be held at the Philmont Training Center in Cimarron, New Mexico.

As we enter the summer months our donations typically go down. We rely on your dedicated support and need you to prayerfully consider supporting MCCS this summer. Your contributions develop young people spiritually through this ministry. You can donate via mail or our website: www.goodservant.org using the 'About Us' link.

In service to youth,

Kent

Kent Barnett
MCCS National Executive Director



MCCS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KENT BARNETT OF ABILENE, TX, AND NEW CHAIR J. HOUSTON COSTOLO OF PICAYUNE, MS, WORKED TOGETHER AT THE MCCS BOOTH AT THE TULSA SOUL WINNING WORKSHOP THIS MARCH. KENT AND HOUSTON FIRST MET IN PERSON AT THE 2004 TULSA WORKSHOP WHEN HOUSTON BEGAN ACTIVELY WORKING WITH MCCS.

REPORT FROM NEW MCCS CHAIR

by J. Houston Costolo
MCCS National Chairman

During the weekend of February 13-15, 2014 the trustees of MCCS convened on the campus of Abilene Christian University for their annual business meeting. On Thursday under the guidance of Dr. Jerry Strader, the trustees completed the revision and review of the GOOD SERVANT religious award curriculum. Additionally, they compiled the draft copy of the Counselor/Mentor Guide for the Good Servant curriculum, which will serve as the template to develop additional guides for the remainder of the award curricula. On Friday, standing and special committees convened to develop plans for the 2014 Philmont Conference, Chaplaincy, and Communications. Later that evening a general working session for all Trustees and Advisory Board members included discussions on the relationship between MCCS and Trail Life USA, MCCS branding and marketing, and suggestions for the way-ahead for MCCS.

At the beginning of our business meeting on Saturday, we were pleased to be welcomed to campus by Dr. Phil Shubert, President of Abilene Christian University. The remainder of the day was completely filled by committee reports and the review of financial standing and adoption of a budget for 2014. Two new trustees were added to the board, Roger Tate and John McCollum. At the 2013 National Scout Jamboree, Roger served as a Subcamp Chaplain while John served on the MCCS booth exhibit staff. We are excited to have their perspectives as trustees. Duvar Brock, Steve Leddy, Nathan Williams, and I were re-elected as trustees to a four year term. Additional topics that generated lively discussion included the use of social media and the implementation of the new MCCS website which will enable on-line donations and marketing of MCCS products. Thanks to Dr. Denise Barnett and the wonderful lunch she prepared, we were able to continue working. During lunch, Phil Waldron of Mission Upreach presented aspects of an outreach effort in Honduras which may provide an opportunity for Churches of Christ/MCCS members to evangelize a lost world. **Phil has translated the Good Servant curriculum material into Spanish for use by those congregations that might have a desire to reach into their Spanish speaking communities.**

Many of you may know that at the 2013 annual meeting, it was agreed that Steve Leddy would remain as chairman throughout 2013 and that in 2014 I would then complete the year as Chairman. At the conclusion of our annual meeting, I officially accepted the position and am now beginning to understand and appreciate the time and energy that Steve has provided to MCCS. I want to thank him for his tenure as chairman and look forward to his continued service on the executive committee as past-chairman. 2013 was an extremely difficult time for Steve and Kent as we navigated through the unknown waters of the change in the membership policy of the Boy Scouts of America. Over the past year MCCS has strengthened our partner-

ships with American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA while maintaining our support to the Boy Scout and Girl Scout units associated with the Churches of Christ as they continue to provide **Godly Leadership** to youth across the nation. Thank you all for your service.

I am honored to serve as your chairman and "will endeavor, so far as in my power lies" to serve the cause of Christ in a lost and dying world. I ask you to keep our young people, their families, their congregations and MCCS in your prayers. Oh, by the way...I hope to see you at Philmont this summer.



J. HOUSTON COSTOLO
MCCS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

The first time Houston Costolo crossed paths with MCCS was in 1989 at the National Jamboree when he lead the singing at the Church of Christ Sunday morning worship service. In 2002, Kent Barnett encouraged Houston to take an active part in MCCS. He has served as a Subcamp Chaplain at the 2005, 2010 and 2013 National Jamborees. Since 2010 he served as a trustee of MCCS and was asked in 2011 to serve as a member of the Religious Relationships Task Force of the Boy Scouts of America.

Houston joined Cub Scout Pack 50 of Pitcairn, Pennsylvania, in 1959 and has had continuous membership since that time. So if you are counting he has been in the program for 55 years. He is an Eagle Scout who earned his God and Country Award in 1965. He is a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow and was elected Anicus Lodge Chief in 1970. Houston served as Scoutmaster for over 13 years, as well as, in various District and Council positions. In 1995 he served as the Woodbadge Course director. In 1980, he was honored by the Pine Burr Area Council with the Silver Beaver Award and has served on the Council Executive Board since that time. He currently serves on the council executive committee. He has attended 17 World and National Jamborees and currently also serves as the Southern Region Area1 Jamboree Chairman.

Houston is a retired oceanographer, who worked 31 years at the Naval Oceanographic Office, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi. He lives in Picayune, Mississippi, with his wife Elaine. Their children are married and live in Ballston Spa, NY and Little Rock AR. Houston and Elaine are members of the Picayune Church of Christ where he has served three generations of students as a Jr/Sr High Sunday School teacher and as an elder since 1997.

2014 MCCS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In 2013, MCCS was able to fulfill one of our longtime goals. The trustees decided that it was time to step out in faith and provide college scholarships to deserving young people involved in the scouting movement who had been active in earning MCCS's Servant Leadership Awards. This year we established a separate endowment to help us in this new endeavor to continue to serve youth. The board feels that this is one more way that MCCS can serve young people and encourage them to earn the top-level Servant Leadership Awards.

The young people pictured here are three outstanding scouts from across this country who applied for and received scholarships from MCCS ranging from \$1000 to \$2000. All of these young people earned the top award in their branch of scouting and they all earned either the Good Servant or the Giving Servant awards from the MCCS Servant Leadership Series.

MCCS is proud to announce that in 2015 it will again be offering scholarships to entering freshmen. You can obtain application information from the scholarship link on the MCCS website, www.goodservant.org.

The MCCS Board of Trustees is thankful that it has the opportunity to serve young people in their educational pursuits and hopes and prays that it will continue to be able to provide young people with scholarships that will enhance their futures. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship endowment please contact MCCS Executive Director Kent Barnett.



NATHANIEL GLAZE OF WAYNESVILLE, OH
EAGLE SCOUT, GIVING SERVANT
SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CHRIS MURPHY OF ANKENY, IA
EAGLE SCOUT, GOOD SERVANT
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



CORA WILSON OF RICKMAN, TN
AHG STARS AND STRIPES AWARD, GIVING SERVANT
TENNESSEE TECH UNIVERSITY

AWARD RECIPIENTS

PICTURED ARE THE WEISSES, A LIVERMORE, CA, SCOUTING FAMILY. ON SCOUT SUNDAY ON FEBRUARY 2, AT THE TRI-VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST MOM, ORINDA, AND DAD, PHILLIP, RECEIVED THEIR FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARDS AND SONS, GARRAN (L) AND JONATHAN (R) WERE AWARDED THEIR GIVING SERVANT AWARDS. **BOTH YOUNG MEN HAVE EARNED ALL FOUR SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS!**



AHG MEMBERS RILEY AND JAYLYN GUSTAFSON OF CHANTILLY, VA, EARNED THEIR LOVING AND JOYFUL SERVANT AWARDS RESPECTIVELY.



WILL AND LANDON BOYD OF HUNTSVILLE, AL, EARNED THEIR EAGLE SCOUT RANKS.



GIRL SCOUT KENDRA BOUNDS OF KILGORE, TX, WAS AWARDED HER GIVING SERVANT AT THE CHANDLER STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST. SHE IS PICTURED HERE WITH HER FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTER.



AARON WILSON OF RICKMAN, TN, EARNED HIS EAGLE SCOUT AND GIVING SERVANT AWARD. HE IS PICTURED HERE AT A DINNER HONORING MIDDLE TENNESSEE COUNCIL'S LARGEST EAGLE CLASS EVER.



TENNESSEE GIRL SCOUTS EARN SECOND AWARD

In 2011, four girls from the North Boulevard Church of Christ Girl Scout Troop in Murfreesboro, TN, began working on their Servant Leadership awards. At that time, they were 3rd grade, Brownie scouts, working towards the Loving Servant award. They began their two month spiritual journey with daily Bible readings, helping with the preschool Bible study classes and serving in other capacities in the community. The girls participated in the local Meals on Wheels (M.O.W.) program by sending cards to the M.O.W. recipients and helping with deliveries. In March 2012, Mollie Kate Creech, Taylor Kulaszewski, Emma Pullias and Carrie Simmons received their Loving Servant awards.



During the summer of 2013, three of these girls began working on the curriculum for the Joyful Servant award. They brought visitors to church, had group Bible discussions, and continued with daily Bible readings. The girls also spent some time getting to know themselves and developing their relationships with God. In their service to others, the girls continued with their M.O.W. participation as well as being a part of the church's W.A.T.S. (We Are The Sermon) ministry. This is a yearly activity where the church goes into the community to share fellowship with those in need. For example, some W.A.T.S. groups help the elderly with home maintenance and yard work while other groups focus on cleaning up

TAYLOR KULASZAWSKI, CARRIE SIMMONS AND MOLLIE KATE CREECH WITH LONGTIME GIRL SCOUT LEADER ELLIE VERMILLION AT THE GIRLS' JOYFUL SERVANT AWARD CEREMONY IN MARCH. ALL THREE YOUNG WOMEN HAVE ALSO EARNED THE LOVING SERVANT AWARD.

public areas such as playgrounds. In February 2014, Mollie Kate Creech, Taylor Kulaszewski and Carrie Simmons earned their Joyful Servant awards.

Mandy Hayes, one of their scout leaders said, "As a scout leader (and parent of one) of these girls, I am truly blessed to see them blossom into servants of God. They have shown great dedication and commitment to His word and I could not be more proud of them!"

OKLAHOMA TRAIL LIFE POINT MAN HONORED



FAITHFUL SERVANT MIKE FLOWERS WAS HONORED AT A SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15TH DINNER IN OKLAHOMA CITY. MIKE IS THE POINT MAN FOR TRAIL LIFE USA FOR OKLAHOMA WHERE HE HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANIZING 20 NEW TRAIL LIFE TROOPS. MIKE WAS PRESENTED A COMMEMORATIVE RIFLE AND LEATHER SHIELD INSCRIBED WITH THE COLOSSIANS 1:10 WHICH CONTAINS THE TRAIL LIFE MOTTO "WALK WORTHY." FORMER MCCS TRUSTEE GAYLE REAMS IS SHOWN PRESENTING MIKE WITH THE SHIELD AND DOUGLAS FLETCHER IS PICTURED PRESENTING HIM WITH THE RIFLE.

GOOD SERVANT CURRICULA REVISION

MCCS has always recognized that it needs to keep its curricula current and relevant to today's youth and families. We want to empower young people with biblical knowledge, understanding and a desire to embody the servant leadership principles that Jesus Christ personified. In 2013, Dr. Jerry Strader, former chair of MCCS, led a group consisting of the board of trustees and advisory board working with biblical scholars and educators in exploring how we might revise the Good Servant program to make it more age appropriate for the targeted middle-school audience.

This was a yearlong effort that has yielded a remarkable new curriculum with our first ever counselor guide. **Our goal was to create a new program that was biblical, achievable and engaging to bring young people to a greater understanding of the servanthood that Jesus Christ models for all of us.**

After discussion, consultation, and prayer, **we decided to focus the curriculum on the Gospel of Mark** and we used that book to form the requirements and discussion of servant leadership. It is our hope that this new curriculum will help sixth, seventh and eighth graders engage with the Bible and understand and internalize that the call to servant leadership is one that is rooted in the very character and nature of Jesus Christ and that he exemplified it throughout his ministry. The text consistently presents Jesus in terms of the "servant" mentioned in Philippians.

We released the revised curriculum and counselor guide in time for the LTC and Lads to Leaders Easter weekend events. **It is now available by request through our website, www.goodservant.org.**

From our earliest discussions on the Gospel of Mark:

Crucial to understanding Mark's Jesus is the underlying theme of his being misunderstood. His closest disciples, the crowds, and Roman leaders view him as a Jewish insurrectionist who would defeat the Romans dominating the country, overthrow corrupt Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, and set up the kingdom of Israel much as it had been centuries before under King David. It is precisely this mistaken view that leads Jewish leaders to try to destroy Jesus' growing influence among the people, and to begin seeking ways to kill him.

Throughout Mark, when a person or group misunderstands Jesus, there always follows an account in which Jesus helps—serves—heals a leper, a deaf man, a sick woman, a boy with an unclean spirit. Jesus models his view of discipleship.

As the Gospel of Mark moves toward the final week of Jesus' life, Jesus begins to state more pointedly, his understanding of discipleship in terms of being servants. Jesus' view comes to a head at Mark 10:43-45, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be

your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the servant of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." As one scholar said regarding Mark's Jesus, **"Service is not the path to greatness, it is greatness."** In Mark 16 the final statements of Jesus are with the necessity of confessing and being baptized. Here is a great place for the counselor to have a more complete discussion about just what it means to be baptized and the Christian journey of being a servant.

By concentrating on this motif in the Gospel of Mark, one can see clearly from the life and teaching of Jesus himself how important service is to genuine discipleship and clearly in instance after instance how Jesus went about doing service. Ample accounts in Mark would enable one to reflect on ancient situations and draw parallels to how Jesus might approach current situations. **This would make possible genuine servant leadership.**

We are excited about this new curriculum and we welcome feedback from counselors, youth and parents as they work with it and MCCS.

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IS IT TIME TO LEVEL UP?

MCCS loves it when a young person completes one of our servant leadership awards, but we do not want their Bible study to stop there. We provide curricula that will enrich a young person's spiritual walk throughout their formative years. The Servant Leadership series is designed to help and reinforce an attitude of prayer and Bible study in young people that will create a pattern of spiritual growth that will last a lifetime.

The Servant Leadership Series includes:

- Loving Servant - Grades 1-3
- Joyful Servant - Grades 4-6
- Good Servant - Grades 6-8
- Giving Servant - Grades 9-12 & Venturers

The curricula are designed to be used in a one-on-one format or in a group setting where one counselor works with several youth. Each curriculum level can also be adapted to serve as a Bible Class curriculum. All young people will benefit from the habits that they develop in these programs. They do not have to be enrolled in a scouting program to participate.

Go to www.goodservant.org to order the **Servant Leadership Series**, and look for more information about the programs.

FIRST OKLAHOMA AHG STARS AND STRIPES!



Hannah Johnson is American Heritage Girl's FIRST Stars and Stripes recipient in the state of Oklahoma!

Hannah was the first member of AHG Troop OK0405 and a driving force in chartering it when it formed in January 2006. The unit is chartered to the Wilshire Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. Hannah has earned the Giving Servant. She is the daughter of Craig and Kara Johnson and attends Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmund, OK.