



The Gathering of **EAGLES**

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2009

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Our 2008 Eagle Scout Class had 1,029 new Eagle Scouts.
- Nationally each year approximately 50,000 Scouts earn the Eagle Rank
- Over 22,000 names now appear on the Sam Houston Area Council Eagle Wall.
- NESA awards approximately 85 scholarships each year.

Thanks to professional photographer **Edward Mize** for capturing these images of the event. Ed can be contacted at: elmize@sbcglobal.net

EAGLE GATHERING—MINUTE MAID PARK

On May 12, 2009 more than 700 Eagle Scouts of all ages attended **The 2009 Gathering of Eagles**, “From many walks of life, one rare achievement and a common calling” at Minute Maid Park. Many thanks to Drayton McLane Jr. and the Houston Astros organization for opening the ball park for this magical event.

Distinguished Eagle Scout and NASA Astronaut Michael Fossum provided the keynote address. Other speakers included Eagle Scouts: Larry Kellner, Chairman and CEO of Continental Airlines, Frank D. Tsuru, President and CEO of Momentum Energy and Chairman of The Gathering of Eagles Association in Houston, the Rev. Monsignor Frank Rossi, Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and Pastor at St. Michael Church, and David Weekley, Chairman of David Weekley Homes. Giff Nielson, father of three Eagle Scout sons and local sports celebrity, was emcee for the event.

With the roof open over Minute Maid Park, and a spring breeze wafting through the stadium, it was truly a magical venue for the Gathering of Eagles.

David Weekley hit a home run with his inspirational call to action. “We are from all walks of life and yet we share a common bond and a common calling: to ensure that the next generation of young men is blessed with the opportunity to walk the Scouting path to higher values.” More than 100 pledged at the event to actively promote the 100th Anniversary of Scouting celebration next February. Twelve committed to organize a new scout pack or troop and 91 have made financial pledges totaling \$28,720.

The Sam Houston Area Council thanks each and every Eagle Scout volunteer and contributor, with special thanks to the five corporate sponsors of the event: Cameron International, Frontier Oil, Plains Exploration & Production Co., Continental Airlines and especially the Houston Astros.—Rob Bartlett, Chairman, The Gathering of Eagles—Public Relations



OUTDOOR CAMP FACILITIES

The Sam Houston Area Council owns and operates five outstanding camp properties. During 2008 our camps provided an outdoor experience for over 40,272 Scouts and adult volunteers, with a total of 85,889 nights of camping.

Each camp provides a unique experience. Camp Strake located in Conroe Texas is still our number one weekend camp. Over the past several years, numerous improvements have been made including new restrooms, water and sewer upgrades, road repairs, the addition of a Grand Lake Dining Hall, and campsite program pavilions. El Rancho Cima, west of San Marcos and across the Devil's Backbone, continues to provide a Texas Hill country camping experience at Cockrell River Camp and Walters Scout Camp at Horseshoe Bend. Improvements to El Rancho Cima include new restroom facilities, campsite improvements, new dining flies, refurbished W.L. Davis Scoutmaster Training Center, and a state of the art JC Walter Shooting Sports Complex. Camp Brosig, nestled on 98 acres in Sealy Texas, is widely used for district Camporees, district Day Camps, Cub Scout Family camping and for Boy Scout Troop camping. Through the dedicated volunteers at Camp Brosig, a pavilion with a new kitchen was recently completed. The Bovay Scout Ranch just South of Navasota, Texas is celebrating its tenth year as the premiere Cub Scout Camp in the nation. Camp Hamman near Bandera, Texas provides older scouts with a high adventure experience.

Over the years, our camping facilities have been an integral part of Scouts learning life's lessons and building memories that last a lifetime through outdoor experiences. If you are interested in helping us continue the legacy please contact Jordan Ray, Director of Program Services at 713.756.3302 or Jordan.ray@shac.org.



Photo's : Edward Mize.



Current Eagle Scout Requirements

- Be active for 6 months after earning the Life Rank
- Demonstrate that you live by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law
- Earn a total of 21 Merit Badges with 12 being specifically required
- Serve in a leadership position
- Plan, develop and give leadership in a service project
- Take part in a Scoutmaster Review
- Successfully complete an Eagle board of review

AN ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING

Save the date! On February 18, 2010 we honor our past, celebrate the present and introduce our plans to build the future of Scouting. Join us as we focus our Scouting message for the future and highlight our contributions to increase interest and support from the community. The event will include a VIP reception with Celebrity Eagle Scouts, an exhibit of original Scouting paintings by Norman Rockwell and Joseph Csatari, and special guests to be announced. More Information and how you can participate will follow soon!—Lynda Sanders

DISTINGUISHED FAMILY DINNER

On November 19, 2009, the Distinguished Family Awards Dinner will recognize the legacy and years of service to our community by the Cockrell family. This black tie affair will be at the Hilton Americas. For more information contact James Johnson at 713.756.3315.

EAGLE SPIRIT: FRIENDS OF SCOUTING

The Gathering of Eagles event at Minute Maid Park was tremendous...a definite HOMERUN! But let's not stop there...

As Chairman of the Gathering of Eagles Friends of Scouting campaign, I have accepted the task of helping to harness the success—reflection, networking, and call to action—of that special evening. Many of you who attended the event have indicated that you would like to donate your time, talents, or treasures. Some of you contributed to one or all of these necessities—every bit helps and saying “Thank You” does not express adequately one’s gratitude—but Thank YOU!

The Boy Scouts of America has earned the reputation over the years of being one of the premier charitable organizations in the traditional annual giving campaign arena. The annual enrollment campaign called Friends of Scouting has evolved from the successful experience of local councils. The 2009 Operating Budget is \$12,827,452 and Friends of Scouting has become the largest source of income for our council.

You generously contributed \$28,720 on the night of our Gathering of Eagles Event—that’s very special and well on our way to hitting our goal of \$75,000 by August 31, 2009.

My suggested goal is to have 100% participation in our Eagle Scout campaign—\$1, \$5, \$20, \$100, \$10,000, \$25,000, or any other dollar amount. Some of you may work for a company that has a matching gift program...we can help you fill out the paperwork if necessary.

Please consider making a financial contribution to this Eagle Scout campaign today. *Support the organization that continues to foster an environment which turns young boys into successful men much in the same way you experienced from your time in scouting.*

To make your contribution, please follow this link: <https://www.samhoustonbsa.org/HOME/FORMS/DONATIONFORM/>

If you are willing to help me in this short campaign or have questions, please give me a call at 979.695.3007 or 800.234.7620. —Kinch Meyer, Chairman, The Gathering of Eagles—Friends of Scouting

SOARING WITH EAGLES

Most of us have heard the quote, “No one can predict to what heights we can soar. Even you will not know until you spread your wings!” This phrase certainly speaks to the Eagle Scouts in Sam Houston Area Council. We’ve recently enjoyed a memorable evening at Minute Maid Park dedicated exclusively to those who have reached the pinnacle in Scouting. Each of us made a commitment to give back to Scouting when we became an Eagle. Now is the time to “spread your wings of service” through time, talent or treasures to Sam Houston Area Council! Be a part of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting and continue soaring with Eagles!

How do you soar? By committing to help start a new unit, serve on your District Committee, become a Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, or Venture Advisor, or a unit committee member. Your Scouting career was exceptional BECAUSE someone said, “yes, I’ll help the youth in my community through service to Scouting.” You’ve experienced a part of your legacy as a youth...now, continue strengthening that legacy through your adult service to Scouting! If you did not commit at the event you can get involved by visiting www.samhoustonbsa.org/home/forms/gatheringofeagles-comm/ or by calling John McNamee at 713.756.3312.

—Stan Stanley, Council Commissioner



Photo: Edward Mize



Photo: Edward Mize

Boy Scouts of America
Sam Houston Area Council
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PICTURES FROM EAGLE GATHERING



How Many Are Eagle Scouts? All of Them!



Astronaut, Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout Mike Fossum



Eagle Scout Larry Kellner and Chairman and CEO, Continental Airlines



Master of Ceremonies and Father of three Eagle Scout Sons—Giff Nielsen



Eagle Scout, Event Chair, CEO Momentum Energy—Frank Tsuru



Eagle Challenge by Eagle Scout David Weekley, Chairman, David Weekley Homes

Photo's by: Edward Mize.

Visit the Sam Houston Area Council: www.samhoustonbsa.org or call 713.659.8111



ONCE AN EAGLE SCOUT ... ALWAYS AN EAGLE SCOUT