

Celebrating 100 Years of Contributions by the BSA

DATE AND TIME

Wednesday 24 February 2010 / 330PM-5PM

SPEAKER(S)

Steve Harris
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SESSION DESCRIPTION

A century of scouting has made definite impacts on the world's young men, but also on many local park and recreation agencies in the projects performed by an army of young volunteers committed to community service. Hear the history and hopes for the future behind one of the world's most influential youth programs, and how it has helped public parks.

Steve Harris and Matthew Thornton gave a presentation on the history of Boy Scouts in the United States. They showed a brief video about the Boy Scouts of America which focused on five goals of scouting, including leadership, character, environmental stewardship and achievement. They spoke about the different age groups in scouting and how boys moved from the Cub Scouting program into the Boy Scouting program and then on to an Eagle Scout or perhaps becoming an adult leader. They also spoke about the Boy Scouts' partnerships with charities such as Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross. Also noted was Arrow Corps 5, which was an initiative where the Scouts teamed up with five National Forests and spent a couple of weeks completing service projects within the forests such as trailblazing and building bridges. The presenters urged the park professionals to seek out their local Scout packs in order to team up and help advance scouting as well as help to revitalize and improve parks.

SESSION LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the role that the scouting movement has had on parks and recreation.
- Understand how one individual scouting project can help to revitalize and improve a park.