

# **CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING**

## **SCOUTING IN BROCKWAY**

Boy Scouting has had a long history in the borough of Brockway. The first Boy Scout Troop to be organized was Troop 40 sponsored by Moorhead United Methodist Church on November 1, 1921. Since that time, many young men have been able to experience what the Boy Scouts of America has to offer.

The Boy Scouts of America has three different programs that currently serve the youth members. Cub Scouting is for young boys age seven to eleven and is designed to pursue the aims of character development, citizenship training and personal fitness. Boy Scouting is the oldest of the three programs and uses outdoor activities such as camping, aquatics and hiking to achieve the aims of character development, citizenship and personal fitness training. Venturing is the newest of the three programs. This program has its roots in the old Exploring program founded in 1998 and is a coeducational program for young men and women ages 14 thru 21. Its purpose is to provide positive experiences to help youth mature and to prepare them to become responsible adults.

Each program has its own unique advancement program. Cub Scouts can work on the traditional badges such as Tiger, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos or can earn different belt loops and badges from academics or sports. The highest award that a Cub Scout can earn is the Arrow of Light Badge. The Boy Scout program has its traditional merit badges and boys can earn the Eagle Scout Badge, the highest award a Boy Scout may earn. Venturing has its own unique advancement program where the young men and women become “experts” in an area of interest. The highest award in Venturing is the Silver Award.

Presently there are seven Scouting units serving the youth of the Brockway Area School District. Cub Scout Pack 34 and Scout Troop 34 sponsored by the Brockport United Methodist Church serves the Brockport area. Cub Scout Pack 35 and Boy Scout Troop 35 sponsored by the Beechwoods Presbyterian Church serves the boys living in the Beechwoods area. Cub Scout Pack 40, Boy Scout Troop 40 and Venture Crew 40 all sponsored by Moorhead United Methodist Church serves the Brockway area.

Brockway had other organizations that sponsored Boy Scout Troops and Explorer Posts. Boy Scout Troop 38, chartered by different organizations, was last chartered by CMA Church. Keith Brothers sponsored explorer Post 37. The Parson-Martini American Legion Post 95 sponsored explorer Post 40. St. Tobias Roman Catholic Church sponsored Boy Scout Troop 39. Boy Scout Troop 37, serving disabled Scouts, was sponsored by Moorhead United Methodist Church.

Several Brockway residents have had an important impact on the history of Scouting in both Brockway and the Bucktail Council. Edward J. Durbin was on the first executive board of the Bucktail Council. Glen and Ruth Mengle built the current GlenRu Lodge at Camp Mountain Run and the Current Bucktail Council office located in DuBois. The current Director’s Cabin at Camp Mountain Run was built and maintained by one of the Brockway Troops. Robert Strong led the first “Polar Bear” encampment a favorite activity of all Troops in the Bucktail Council since 1970.