

Rotary logo hitting the road to help Boy Scouts celebrate 100 years

The Rotary International logo will be seen over 45,000 miles of the United States beginning next year on an RV that celebrates a century of service by the Boy Scouts of America. The tour is called "A Century of Values."



Linda May

Service organizations and corporate sponsors help the RV get to all 321 BSA council homes to deliver to each a poster-size mural commemorating Scouting's 100th anniversary

which is Feb. 10, 2010. "The Simpsons" illustrator, Eagle Scout Bill Morrison, created the mural.

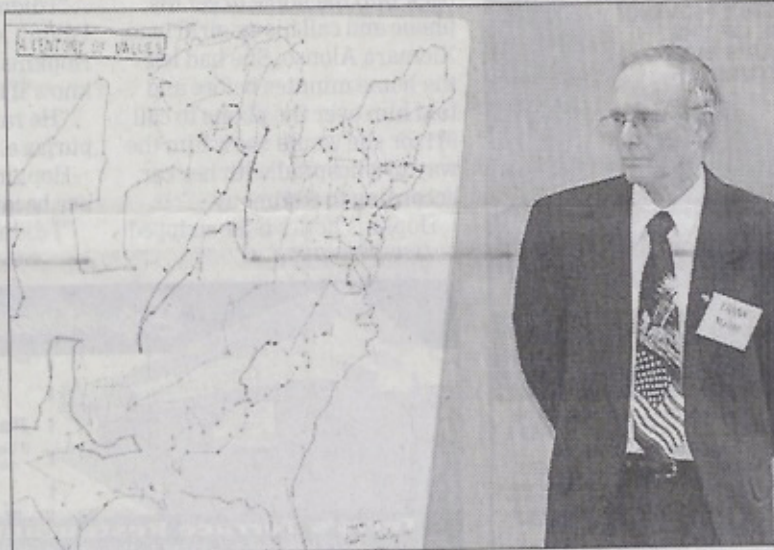
Fourteen teams of touring adult volunteers will emphasize small-town American values.

Rotary was the first charter partner of the BSA in 1918, but others that are instrumental in chartering and supporting troops include The American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, U.S. Jaycees, Kiwanis International, Lions Clubs International, Marine Corps League, Universal Masonic Order of the Eastern Star, Moose International Inc., Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Optimist International and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

There are 3.4 million Scouts and 1.5 million volunteers in 142,587 Scouting units, in 16,800 communities in all 50 states. In the past two years alone, Scouts have provided more than one million hours of community service.

Eleven percent of American boys are currently Scouts and 54 percent of men were Boy Scouts.

Warren Rotary Club member Frank Mallon germinated the idea



Warren Rotary Club member Frank Mallon is a planner of "A Century of Values" nationwide tour to promote the Boy Scouts of America's 100th anniversary with the help of service organizations and businesses.

for the tour to carry the BSA message. Mallon has had reunions for 48 years with 15 fellow Scouts from his hometown of Laingsburg, Mich.

"You don't even remember what rank you had or what badges you had; you remember all the fun you had, and we all have stories to tell," he said.

Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2005 and is helping the Boy Scouts celebrate its 100 years of turning boys into dependable and responsible men.

"Boy Scouts is the best-kept secret in America," Eagle Scout Mallon said. "If more people followed Scout law, we would not have the problems we have in our schools.

"Go to a Scout camp and see the challenges these young men face. A good share of them become leaders of America. There's no limit to what a young man can do, whether it's having an adventure or taking a leadership role.

"If a Scout troop is run right, the boys are running the troop. The boys

plan the events and structure. They make their own mistakes; that's how they learn. Adults are there to supervise and give advice but not to direct them. Young people don't want to be told what to do, they want to do it themselves and that's what they get to do in Scouting," he said.

Even though several major corporations donated the RV and a minivan, some fuel, maintenance and mural expenses, organizers are fund-raising to get more donations to offset trip costs.

The Warren Rotary donated \$1,000 and the Macomb County Rotary Foundation matched the amount.

"We are hoping to raise \$25,000," Mallon said.

The Warren Kiwanis Club and the Kiwanis Club of Shorewood in St. Clair Shores have already contributed.

The tour teams set out on Feb. 8, 2009.

After Mallon's first stop next year in Laingsburg in Shiawasee County, he hopes to get recognition at the

state Capitol before heading to the Clinton Valley Council in Pontiac that oversees Scouting activities of Macomb and Oakland youngsters.

Mallon's "Team One" then will go through Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas, visiting 34 councils in 37 days.

"I look at it as we are the Olympics torch traveling around to get everyone cranked up for the massive celebration at the National Jamboree in 2010 with about 40,000 Scouts in attendance," Mallon said. That occurs just outside of Washington, D.C.

"If we are lucky enough, we will present our next president, he or she, with the very first mural that we have printed," he said.

The trip ends in Irving, Texas, at the National Boy Scout Museum. For information, see www.centuryofvalues.com or write Mallon at 23947 Lynwood St., Novi, MI 48374.

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