

## MEMBER NEWS

### Focus on a Federation Member: The Raven Knob Boy Scout Museum

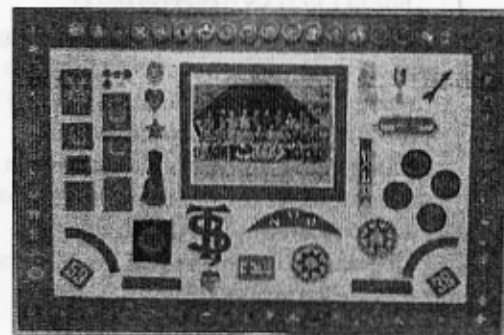
By Ken Badgett, Historian, Old Hickory Council, Boy Scouts of America

On the first Monday evening of any Boy Scout's first full week at Camp Raven Knob, located about an hour northwest of Winston-Salem, a choice must be made. Will the Scout take a "knob hike" to the overlook on Raven Knob for a panoramic view of the Blue Ridge Mountains? Will he go for a cool swim in Lake Sobotta after a hot day of activities? Will he sit on the Trading Post's porch for several hours talking and joking with friends while eating popcorn and drinking "Mountain Dew" slushies, or will he roam among the camp museum's artifacts and visual presentations?

For the committee of volunteers that manages the Raven Knob Boy Scout Museum, the hope is that Boy Scout campers will hike and swim and talk and eat, then come to the camp museum when they want to know more about the historical context of their summer camp lives. Several summers may pass before any particular camper thinks very much about the camp's or Scouting's history or even before enough time can be squeezed out of his busy schedule for a visit; but, when that time comes, the museum is ready for his interest.

When a Scout looks at the patch that he receives for attending summer camp in 2010, he can compare it at the museum to all of Raven Knob's patches that have been issued since the camp's first summer in 1954. If he wants to see his father's application for the Eagle Scout Award from the 1960s, he might find it in the museum's archive. Maybe he wants to read the third edition of the *Boy Scout Handbook* (now in its twelfth edition) or an article from 1980 in *Boy's Life Magazine*. If he is making a new outfit for a campfire ceremony, he might use one in the museum's collection from the 1970s as a pattern.

The Raven Knob Boy Scout Museum opened in 1998 as a service project of the Old Hickory Council's Historical Association, which was created by the council's governing board in 1994. The Old Hickory Council is one of eleven Boy Scout administrative areas (known as councils) in North Carolina. It was organized in 1912 to serve Scouts in the city of Winston-Salem and was expanded to serve Scouts in eight counties as far north as Mount Airy and Sparta and as far west as North Wilkesboro and Boone. The Raven Knob Museum collects, preserves, and displays Scouting documents and memorabilia from this specific geographic area within the state and attempts to broadly connect that material to regional, national, and international themes in Scouting's history.



*The Raven Knob Museum collects, preserves, and displays local Scouting memorabilia, such as patches, photos, books, flags, neckerchiefs, and more.*

In 2007, during the worldwide Scouting movement's centenary, Camp Raven Knob hosted a staff member from Great Britain (Scouting's birthplace) through the International Camp Staff Program. Of course, the British staffer brought centenary flags, neckerchiefs, and patches for display. This year, 2010, the centennial year of the Boy Scouts of America, the Historical Association and camp museum have been pleased to support the successful nomination of Stanley Harris, via his prominent national Scouting career, for commemoration on a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker, which will be placed on King Street in Boone in the fall. Harris was the founder and the first national director of the BSA's Interracial Service from 1926 until 1947. For more information about Harris, please visit [www.ncmarkers.com](http://www.ncmarkers.com).

The Raven Knob Boy Scout Museum is open to the public in conjunction with the camp's visitation days for parents; this summer the museum will be open for seven Wednesday afternoons/evenings from June 23 through August 4, from 2 p.m. until 8 p.m. Visitors are also welcome to stay for a "Wednesday Night Campfire" in the spacious Vaughn-Woltz Order of the Arrow Arena; the campfires begin at 8:15 pm. All other visits are by appointment via our website.

For more information about the museum, the camp, or the Old Hickory Council, please visit [www.boy Scoutmuseum.us](http://www.boy Scoutmuseum.us), [www.ravenknob.com](http://www.ravenknob.com), and [www.oldhickorycouncil.org](http://www.oldhickorycouncil.org). Learn more about the Boy Scouts of America and the centennial event schedule at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).