

A RESOLUTION

Designating May 2016 as "Boy Scout Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training in approximately 280 local councils; and

WHEREAS, Originating in England under the guidance of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Boy Scouts grew from Lord Baden-Powell's desire to convert his military prowess into a nonmilitary nature skills development opportunity for boys; and

WHEREAS, Newspaper publisher William D. Boyce lost his way in a London fog and was aided by one of Lord Baden-Powell's young scouts, becoming so impressed by the young fellow's skill and cordiality that he founded the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910, so that American boys could likewise develop survival skills; and

WHEREAS, President William Howard Taft became the first honorary president of the BSA, and Theodore Roosevelt was the organization's first honorary vice-president; and

WHEREAS, For more than a century, Scouting has been an ongoing adventure that teaches a powerful set of real-life skills and develops fundamental qualities that help young people become "Prepared. For Life."; and

WHEREAS, Today, the organization is composed of nearly 2.5 million youth members between the ages of 6 and 20 and approximately 960,000 volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories; and

WHEREAS, Boy Scouts is a multilevel organization, with approximately 1.3 million Cub Scouts ages 6 to 10 and approximately 885,000 Boy Scouts ages 11 to 17; and

WHEREAS, Venturing and Exploring are additional BSA programs that provide individuals under the age of 21 with adventure and career experiences to further shape them into responsible and caring adults; and

WHEREAS, The BSA offers rank advancement and merit badge awards to foster athleticism, nature and survival skills, and citizenship development as a means of encouraging maturity, capability, and self-confidence; and

WHEREAS, The highest attainable rank in the BSA is the Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, Scouts must demonstrate proficiency in leadership, service, and outdoor skills at multiple levels before achieving the Eagle rank; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the 21 life skills merit badges required to earn the Eagle Scout rank, each Scout must complete an extensive service project that he plans, organizes, leads, and manages before his 18th birthday; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, Eagle Scout projects provided more than \$183 million in service to communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Collectively, Scouts across America recorded more than 14 million hours of service to their communities in 2014, at a value of more than \$323 million; and

WHEREAS, Since joining the Messengers of Peace program in 2013, the BSA has joined Scouts worldwide to contribute more than 600 million hours of community service; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the BSA is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law; and

WHEREAS, The Scout Oath states that, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." and

WHEREAS, Scout Law requires that a Scout is "trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent." and

WHEREAS, Many great citizens of our nation and Commonwealth have been Boy Scouts, and 4% of them went on to receive the Eagle Scout award; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That, in recognition of the role Boy Scouts has played in our nation and Commonwealth, the House of Representatives designate May 2016 as "Boy Scout Month" in Pennsylvania.