

November 2, 2009

Dear Scouters and Volunteers:

Youth membership is the life blood of Scouting. The Abraham Lincoln Council, Boy Scouts of America serves the youth of Central Illinois through 184 units (Packs, Troops, Crews, Posts). These units enable the Council to serve approximately 4,000 youth. All who are contributing to the success of these units are to be commended.

**Did You Know:**

Many Packs are not affiliated with a Troop.

Many Troops do not have a Venture Crew.

There are many youth who have not been invited to join an Explorer Post.

There is much we can do to further the influence of Scouting in the Council.

Recently, Charlie Rice has worked to reestablish Pack 101 at Washington School in Jacksonville. This unit is now functioning and offering the scouting program to youth in the Jacksonville area. Have you been thinking of starting up a new unit? Do you want to start a Pack at your church or school? Are you interested in forming a Venture Crew to provide further opportunities for the older youth in your Troop? Do you have an interest in helping youth explore career opportunities through an Explorer Post? We want to encourage and assist you in offering these scouting opportunities for the youth in your area.

The National Boy Scouts of America offers the **William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award** to those who establish a unit. This knot adds to your uniform, but also demonstrates your commitment to the Scouting program.



The requirements for this award are explained on the following web site:

<http://www.boyscouttrail.com/square-knots.asp#boyce>

If you have previously started a unit and did not receive this award, or if you are interested in starting a new unit, please **contact your District Professional at the Scout Office (217-529-2727)**. They can assist you in this endeavor.

When we all contribute to the Scouting cause, more youth are served and the Scouting program makes a greater impact in the area. When more youth are served, your community, and the region becomes better served through future leaders and volunteers. Help inspire more youth to achieve greater success through the Scouting program!

Thank you for all you do for Scouting in Central Illinois!!

Sincerely,

Arlan R. Juhl  
Council Membership Chairperson