

# Strong Scouting Strengthens Communities

75th Anniversary Report on the Boy Scout Programs  
of Vicksburg, Michigan  
Vicksburg United Methodist Church  
1940-2015

**Cub Scout Pack 251 and Boy Scout Troop 251**  
Michigan Crossroads Council  
Southern Shores Field Service Council - Pathfinder District  
Boy Scouts of America  
[www.vicksburg-scouting.org](http://www.vicksburg-scouting.org)





# The History of Vicksburg Troop 251 actually starts in 1917...

Reverend Glenn Carpenter was a pastor for the Presbyterian Church from 1916 until he went into the First World War in 1917. Upon his return, Reverend Carpenter called together a group of men from his church; which included Ray Haas, Chas Clark, Dr. Clint Scott, Dr. Frank Collar, John Raynor, Glenn Porter, Harry Clark, and Max Hill. After considerable planning, Reverend Carpenter invited a group of boys to discuss chartering a Scout Troop.

The meeting was a success, not only had troop 51 been born, but a long dispute between the Polish boys and the other boys of the community had vanished. Before the starting of the Troop, the boys spent their Saturday mornings at the gravel pit hurling rocks at one another. After the chartering, the Polish boys and others worked and played together in activities in and out of Scouting.

In the 1920's, a Kalamazoo Scouter by the name of Major Miller came to Vicksburg to instruct a fife and drum bugle corp in Troop 51. In the latter part of the 20's, the group evolved into a Boy Scout Band under the direction of Chas Brocato (also of Kalamazoo). Being the only band in the community, the unit performed in multiple events held in Vicksburg during the summer. During the thirties, Troop 51 could not keep the troop continually active due to the hardships of the Great Depression.



The Troop re-chartered in February of 1940 and has continually done so since. In 1949, a cabin was built on Barton Lake and donated to the youth of Vicksburg by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Aulms. Cub Scout Pack 51 was first chartered in 1950. Starting in 1964, the cabin built in 1949 on Barton Lake became the official meeting place of Troop 51. That same year Troop 51 received the 100% Boys Life award. In 1965, the Troop celebrated twenty-five years of continuous chartering.

In February of 1973, after falling on rough economic times, the Fruit Belt Council ceased operations. Troop 51 was transferred to the Southwest Michigan Council and was redesignated Troop "251".

Today, Scoutmaster Kevin Borden and Cubmaster Renee Hawkins have joined a distinguished list of community leaders who have dedicated their time and energies to lead Vicksburg Scouting. Teamed with many Assistants, Kevin and Renee lead 251 in meeting its goals and objectives of developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness qualities among Vicksburg area boys by focusing on a vigorous program of community service and outdoor activities.

In 2015, Troop 251 will celebrate 75 years of continuous chartering. Our diamond anniversary will be celebrated with the entire community at events throughout 2015.

## Scoutmasters of Troop 251

|                           |           |                           |              |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Unknown                   | 1917-1929 | B.A. Bocker               | 1958-1959    |
| Mercer D. Munn            | 1930-1932 | Denton Dexter VanDerWeele | 1960-1966    |
| H.G. Leaders              | 1935-1936 | Rex W. Bragg              | 1967-1968    |
| L.J. Ross                 | 1940-1941 | Dennis A. Reed            | 1969-1970    |
| George DeHaven            | 1942-1943 | Richard Bailey            | 1971         |
| Spencer VanValkenburgh    | 1944      | Kenneth L. Moore          | 1972         |
| James Tracey              | 1945      | Dick Birney               | 1973-1974    |
| Denton Dexter VanDerWeele | 1946-1947 | Ken Heikes                | 1975-1999    |
| Stephen Kukulich          | 1948-1950 | Keith Russell             | 1999-2005    |
| Ray Senkowski             | 1951      | Mike Gerry                | 2005-2009    |
| Lloyd Snyder              | 1952-1954 | Gary Miller               | 2009-2013    |
| Stephen Kukulich          | 1955      | Kevin Borden              | 2013-Present |
| Robert E. Evans           | 1956      |                           |              |
| Stephen Kukulich          | 1957      |                           |              |





# Strong Scouting Strengthens Communities

The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen, and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

For Nearly 100 years and 75 years continuously (1940-2015), Troop 251 and Pack 251 have lived by these principles while serving the Vicksburg Community. ***Scouting is a way of life.***



Deric Blanchett Eagle Scout Project building flag retirement collection boxes to be distributed around the Vicksburg community.



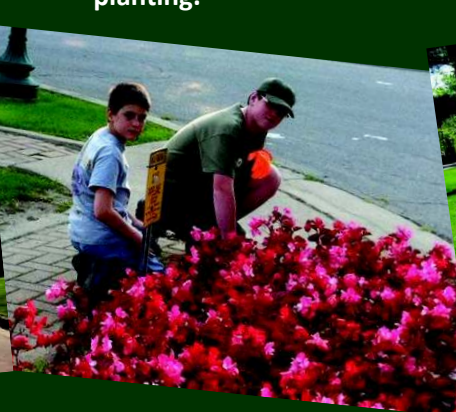
Scouts community service project in the Historic Village helping out with spring weeding, landscaping, and planting.



Retiring flags at the Boy Scout Cabin on Barton Lake.



Troop 251 leading the Vicksburg Memorial Day Parade 2014.



Scouts performing community service pulling weeds in the Village flower beds.



Kris Peck completing his Eagle Scout Project by cataloging all Veterans in the Schoolcraft Township cemetery in Vicksburg.

## Join Us As We Celebrate 65 and 75 Years of Vicksburg Scouting!

Pack 251 is 65 years old and Troop 251 is 75 years old. We plan to celebrate for a year starting February 8th 2015. During this year long celebration, we are planning many events. The entire community is encouraged to join us!



- February 8 - Scout Sunday 75 Year Anniversary Announcement at VUMC
- April 24, 25, & 26 - Historic Village 75th Celebration Encampment
- July 4th - Schoolcraft 75th Anniversary Float
- November - Snacks with Veterans

Visit our website at [www.vicksburg-scouting.org](http://www.vicksburg-scouting.org) for more exciting news about our activities throughout our year long celebration!

# Pack 251 by the Numbers...

Charter Organization: Vicksburg United Methodist Church  
 Pastor: Buff Coe  
 Cubmaster: Renee Hawkins  
 Committee Chair: Greg Fleming  
 Charter Representative: Tamara Young

# 66

## Cub Scouts

Number of boys participating in the Pack 251 Cub Scout program for 2014-2015. **100% Growth** from 32 boys in 2013-2014!

**34 CUB SCOUT RANK ADVANCEMENTS IN 2014**



# 240

### Community Service hours

Pack 251 performed community service including Generous Hands, at the church, and within the community.



Amount Pack 251 pays the BSA to register each adult leader. This price does not include leadership training or program supplies.

# \$24



# 71%

Percentage of boys in Cub Scout Pack 251 who attended summer camp at the Rota-Kiwan Scout Reservation in July 2014. Scouts help parents offset the cost of summer camp by selling popcorn.

It costs **\$140** per scout to attend Cub Scout summer camp at Rota-Kiwan in 2015.

# \$109.31

## Deficit Per Cub Scout

After Pack 251 pays membership expenses to the BSA, **\$109.31** is our deficit per Scout. The costs per Scout are:

**BSA Charter Fee - \$24.00**

**Boys Life Magazine - \$12.00**

**Insurance - \$1.00**

\$37 of our membership fee goes directly to the BSA leaving \$28 toward our local program. Our deficit is made up by fundraising and community support.

Annual dues per boy to join Vicksburg Cub Scout Pack 251. This cost includes all awards, Pinewood Derby cars, Raingutter Regatta boats, Class B Tshirt, BSA Registration, Boys Life magazine, Den Neckerchief, Scout Book, and more!

More bang for the buck value than any other organization!

# \$65

# \$137.31

**PROGRAM COSTS**

The annual program cost to put each boy through the Pack 251 Cub Scout program.



# \$420

### KAZOO/BC UNITED WAY

Amount of funding provided by United Way to Pack 251 in 2014 to help kids participate in the Scouting Program.

# \$11,705.35

### 2014 Popcorn Sales

Pack 251 revenue in 2014 with 30% going directly to the boys' Scout accounts to help pay for many expenses including summer camp.



# 17

### SHARP SHOOTER PATCHES

Number of Cub Scout Pack 251 sharp shooter patches earned at summer camp in 2014. Patches are earned shooting air rifles.

# \$4084

## Fundraising

Amount of money Pack 251 raised at our annual pancake breakfast, Fellars Cake Bake, and water sale.

All funds help keep membership dues down so more kids can participate in the Vicksburg scouting program.



# 100%

### Expanding Boys Opportunities

Money raised goes to activities for the boys including horseback riding, summer camp, and camping on USS Silversides.





## Pack 251 CUB SCOUT MISSION

### Fun With a Purpose

It is the mission of Cub Scout Pack 251 to develop strong character and morals in our Scouts.

- To teach our Scouts about community and how to serve it
- To help develop teamwork skills
- To encourage them to keep physically fit and mentally strong
- To support them in their religious choices
- To expose them to outdoor skills
- To present them with new challenges that build both knowledge and confidence.

This is done through fun and adventure by leaders that are trained and promise to be good role models.

Pack 251 believes that Scouting is a family adventure, and parents and siblings are encouraged to participate in Pack activities.

## The Oath & Law

### The Cub Scout and Boy Scout Oath

*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.*

### The Cub Scout and Boy Scout Law

#### A scout is...

*Trustworthy  
Loyal  
Helpful  
Friendly  
Courteous  
Kind  
Obedient  
Cheerful  
Thrifty  
Brave  
Clean  
Reverent*

## The Cub Scout Years in Perspective

### Making an Impact on the Youth of our Community



**Consider this...** We all want our boys to grow up to be great fathers, husbands, and leaders. Have you ever thought how little time we have to set a foundation that helps assure success?

Parenting never ends, but when you consider the time they spend sleeping, their adult years, and the years after parents are gone, we have little time to work with our kids.

Cub Scouting offers parents an opportunity to learn and grow with their boys from first to fifth grade. In the big picture of life these years seem so short yet so rewarding. Look at your time with your kids. What program offers more opportunity to learn and experience fun with a purpose activities than Cub Scouting? Scouting has made a difference in the lives of many kids in Vicksburg and Scouting will continue to make a difference for years to come.

## Vicksburg Pack 251 is 65 Years Old 1950-2015

**Founded in 1950, Cub Scout Pack 251 has been continuously chartered and serving the youth of Vicksburg for 65 years. This makes Pack 251 one of the oldest Packs in the State of Michigan!**

Pack 251 has served thousands of boys in grades 1 through 5 for 65 years. Many of these boys have gone on to be Boy Scouts and some even completed their Eagle Scout rank. Today Pack 251 includes 66 boys and their families. Made up of Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos, Pack 251 is dedicated to providing a top program to Vicksburg and surrounding school districts youth. ***Strong Scouting Strengthens Communities.***

# Troop 251 by the Numbers...

Charter Organization: Vicksburg United Methodist Church

Pastor: Buff Coe

Scoutmaster: Kevin Borden

Committee Chair: Jim Butler

Charter Representative: Tamara Young

# 40

## Boy Scouts

Number of boys participating in the Vicksburg Troop 251 Boy Scout program for 2014-2015.

# 3

## Days Camping

Camping trips Boy Scouts in Troop 251 could participate in throughout 2014.

# 11

## LIFE SCOUTS

*Last Stop Before Eagle Scout!*

Currently there are 11 Life Scouts in Troop 251. Life Scout is the rank before Eagle Scout.

# 1

## Order of the Arrow

Boy Scouts in 251 are members of the Order of the Arrow, The National Honor Society of Scouting.

# 2

## Eagle Scouts

Scouts Danny Gettle and Alex Cannizzaro achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout in 2014.

# \$8,500

## FUNDS RAISED ANNUALLY BY TROOP 251

To help families offset the cost of our Scouting program, Troop 251 does many fundraising events throughout the year including popcorn sales, Rotary Showboat spaghetti dinner, poinsettia sale, and more. Proceeds go directly to each Scout to help offset expenses and to the troop CORF fund.

# \$1303

Troop 251 is an active organization that offers boys many opportunities to expand their experiences. These activities cost money. Summer camp, monthly campouts, and special trips all add up to an expense that can limit some family's ability to participate. This expense does not include the cost of each Scout's personal gear or high adventure trips.

# 582

## Hours of Community Service

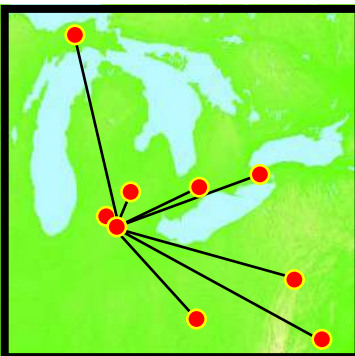
Community Service hours logged as a Troop in 2014. This does not count the individual service hours logged by each Scout on his own. Service hours include holiday parades, flag ceremonies, flag retirements and many other community activities.



# NYLT

# 15

Scouts in 251 who have completed National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) training held every summer for First Class Scouts.



Sights included: Niagara Falls, Wright-Patterson Airforce Base, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Soo Locks, Camp Rota-Kiwan, the Blue Water Bridge, Mackinac Bridge, and many more places along the way.

# 4136

## Miles Traveled

Boy Scout Troop 251 is an active group. Outings in 2013-14 included:

- Gettysburg, PA
- Upper Peninsula, MI
- Dayton, OH
- Niagara Falls, Ontario
- Dorchester, Ontario
- West Virginia
- Lansing, MI

# RANK ADVANCEMENTS



# 56

Number of rank advancements completed by 251 Boy Scouts on their path to Eagle Scout in 2014.

# \$315

Cost for **one** Boy Scout to attend Summer Camp in 2015. Camp costs have increased to become a barrier for some families.

# 527

## MERIT BADGES EARNED

Current Scouts in Troop 251 earned merit badges on their own, at merit badge events, and at summer camp.

# 7

## YEARS

Vicksburg Troop 251 was originally founded in 1917 just 7 years after the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated in 1910.



# 53.32

## TONS OF PAPER

In 2014, Troop 251 collected and recycled papers at their monthly paper barn. Proceeds help Scouts participate in Troop activities.



# Boy Scout Merit Badges

Learning to Make a Difference Outside the Classroom



**Eagle Required Merit Badges**



**Popular Merit Badges**

Merit badges are awards earned by youth members of the Boy Scouts of America based on activities within an area of study by completing a list of periodically updated requirements.

The purpose of the merit badge program is to allow Scouts to examine subjects to determine if they would like to further pursue them as a career or vocation.

Each merit badge has a pamphlet or workbook published by the Boy Scouts of America. Each pamphlet contains information on completing the requirements for each merit badge.

Scouts must meet up with adult who is a registered merit badge counselor in order to learn which badge requirements they must complete. Once these requirements are completed, the Scout meets with the counselor to demonstrate that he's completed the requirements. The counselor then signs off on each requirement. After completing the merit badge Troop 251 issues the badge to the Scout.

Boy Scouts in Troop 251 learn beyond the classroom. With over 130 merit badges currently available, boys don't have any problem learning about many life useful subjects.

There are 13 Eagle Scout required merit badges and are distinguished by a silver ring around the merit badge:

- Camping
- Cooking
- Cycling, Hiking, or Swimming
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving
- Environmental Science or Sustainability
- Family Life
- First Aid
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management

In order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, a scout must earn a total of 21 merit badges with 13 of them from the Eagle required list above.

**Be Prepared!**



## Vicksburg Troop 251 Eagle Scouts 1917-2014

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jack Crawford 1937      | Guy Shepardson 1970     |
| Francis James 1940      | Mike Ketchum 1975       |
| Chas. Roberts 1940      | Dale Kuder 1975         |
| Wayne Groat 1944        | Patrick Ketchum 1976    |
| R. Walter Peterson 1944 | Lawrence Delahanty 1976 |
| John Boyle 1951         | Scott Sherman 1982      |
| Jerry Kott 1952         | Troy Smith 1982         |
| Gary Hollenbeck 1952    | D. Scott Cutler 1988    |
| James Kott 1953         | David Bogema 1989       |
| James Wolford 1960      | John Bogema 1992        |
| Pat Kenny 1960          | David Brockington 1995  |
| Stephen Herman 1965     | Daniel Price 1995       |
| Lyle Swinehart 1965     | Samual Brockington 1995 |
| Kenneth Stoughton 1966  | Andrew Brockington 2000 |
| James Trapp 1966        | Minas Smithger 2002     |
| Ernest Chase 1967       | Jimmy Krill 2008        |
| Phil Hibschan 1967      | Jason Krill 2008        |
| Steve Hibschan 1967     | Cody Sherman 2012       |
| Duane Markunas 1969     | Kris Peck 2012          |
| Arthur Chase 1969       | Tyler Borden 2012       |
| Larry Norris 1969       | Deric Blanchett 2013    |
| Jerry Norris 1969       | Danny Gettle 2014       |
| James Busher 1972       | Alex Cannizzaro 2014    |
| James Newitt 1970       |                         |

## The Troop 251 CORF Program

**The Charter Organization Relief Fund Helps Kids!**

Troop 251 sets aside a portion of most fundraisers to help families. **CORF** helps kids with expenses such as uniforms, registration, Troop activities, and more!

***Strong Scouting Strenthens Communities***



*Troop 251 camping out at the Scout Cabin on Barton Lake.*

# How Can You Help Us Help Vicksburg Youth?

The 75th Anniversary "Strong Scouting Strengthens Communities" Capital Campaign

*As Pack 251 and Troop 251 launch a year long celebration of our 65th and 75th years, respectively, of continous Scouting in Vicksburg, we are asking for your help.*

*We believe financial hardship will never be a barrier to any youth participating in the Vicksburg Scouting program. Please help us continue to make this a reality.*

## We Need Your Help!

In order for Vicksburg Scouting to fiscally maintain sustainable growth we need the investment and support of our community. There are items needed that total a \$40,000 investment in the Youth of Vicksburg.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| > Barton Lake Cabin Roof and Maintenance Fund | \$15,000 |
| > Cub Scout Pack 251 Growth Fund              | \$10,000 |
| > Troop 251 Equipment Upgrades                | \$10,000 |
| > Youth and Leader Training                   | \$5,000  |

## 75th Anniversary

**Community Investment Goal: \$40,000**

## Scouting Makes a Difference

We make a difference in the lives of youth in over 100 families in Vicksburg and surrounding communities. Scouting is a hands on program that is designed around fun with a purpose. From community service to outdoor adventure, Scouting makes a difference in our families, our community, and most importantly our youth.

## Strong Scouting Strengthens Communities

Strong communities have and support strong Scouting organizations. Since 1917 the Boy Scouts of Vicksburg have impacted thousands of kids. Many of today's most successful people contribute part of their success to their Scouting experience. Scouting makes a difference.

## Invest in Vicksburg Scouting Growth Fund Today



Over the next year, please join us in our 75th anniversary celebration. Over the next 12 months you will see us in the community at events, volunteering, and making you proud. Look for our 75th Celebration Scout Camporee at the Historic Village and our float at the 4th of July parade in Schoolcraft.

**Please support us with a monetary gift today. Your investment will help assure sustainable growth for the next 75 years.**

[www.vicksburg-scouting.org](http://www.vicksburg-scouting.org)



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