



December 2023 Edition



ABS Today

A Publication of the Association of Baptists for Scouting



Another Great Year for ABS

2023 was another busy year for ABS Scouters with major efforts put forth at both Philmont and the 2023 National Jamboree held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. The ABS annual meeting in May provided a new slate of officers to continue and build upon past efforts. In this issue of *ABS Today* you can learn more about these and other ongoing projects to enhance Scouting

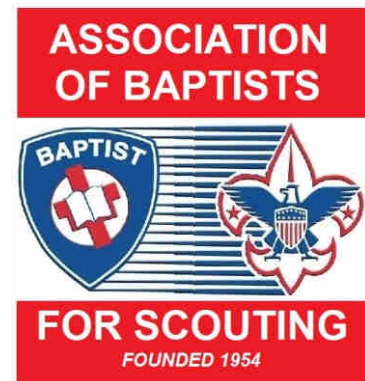
for youth and provide support and encouragement in their quest for knowledge and understanding about our great Savior and King. With the BSA bankruptcy now ending we can refocus efforts on restoring and growing our outreach to even more young people.

The photo (above) shows the epicenter for the ABS Jamboree team during

Jamboree as part of the fourteen Duty to God program exhibits. Our 20x20 space allowed multiple groups to experience the program learning about our Baptist distinctives, available resource materials and creation of a bracelet to aid telling the story of God, Jesus and salvation. Approximately 1500 Scouts and Scouters visited us there.

Welcome

Welcome to the Association of Baptists for Scouting (ABS) Newsletter - a communication intended to help you remain current on activities of the ABS. Please share with other Scouters and consider supporting these efforts with your time, talents and treasure. It is only through the dedication of Baptist Scouters like you that ABS can expand efforts throughout this great land. More than ever our world needs the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our young people in Scouting deserve it.



President's Message

By John Lyon

First of all, let's celebrate the amazing efforts put forth and responses to our ABS booth at the 2023 National Jamboree. This time we had an unprecedented National Jamboree in so many ways. It was considerably more expensive, and it was difficult for National Jamboree leaders to prepare in only 18 months, but ABS solidly met the challenge.

Our booth was well staffed so that our team each had time to actually go out and enjoy the Jamboree. Our booth was engaging, attracting a good flow throughout each day — even without a zip line or dunking booth. We recruited several new members. Our ABS team that made it all happen consisted of seven adults and four youth. Special thanks to Pam Thompson, Jerry Wells, Patrick Lliang, Merri Bolen, Alan Ashley, Dale Copeland, and Kathy Davis. Truly a key element was having Scouts Cayleb, Faith, Tyler & Levi leading youth interactions.

As we begin a new year I urge you to support your local units and churches. The Boy Scouts of America, retooling after the bankruptcy, is working diligently to increase membership. For us, it can be as simple as helping a local unit add more members — whether that is a pack, troop, crew, or ship. If you sense an opportunity to start units, please do that too. We are developing resources to assist, stay tuned.

Equally important, please pray for each of the folks here. Many are in new roles, we need your input for ABS to emphasize Duty to God in Scouting.

2023 ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR SCOUTING COMMITTEE

President: John Lyon

Immediate Past President: Donna Copeland

Exec. Vice President: Thomas Martin

Treasurer: Tim Baker

Secretary: Eric Hood

Historian: Merri Bolen

Membership: Elrico Henry

Chaplain: Jeff Thompson

Newsletter: Dale Copeland

Member at Large (1): Pam Thompson

Member at Large (2): Ted Spangenberg

Member at Large (3): Jerry Wells

Endowment (1): Verne Wright

Endowment (2): Patrick Liang

Endowment (3): R. Chip Turner

Philmont Chaplaincy 2023

The Philmont Scout Ranch Chaplaincy program continued this summer with Chip Turner serving as Chaplain Coordinator for another season on the ranch. Chip (and his wife, Sandy, who works with the Seton Library at the National Scouting Museum) commits months and thousands of hours each year to organizing and managing this important service for Philmont's staff, Training Center participants and their families and campers experiencing treks. A team of approximately ten chaplains serve seven days a week – when every day is Day 1 for arriving campers preparing for their trek experience – in a variety of ministry efforts. The Philmont experience is unique in Scouting and presents campers with not only a physical, emotional and mental challenge, but an environment that illuminates our closeness to God and His creation. The chaplaincy services provided range from daily chapel services (Protestant, Catholic, LDS and Jewish) to delivery of needed materials to far flung locations on the 150,000+ acre property, picking up staff and campers who must come in to base camp or return to their crews on the trails, counseling with crews experiencing personal and group challenges and the need to deliver news of family emergencies and losses at home. In all this work these chaplains strive to exhibit Christ's love and caring as His hands, feet and heart. We may never know – this side of eternity – what impacts these efforts have.



Philmont's beautiful outdoor Protestant chapel and awesome backdrop



Chapel held in the Baldy Pavilion at the Silver Sage Center during inclement weather.

(cover page photo - L to R)

Front Row: Pam Thompson, Jerry Wells, Donna Copeland

Back Row: Tyler, Cayleb, Faith, Levi, Patrick Liang,

Kathy Davis, Alan Ashley, Dale Copeland and

Bob Wedig (NRRC Chair)



Chapel Work at Philmont, April 2023



The end of April at Philmont confirmed the wide variety of weather in the high country with the warm, dry conditions in North Ponil Canyon at Indian Writings and some beautiful snow at Beaubien and Miners Park. (Does anyone know about a snow drift and some kind of issue?) A total of thirteen chapels (base camp and back country) were attended to by dedicated Scouters in preparation for the summer season and camper's spiritual needs.

What a blessing to have our own Chaplain Chip Turner blaze the trail for so much work to be accomplished at Philmont. From the Protestant Chapel in base camp along with PTC, to the back country: Ponil, Cimarroncito, Miners Park, Beaubien, and a brand new chapel space at Indian Writings. Also, one of the team helped Sandy Turner to pack the Chaplain boxes that go to each and every back country camp.



▲ Indian Writings Chapel (new)

Miners Park Chapel ▶

Cimarroncito Chapel ▼



They completed the boxes in one day!! Our ABS team was one of the best. Many thanks to all who made this such a joy in our reasonable service to God!! Team ABS included: Dale and Donna Copeland, Jerry and Glenda Wells, Jon and Kim Copeland, Jeff and Pam Thompson, and Scott Carlberg. Many thanks to the immediate past director of Philmont, Steve Nelson, for logistical arrangements that allowed the team to maximize their three days of work. This concluded a third year of chapels improvements and clean up.



ABS Eagle Scout Corner

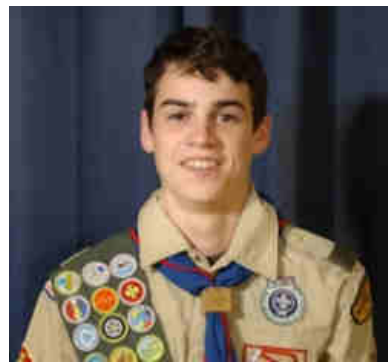
Association of Baptists for Scouting would like to recognize the following Scouts for reaching the highest rank in Scouting. Congratulations for a job well done.



Eagle Scout Christopher

Christopher "Chip" received his Eagle award September 19, 2023, in the Chattahoochee Council. He is the son of Woody and Genia.

Chip led a team of 17 youths and adults in building four square picnic tables for a local school for his Eagle project.



Eagle Scout Dominic

Dominic received his Eagle award in September 2023. He is the son of Dominic and Sadie.

Dominic's Eagle project involved building a disability access ramp at Mountain View Bible Camp with help from Troop 320.



Eagle Scout Andrew

Andrew received his Eagle award in the Cape Fear Council. He is the son of Andy and the late Amber.

Rains from Hurricane Florence in September, 2018, at Harmony Hill Plantation washed away a foot bridge that Andrew rebuilt with several improvements. He dedicated the new bridge in memory of his mother.



2023 National Jamboree, Faith & Beliefs Program

The 2023 National Jamboree took place at Summit Bechtel Reserve near Beckley, WV, from July 19-28. Approximately 15,000 Scouts and Scouters came together to share a Scouting experience like no other. The ABS was well represented with seven Scouters and four youth serving in the ABS booth located in the Duty to God program area. The entire Duty to God program plus Sunday's thirteen chapel services were coordinated and managed by ABS Past President Donna Copeland who served as Chair of the Duty to God Jamboree program area located in three 20x80 foot tents on Action Point. It was reported that more than 7,000 people attended at least one of the Sunday services held in venues across the property on Sunday. Approximately 1,700 attended the Protestant service. Another ABS Past President, Ted Spangenburg, served as lead for the Jamboree Chaplaincy services while ABS member Jeff Thompson ministered with a focus on those unfortunate folks needing hospital care during the event. Our dedicated ABS members – including Pam Thompson, Jerry Wells, Donna Copeland, Dale Copeland, Ted Spangenburg, Jeff Thompson, Merri Bolen, Patrick Liang and Allan Ashley committed time, talent and treasure to ministry for this major Scouting event. It is of special note that ABS sponsored four youth – Tyler, Levi, Faith and Cayleb (three Eagles and one Venturing Summit Award recipients) – who did an outstanding job as the front line contacts in the ABS booth. They met, greeted and led hundreds of Scouts through the booth activities designed to share the Gospel while explaining the Baptist distinctives. This was illustrated by creating a seven bead bracelet for each person that tells the story of God-Sin-Jesus' Redemptive Work-Salvation-Baptism-Heaven's Promise-the Great Commission. Visiting Scout leaders also learned about religious recognitions for youth and adults, resource materials available and how to engage their local churches in sponsoring Scouting units to the benefit of all.

New Testaments

All High Adventure bases (Philmont, Summit, Sea Base and Northern Tier) are supplied New Testaments w/Psalms for all their program participants attending chapel services. These are made possible by generous donations from religious groups, local church and individuals who desire that each Scout and Scouter have their own copy of a New Testament. This project continued in 2023 with several Baptists groups and churches participating through funding gifts. Thousands of these backpack sized books are handed out during chapel services each summer.



Important Dates

May 1-5, 2024
Refurb Chapels @ Philmont

May 5-9, 2024
National Annual Meeting
Orlando, Florida

July 7-13, 2024
ABS Conference @
Philmont Training Center

Contact Us:

Contact@BaptistScouters.org



Website:

<https://BaptistScouters.org/>

