

## Contribute stories, photos

The Hawk Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America, is looking for former Scouts and others to share stories and photographs for a commemorative book, "On My Honor ... 100 Years of Scouting Memories, 1910 to 2010."

The book will be published later this year in time for the 2010 centennial celebration of Boy Scouts in the United States.

The Hawk Mountain Council serves Berks and Schuylkill counties and the Panther Valley School District in Carbon County.

The Council will hold two sessions for people to come and share stories, pictures and Scouting memorabilia for the book.

**Where:** Hawk Mountain Beaver Family Center, 5027 Pottsville Pike (Route 61), Ontelaunee Township.

**When:** Feb 4 from 2 to 8 p.m., and Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Other:** Stories and photos also can be shared by contacting Hawk Mountain Council at 610-926-3406 or Stephen Henning at 610-987-6184 or [scouters@earthlink.net](mailto:scouters@earthlink.net).

**More information:** Available on line at [www.hmc-bsa.org/2010/memorybook](http://www.hmc-bsa.org/2010/memorybook).

# Council to chronicle century of Scouting

Tell your Boy Scout stories to the Hawk Mountain Council for a book it is compiling.

©2009 Reading Eagle Company

**By David Mekeel**

Reading Eagle

Eagle Scout Eric C. Shafer was just 16 when he was picked for a prestigious task in February 1967.

The Wyomissing teen and 12 other Scouts from around the nation traveled to Washington, D.C., to present the leather-bound annual report of the Boy Scouts of America to President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Shafer, now the senior pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lansdale, Montgomery County, said the occasion is something he will never forget.

And thanks to the Hawk Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts of America, no one else is likely to forget that moment, either.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America in 2010, the Ontelaunee Township-based Hawk Mountain Council is putting together a book



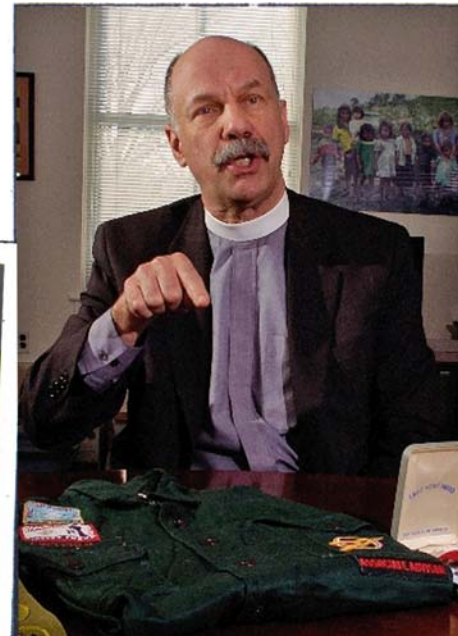
Courtesy of the Rev. Eric C. Shafer

On Feb. 8, 1967, Eagle Scout Eric C. Shafer, left, then a 16-year-old from Wyomissing, was one of 13 Scouts to present the Boy Scouts of America annual report to President Lyndon B. Johnson in Washington, D.C.

documenting the history of Scouting in Berks, Schuylkill and Carbon counties.

The book, "On My Honor ... 100 Years of Scouting Memories ... 1910 to 2010," is expected to be published in November.

The Hawk Mountain Council was formed in 1970 with the consolidation of



Courtesy of The Intelligencer: David Garrett

The Rev. Eric C. Shafer, above, the senior pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lansdale, Montgomery County, with memorabilia from his days as a Boy Scout in Berks County.

the Daniel Boone Council in Berks County and the Appalachian Trail Council in Schuylkill County and part of Carbon County.

"It's a very, very rich tradition," said Sally Trump, camping director of the Hawk Mountain Council.

**Council continues on B2**

# COUNCIL | Book to shed light on 100 years of Boy Scouting

Continued from **B1**

"Actually, even though our particular council was not a council (in 1910), some of the local units predate the official start of the Boy Scouts of America," Trump said.

The Hawk Mountain Council has started a campaign to tap into as much of that rich tradition as it can by reaching out to people such as Shafer with stories to tell.

"We want to hear stories," Trump said. "We want to hear some of the things we might not otherwise know."

Stephen M. Henning, a retired Hawk Mountain Council employee who is editing the book, said the tales have already started to trickle in.

There are stories about Camp Indiandale, a former health resort in Vinemont that was converted into a Boy Scout camp.

Henning said that throughout the 1920s, Scouts from around Berks County would travel by trolley to the Vinemont camp in Spring Township.

Before cars were popular, some Scouts also would take trains to camping trips.

"They'd go as far as the train would take them, then a few

miles farther by foot," Henning said.

Henning said the search for Scouting stories has brought about some touching moments, including the case of Robesonia resident Joe Webb.

Webb's father, William, died when Joe was 4. But digging through his dad's old Scouting stuff has opened a door to the past.

"His dad had all kinds of photos of himself when he was a Scout in the 1930s," Henning said. "Joe is sort of learning to know his father a lot through these photos of Scouting."

Organizers at the Hawk Mountain Council hope to bring more attention to the search for photos and stories.

"I'd say about half the people in Berks County have been in contact with Scouting in one way or another, but not that many are involved right now," Henning said. "The stories are out there. The hardest part is just getting people to know we're looking for the story."

Henning is eager to document this history before it's too late.

"A lot of the people who know these stories are getting on in years," he said. "And the stories



Courtesy of David S. Fry.

A group of Boy Scouts at a trolley station in Vinemont, Spring Township, in the 1920s. The Scouts would take the trolley to the village to visit a nearby camp.

are going to vanish if we don't get them down."

■ Contact reporter **David Mekeel** at 610-371-5014 or [dmekeel@readingeagle.com](mailto:dmekeel@readingeagle.com).