

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1118

By: Hager of the House

and

Harrison of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution proclaiming the first week of June 1996 in Oklahoma as "Scout Appreciation Week"; recognizing Pawhuska as the home of the first Boy Scout troop established in the United States; honoring Scouting troops across Oklahoma; and direction distribution.

WHEREAS, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, inspired by his love of the outdoors and his quest for learning about nature and how to survive in the wilderness, founded the Boy Scout movement in England in 1907 bringing Scouting to youth the world over; and

WHEREAS, Reverend John Forbes Mitchell, a close associate of Robert Baden-Powell, served as an aide and chaplain during the Boer War with Robert Baden-Powell and also assisted him in the early days of Scouting in England; and

WHEREAS, Reverend John Forbes Mitchell was sent to Oklahoma by the Church of England to serve as a minister at St. Thomas Episcopal Church located in Pawhuska; and

WHEREAS, Reverend John Forbes Mitchell, soon after his arrival in Oklahoma, established in Pawhuska the first Boy Scout troop with a British charter in the United States in May 1909, months before the Boy Scouts of America organization was founded in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the newly established Pawhuska Boy Scout troop received in 1910 a Boy Scouts of America charter designating them as Troop 1 in Pawhuska, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the first Scouts from Pawhuska leave behind a rich and inspiring Scouting legacy and history about the early days of Scouting which have been portrayed in heartwarming tales depicting their brave adventures and good deeds in articles and magazines such as "Scouting"; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Boy Scouting remains the same as it was in those earlier days when Scouting first began, which is to encourage youth to develop good character, citizenship, mental and physical fitness, to serve others and to do good deeds so that they will make good ethical choices and achieve their full potential over their lifetime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Legislature proclaims the first week of June 1996 as "Scout Appreciation Week" across the great State of Oklahoma, honoring Scouts across this state for the valuable services they are performing and the contributions they are making to their communities and to the state as a whole.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes Pawhuska, Oklahoma, as having established the first Boy Scout troop in the United States and honors those first Scouts and Scoutmasters in Pawhuska who have left us with such a rich history and legacy of what it was like to participate in Scouting in the earlier days of statehood.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature supports Scouting, encourages its continued growth in membership, and recognizes that such a quality, civic-minded program instills the highest standards of moral character, citizenship, and courage that help youth in

Oklahoma and across the United States to become outstanding leaders of the future.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Bruce Hendren, Scoutmaster, Troop 43, Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Jere B. Ratcliffe, Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America, Irving, Texas; Roger Ohmstede, Southern Regional Director, Boy Scouts of America, Kennesaw, Georgia; and Dick Austin, Area Director, Boy Scouts of America, Hurst, Texas.

45-2-10385 ASK