

Boy Scout Troop 68 History

50 years of history – 1960-2010

Kevin Voss, Scoutmaster 2011-Present



This document was originally produced by Kelly Smith, Troop 68 Scoutmaster, 2001-2009 for the Troop's 50th anniversary celebration in 2008. The document was originally posted on Troop 68's website (troop68.net) and was moved to the Troop's new website (troop68beavercreek.scoutlander.com) by Kevin Voss, Troop 68 Assistant Scoutmaster, 2009-2011 & Scoutmaster 2011-Present. The Troop history web pages were consolidated into this document for future generations of T68 Scouts to enjoy. More will be added to the document as Troop 68 marches forward into the next 100 years of Scouting.

Troop 68 History

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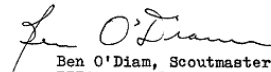
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1960's

1964

SUMMER CAMP @ MINFORD, OHIO, JULY 1964

Troop 68 had an unforgettable summer camp experience the summer of 1964. The Troop held a "Troop's own" summer camp on private property near Portsmouth in southern Ohio owned by the Dever family. The Dever's lived in Beavercreek and had a son (Lynn) in Troop 68. It was to be a week of wilderness camping. The troop had gone for the day to nearby Lake Jackson to swim. At the camp site there was a creek they used for swimming that also contained a good supply of leaches. While we were spending the day at Lake Jackson a storm came up at our base camp. Lightening apparently hit a tree near the cooking area. Unfortunately a chain from a trailer was wrapped around the base of the tree. The trailer contained propane tanks, food and other spare supplies. The propane exploded and spread fire to one half of the area which included several tents and the headquarters area. Several families in the area responded with offers of help. Calls were made back to Beavercreek for cars to come and pick up the Scouts. The troop returned home very late that night. Several of the adult Scouters returned to Portsmouth the next day to assess the damage and begin the clean-up and insurance processing. – Ben O'Diam.

<div data-bbox="394 1020 654 1176"><p>TROOP 68 • BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA Beavercreek Church of the Brethren 2659 Dayton-Xenia Road XENIA, OHIO</p></div> <div data-bbox="621 1182 768 1203"><p>August 4, 1964</p></div> <p>Gentlemen:</p> <p>Please consider this a report of our recent trip to Minford, Ohio for our troop's summer camp in a wilderness area.</p> <p>On Sunday, July 26, at 1:30 P.M. with local tour permit #25 in hand, nineteen Scouts and two adult leaders of Troop 68 (Beavercreek) left Beavercreek Church of the Brethren for a week of wilderness camping in Minford, Ohio.</p> <p>We arrived in our area about 6:00 and began setting up our area and preparing the evening meal.</p> <p>Monday morning was used for campsite improvement, first aid review, and map and compass review. During the afternoon a safe swim was enjoyed and many Scout requirements were passed.</p> <p>Tuesday was used for Pioneering, hiking, swimming, and merit badge work.</p> <p>On Wednesday, July 29, the troop completed breakfast, cleaned the campsite, and packed for a day of boating, fishing, and swimming at Lake Jackson in Oak Hill, Ohio.</p> <p>Our troop returned to the campsite at about 5:30 P.M. and discovered the campsite partially burned to the ground. During the day there had been thunderstorms in the area and apparently lightning had struck a U-Haul trailer containing all the groceries and much of the Troop's supplies and equipment. The fire apparently spread to a nearby three room tent destroying it and all the equipment of five persons.</p> <p>I would estimate the total loss about \$1500 to \$1800. We have since discovered that part of the loss is covered by insurance, however destroyed in the fire were many items that can not be replaced</p> <p>DO A GOOD TURN DAILY</p>	<div data-bbox="1084 1035 1122 1052"><p>-2-</p></div> <p>such as the Troop's ribbons and many records.</p> <p>The area residents immediately pitched in and prepared supper for the group and helped return the Scouts and remaining gear to Beavercreek. We arrived home about midnight.</p> <p>Our troop committee is to meet this Thursday to discuss plans for replacing all equipment lost in the fire.</p> <p>Is there any record of the awards won by the troop since it began? It is realized that these can not be replaced, however we would like a record of them if possible.</p> <p>Would you please send 50 merit badge applications so that we can start reconstructing our records and reissue the incompleting applications destroyed.</p> <p>At a later date we will send an order for all the badges etc. lost. .</p> <div data-bbox="1092 1407 1271 1428"><p>Yours in Scouting,</p></div> <div data-bbox="1049 1430 1318 1501"></div> <div data-bbox="1092 1478 1318 1533"><p>Ben O'Diam, Scoutmaster 7730 Xenia Pike Dayton, Ohio 45432</p></div>
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The Scout's camp site: tents slept two Scouts and the poles for pitching them were natural materials found in the area. Photo courtesy of Ben O'Diam



An unidentified Scout finishes lashings for a table made from trees in the wooded area & lashed together. Believe it or not they held up and seated about six to eight Scouts at a time.

Photo courtesy of Ben O'Diam



The standing aluminum frame remains of the burned 3-room adult leader's tent caused by lightning strike at summer camp, 1964. Photo was taken late in the evening.

A very young Tom O'Diam (future T68 Eagle Scout) sits in chair next to the tent.

1966

1966 Philmont Expedition



Front Row (sitting, left - right): Bill Job, Doug Kaylor (T42), Scoutmaster Ben O'Diam ,
John Rodgers (Philmont Ranger), Dale McNinch, and Tim Newshott.

Second Row (left - right): Wally Landerer, Jim Koelker, Gary Crowell, Bruce Jordan, Bob Kaminski,
Bill Suter, Dave Young, Robin Crowell, and Mick McGraw.

1968

Scouting around in Beaver creek

Beaver Creek News 17
Wed., July 17, 1968

Big adventure begins for group of Beaver Creek Scouts

BY JUNE STEELAY

Beaver Creek, Ohio, is being put on the map—all the way from here to Cimarron, N. Mex. Sixteen ready, willing and able Boy Scouts and their two leaders left early last Sunday morning in their beige bus, bound for New Mexico. On the sides of the former school bus are large letters reading, "BOY SCOUT TROOP 68, BEAVERCREEK, OHIO." Painted in bright colors on both sides of the bus is the Scout mascot "Lil' Chief Tecumseh," an Indian Chief caricature with a mischievous smile and a big round belly. The bus was loaded down with plenty of camping and hiking gear and each Scout's personal pack.

According to Roger C. Smith, Chairman of the expedition "Everyone will know where Beaver Creek, O., is by the time we get back home."

If all plans go according to schedule the group will be five days on the road going—totaling some 1300 miles. They will arrive July 18 at Philmont Scout Ranch, which is located outside Cimarron; will spend a day at Philmont for orientation; will be 10 days on the trail, hiking 60 miles—averaging six miles each day; will then be back at Philmont, mustering out, and starting for home with five days on the road. Stops are scheduled at Dodge City and the Air Force Academy on the way home. When the bus arrives back in Beaver Creek (at the Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren which sponsors the Troop) on July 30, it will have completed over 3000 miles.

Philmont Scout Ranch is a national camping area in northeastern New Mexico which comprises 137,321 acres of very rugged western country. It is rich in history, game, natural beauty, and unforgettable adventure. The Troop 68 Scouts and their leaders will spend their time at Philmont on the trail, which according to the Philmont manual "...separates the men from the boys..." with teamwork, cooperation, resourcefulness, and stick-to-it-iveness demanded from each member of the crew to have a really successful expedition "...The rest of the actual Philmont story will be written by Scout Randy Clark, who will write Troop 68's "Philmont Story" upon his return.



THIRTEEN OF THE 16 BOY SCOUTS who are making the trip to Boy Scout Philmont Ranch in New Mexico are pictured here beside their recently acquired Troop 68 bus. Also standing beside the completely re-done bus are Troop Committeeman and Chairman of the trip Roger C. Smith, 1., and Troop dad, C. Wilbur Shoup, who are accompanying the Scouts on the trip which will total some 3,000 miles. When this picture was taken the lettering was not yet painted on the bus, but if you look closely, the caricature painting of "Lil' Chief Tecumseh" is looking back. He was painted on both sides of the bus by Scout Steve Wright.

In order for the Scouts to be eligible to go they had to be 14 years old and up and at least First Class Scouts. All had to pass an extensive medical examination and all will receive another one upon arrival at Philmont. The trail hike demands perfect health. There are 14 Scouts from Troop 68 with one each from Troops 42 and 71: Randy Clark, Mark Duncan, Ted Fisher, Mark Haller, Steve Horn, James Schepley, Tony Schock, Steve Shoup, Casey Smith, Dick Weaver, Steve Welch, Robert Klenlen, Steve Wright and Jim Green, all of Troop 68; Robin Rabideau, Troop 42 and Mike Zabotakis, Troop 71. The two Dads who are accompanying the Scouts on the entire three-week expedition are Roger C. Smith and C. Wilbur Shoup, Troop 68 Scoutmaster Ben O'Diam, who has made the Philmont trip before, did not go this time.

Members of the Troop and their

families have been planning the trip since last year. Starting May 1 many Troop dads, some Troop moms, and most of the older Scouts have been working on the bus which was acquired by Troop Committeeman Smith. He arranged for the purchase from the Centerville School System.

They did extensive tune-up on the engine; re-worked the brakes and checked the springs; remodeled the lighting; took out all the seats; cleaned the bus thoroughly; put in wall-to-wall carpeting; put the seats back in (only now, they were back to back like booths and tables were installed inbetween); painted the bus beige with two pale green stripes along each side; and finally, the lettering and "Lil' Chief Tecumseh" were painted on.

While the bus was being worked on everyone was quietly eyeing the bald tires--it would cost around \$430 to replace them--the Troop

treasury and many resources had already been depleted. A word was dropped here and there and six new tires were put on the bus through the generosity of Phillips Sand and Gravel, Drs. Casebere, Hummel, O'Halloran, Beaver Creek Chamber of Commerce, Beaver Creek News, Dunnigan Hardware, Whittaker Electric, Keith Welsh Realty, Deal's Flowers, Tom's Sohio, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Colonial Restaurant, Elanco Corp. and Marshall's Ford.

Taking their turns working on the bus, some extensively, were Troop parents Smith, Shoup, Deane Bayman, Jim Fisher, Arlie Hudkins, Don Schepley, Harry Wright, George Baver and Elwin Young and others. Phillips Sand and Gravel provided the place for the bus to be painted and Young did the painting.

Troop moms Helen Fisher and Joan Shoup did the lettering on the sides of the bus and "Lil' Chief Tecumseh" (the Troop belongs to the Tecumseh Council) was the clever art work of Steve Wright.

Newspaper article courtesy of Doug Miller

Scenes of Troop 68's trip to Philmont, June 1968



Scouts Casey Smith and Mark Duncan pose next to the Troop bus, "The Brown Bomber," before the trip to Philmont Scout Ranch.

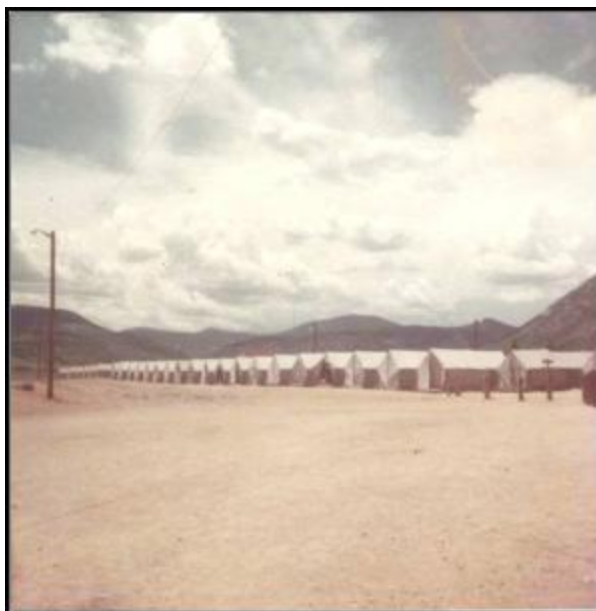


T-68 scouts traveling in style inside the Brown Bomber en-route to Philmont Scout Ranch.



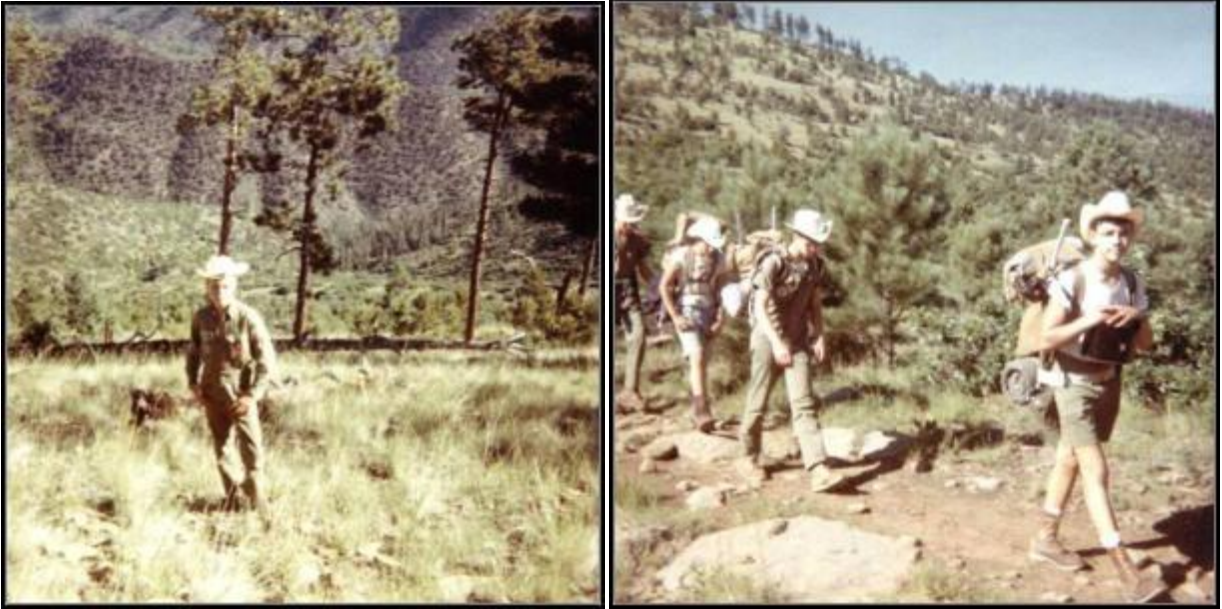
(Left) Another scene inside the bus en-route to Philmont Scout Ranch, NM, 1968

(Right) One of the campsites en-route to Philmont, NM



(Left) Philmont Scout Ranch's "Tent City" in 1968 This is where the Scouts stay before and after the backpack trip.

(Right) The Troop all decked out in cowboy hats early in the trek at Philmont Scout Ranch.



(Left) Scout Mark Duncan wearing his cowboy hat.

(Right) T-68 Scouts backpacking at Philmont Scout Ranch, 1968

All Philmont snap shot photos courtesy of Casey Smith



Newspaper article courtesy of Doug Miller



Front Row (sitting): Mark Duncan, James Scheply, Robert Kienlen, Jim Green (Senior Patrol Leader),
Duncan Lestina (Philmont Ranger), Casey Smith, and Randy Clark.
Second row - left to right: Mike Zabetakis (T71), Mark Haller, Robin Rabideau (T42), Tony Schock, Steve
Wright,
Ted Fisher, Steve Shoup, Dick Weaver, Steve Horn and Steve Welch.
(Note: The adult advisors for the trip, Roger Smith and Wilbur Shoup were not pictured)

Scouting around in Beavercreek

Boy Scout Troop 68 holds Court of Honor

Boy Scout Troop 68 recently held its Court of Honor outdoors on the grounds behind the Beavercreek Church of the Brethren. About 150 parents and Scouts attended the awards program which featured a warm summer evening sun and a breeze created by many kinds of paper fans.

Scoutmaster Ben O'Diam conducted the Court of Honor, assisted by his Troop Committee members and the Scouts themselves.

Special honors went to the Scouts and two leaders who made it to Philmont and back. They each received "I Made It" plaques, pictures of themselves taken at the ranch, certificates confirming the fact that they really did make it, patches to wear on their uniforms, and N.R.A. awards. They also received recognition from the parents present with several rounds of applause. Philmont leaders were Roger Smith and Wilbur Shoup.

The opening ceremony and pledge to the flag was followed by a Tenderfoot Investiture with several boys achieving Tenderfoot. Scoutmaster O'Diam presented Second Class Badges to Jeff Agnew, Mike Evans, Bruce Reeves, Brian Wood, Greg Moody, Rick Jenkins and Steve Siders. Jim Dickinson, Jeff Deming and Mike Freauf each received their First Class awards. Greg Moody also received his Mile-Swim award.

Gary Miller presented his proud

mother with a miniature star pin to match his full size star pin as he reached Star Rank. Five Scouts climbed the Scout ladder one more rung and became Life Scouts: Randy Clark, Steve Welch, Steve Horn, Bob Kaminski and Mark Haller. They also presented pins to their mothers. The next step for this group of Scouts is Eagle and they have set a date in December as their goal to reach it.

Totem beads were presented to all Scouts for attending: the Spring Camporee, a blue bead; long term camping out of the Council, a clear bead; conservation, a yellow bead; and Philmont, a black bead. Each bead earned is added to each Scout's collection which depicts his participation in Scouting activities and events.

The Scoutmaster also presented year pins ranging from one to five years, and awarded a total of 41 merit badges to Scouts Jim Groen, Casey Smith, Jim Mitchell, Ted Weaver, Steve Horn, Bob Kaminski, Alan Schweltzer, Rick Willis, Randy Clark, Mark Haller, Steve Welch, Ted Fisher, Gary Miller, Mike Freauf, Bruce Bayman, and Mike Bartosik.

The Court of Honor concluded with the Scoutmaster's Minute, a solemn Flag Burning by Gary Miller and the Coyote Patrol, Taps and the Philmont Hymn.

Boy Scout Troop 68 will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a Homecoming Picnic on Sunday, Aug. 25 at 1 p.m. on the premises of the Beavercreek Church of the Brethren.

Special invitations have been sent to all former members of the Troop several of whom are in the U.S. Armed Forces, some in Vietnam.

Each family is to bring its own picnic lunch with the Troop providing the beverage. The picnic will be held Scout style which means on the ground, so bring your own folding tables, chairs or blankets if desired.

Troop 68 Homecoming set for Aug. 8

Beavercreek News

Wed., Aug. 21, 1968

Troop 68 holds 10th anniversary. . .

Beavercreek News

Wed., Sept. 4, 1968



EIGHTY MEMBERS, former members and guests attended 10th anniversary reunion of Boy Scout Troop 68 which was held last Sunday on the grounds of the Beavercreek Church of the Brethren. Picnic lunches and cold beverages made up the menu. As seen in this picture everyone relaxed in the informal Scout atmosphere, enjoying the first cool afternoon after many hot days, while they made new friends and renewed old acquaintances.



RETURNING TO HELP celebrate Troop 68's 10 anniversary were former members Gary Klotz, Eagle Scout; Paul Mocker, Eagle Scout; Jim Weaver, guest; Greg Whitman, Star Scout; and Marilyn Hunsaker, guest. Scoutmaster Ben O'Diam read excerpts from many letters received from former members. One is in Vietnam, several are in the different military services, and some are in college. All sent their congratulations to the Troop.

Newspaper article courtesy of Doug Miller

Miscellaneous pictures c.1968



Scouts sitting inside a visqueen plastic sheet tent contemplate having Crawdad for dinner as part of their survival training camp out. Apparently little Tom O'Diam wants to play with dinner beforehand. Think there will be enough to go around there, Scouts?



This is a Troop meeting when we had been meeting outdoors.



We used the church kitchen for a party or court of honor.



Another scene of a T68 meeting out-of-doors

A small group of Scouts working on fire building skills, a very important Scout skill come winter time!

(L-R) Scoutmaster Ben O'Diam, Assistant SM Jim Fisher, Senior Patrol Leader Bob Kaminski

Eventually the Troop outgrew the Church facilities and had to start meeting outside in the Church's parking lot. The Troop met outdoors for several years, rain or shine, all year round until the Scout Hut was eventually constructed in 1970.

1969

Scouting around in Beavercreek

Troop 68 gets new shelter house . . .



BOY SCOUT TROOP 68's new shelter house first was used last Monday for an Eagle Court of Honor. Nearly completed, the facility requires only some hanging of doors, outside finishing work, and work on a fireplace to be at the north end of the building.

First use of the new shelter house on the grounds of the Church of the Brethren, Dayton-Xenia Rd, was Monday evening, May 12, with an Eagle Court of Honor for the church-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 68, whose members worked on the building, a one-day project Saturday, May 10.

The shelter house, 32 x 64 ft in dimension, was designed and pre-assembled by Art-Homes, Inc of Fairborn. Ken Durnbaugh, member of the church and of the Art-Homes staff, directed construction, assisted by Art-Homes men Harry Baldwin, Paul Robinson, and Lloyd Moore, and a group of church members and the Scouts.

Besides being the official meeting place for Boy Scout Troop 68 and Cub Pack 68, the building will be used for a variety of church and family related activities, including day camping experiences for children and youth.

The construction of this shelter house culminates about six years of planning activity by the

church congregation.

Volunteer workmen included Howard Schweitzer, Roger Smith, Elwin Young, Ben O'Diam, Byron Flory, Jr, Jack Darst, Harold Durnbaugh, and John Durnbaugh, who also directed a group in preparing the foundation for the structure. Also helping on the construction May 10 and since have been Jim Fisher, Duane Bayman, Wilbur Shoup, Lowell Schleicher, Garvie Young, Oscar Derickson, Roy Biser, Warren Miller, Harold West, Lloyd Fruhwirth, Phil Johnson, and Leroy Manns. Some finish work,

including the construction of a fireplace, remains to be done.

Boy Scouts assisting on construction of the building and an adjacent bridge include Casey Smith, Mark Duncan, Allan Schweitzer, Mark Haller, Paul Hooks, Chris Schleicher, John Coleman, Steve Shoup, Ted Fisher, and Bob Kaminski.

Appreciation is expressed to all who helped in planning, contributing to and constructing the facility. Its usefulness to the church and community is expected to grow as the years progress.

Newspaper article courtesy of T68 Eagle Scout Doug Miller

To The Parents of Scouts in Troop & Pack #68

Dear Scout Parent;

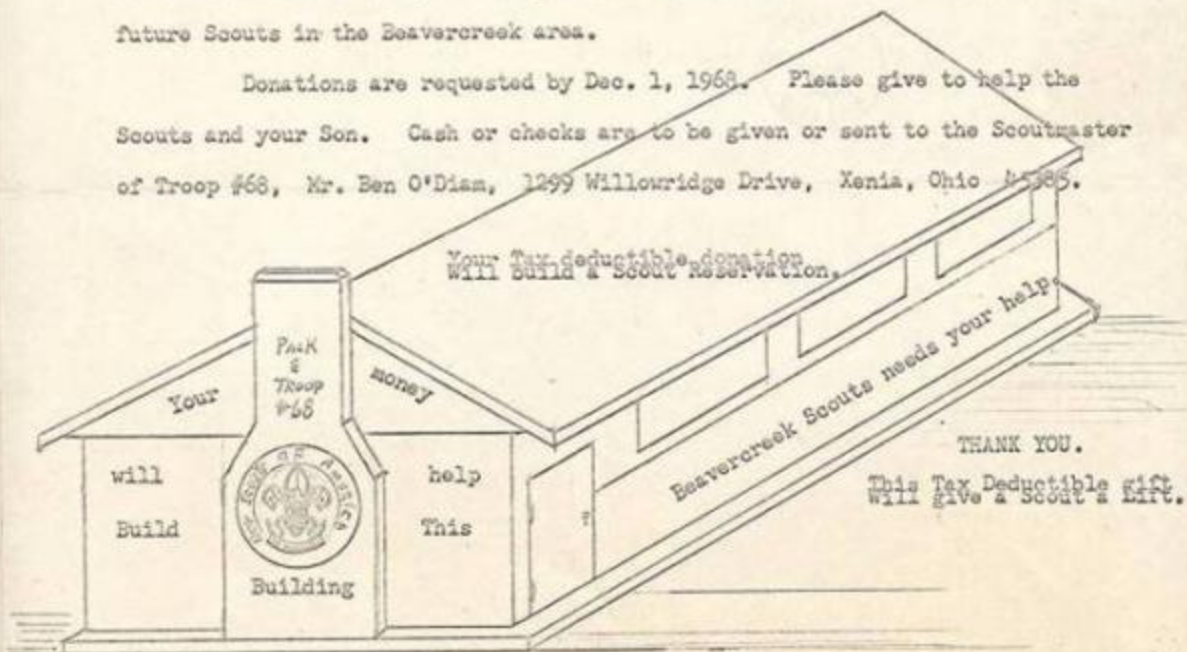
The Church of The Brethren of Beaver Creek has donated land behind the church in which a SCOUT LODGE and Recreation Building is to be erected. Total cost of this building will be approximately \$5600. The Building will be 32 feet by 64 feet in width and length with a large fireplace at one end.

The purpose of this flyer is to request donations from Scout Parents to aid in the urgent completion of the Lodge, as there is no longer adequate room in the church to conduct Scout meetings and patrol activities.

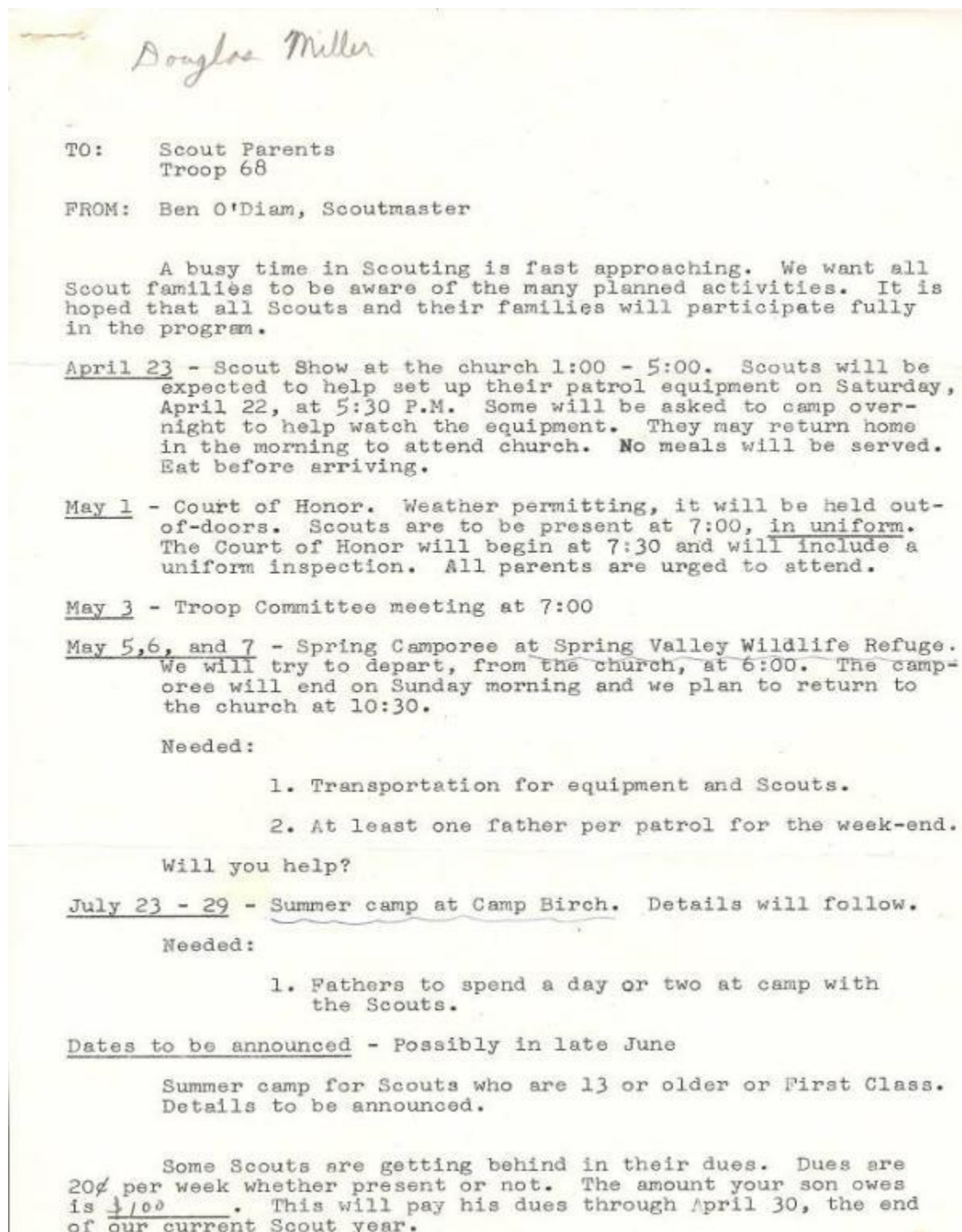
Donations of \$10.⁰⁰ or more are requested and can be made in the form of cash, brought in by the Scouts, or checks made out as "Payable to Boy Scout Troop & Pack #68 Building Fund Only". Receipts will be exchanged for cash donations. Checks are your best receipt.

Names of all Donors will be engraved on a plaque to be posted in the Scout Building after completion. Years from now the Scouts can return to the building, point to their name on the plaque and be proud to show that they have an investment in a piece of permanent real-estate that served them and all future Scouts in the Beaver Creek area.

Donations are requested by Dec. 1, 1968. Please give to help the Scouts and your Son. Cash or checks are to be given or sent to the Scoutmaster of Troop #68, Mr. Ben O'Diam, 1299 Willowridge Drive, Xenia, Ohio 45385.



Various newsletters from the 1960s



1967 Newsletter, Page 1, courtesy of Doug Miller

Troop Statistics

Age 11	-	16
12	-	12
13	-	16
14	-	2
15	-	3
16	-	<u>1</u>

Total 50

Tenderfoot	-	27
Second Class	-	12
First Class	-	7
Star	-	2
Life	-	2
Eagle	-	<u>0</u>

Total 50

May 1, 1966 - April 30, 1967

Last April we registered 41 Scouts. During the year, 30 of our membership had 10 or more days and nights of camping. This is 73%. Our troop thus qualified for the National Camping Award. Twelve of our Scouts attended Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and ten attended summer camp at Camp Birch.

Eighteen of our Scouts camped between 10 and 20 nights, while twelve camped between 20 and 30 nights last year. Eight of our Scouts have yet to camp with their patrol or troop.

Twenty Scouts took a twelve mile cross country hike. Ten of these hiked an additional 63 miles, on one trip, to earn the 50 miler award for hiking.

It's September and time to become active in Scouts again. Our troop can only be as good as each Scout in it. We hope you will make every effort to attend each Monday. Since school is back in session we will meeting from 7:00 - 8:30.

Our program for September is a very full one. In addition to our annual reorganization we, having the following special activities:

September 14 - (7:00) all Scouts and their families are invited for a get-together. We will be showing slides of our Michigan canoe trips and presenting awards from it. Current plans call for cake and home-made ice cream.

September 21 - (7:00) we will have several professional speakers as our guests. They will present a demonstration. This is open house night. You may invite a guest of Scouting age. Parents are also welcome.

The month of September begins our Scout Round-Up. If you know a friend you'd like to invite to join our troop, you may do so. We ask that you invite boys you think will make good Scouts.

We haven't seen some of you for sometime and will be looking forward to seeing you on September 14.

Yours in Scouting,
Ben O'Donnell
Scoutmaster

426-1286

September 1968 T68 Newsletter, courtesy of Doug Miller