

## TROOP 152 HISTORY

Troop 152 of Cuyahoga Falls was chartered just six years after William Boyce started the first Boy Scout troop in America and has been chartered for 91 consecutive years which makes Troop 152 one of the oldest troops in the world.

The Boy Scout movement started in England during the summer of 1907, when Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting, brought together a group of 22 scouts for the first summer camp on the Island of Brownsea in England.

William D. Boyce brought scouting to the United States from England in 1909. The scouting movement in the United States was incorporated on February 8, 1910. In 1911, the first scout handbook was published. It was at this time that the ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle Scout were added to the first three ranks. The first Eagle Scout was registered in 1912. The federal charter was granted by Congress on June 15, 1916 in order to give protection to the name and insignia and to authorize the scouting uniform.

On February 6, 1915, the Rev. Frank Doamer organized the first scout troop in the City of Cuyahoga Falls. Scout Troop #2 was sponsored by the First Episcopal Church (now known as the First United Methodist Church), and was registered with the New York office. Goodyear Troop #40, the Zeppelin Rifle Club, is the only troop in this area that is older, by two months, than our troop.

Rev. Doamer, Pastor of First Episcopal Church, served as the Scoutmaster for the first year. The original troop committee members, instrumental in organizing the troop were: C. O. Skeels, Frank W. Orth, and Sol Hertzler. In 1917, Al Roosma succeeded Rev. Doamer as Scoutmaster. That year, Troop #2 registered 33 scouts. The troop has been registered with the church every year since its formation. In 1923 and 1924, due to a fire at the church, meetings were held at Crawford School, where George B. Kirk, Scoutmaster, was Director of Physical Education. In 1925, Samuel A. Schleyss succeeded George B. Kirk as Scoutmaster, and moved the troop back to the First Episcopal Church. In 1940, the church changed its name to the First Methodist Church.

In 1925, Great Trail Council was organized, and registered our troop as Troop #2. Council changed our troop number to #152 in April of 1927. The records of Troop # 2 and #152 have not been located for the years of 1915 and 1916. There are charter records that have been maintained by the troop since 1917 with a full roster of the scouts chartered in the troop for each year.

The Eagle records for Troop #2 and #152 have not been located for the years 1915 to 1929. Our records indicate that the first Eagle Scout in Troop #152 was Leo Dean in 1930. To date, this troop has awarded scouting's highest rank to over 100 scouts. In 2010, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scouting, Troop 152 has recorded 107 Eagle Scouts since the 1930's. A few scouts have gone further, receiving the Bronze, Gold, and Silver Eagle palms. One dedicated scout in our troop in the 1990's earned six Eagle palms.

On February 8, 1935, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the troop was celebrated as a "get together" meeting for all members and former members of Troop 152. Also, on that date, an article was placed in The Times Press in the Falls. The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated by a dinner on February 4, 1995, inviting past Eagles and dignitaries and presenting an 80 year certificate of appreciation to the church. A 90 year certificate of appreciation was given to the church by the troop on Scout Sunday, February 5, 2006. An article was placed in the Cuyahoga Falls News-Press on February 19, 2006 recognizing First United Methodist Church's continued sponsorship for 91 consecutive years.

A mystery still occurs, although. At Camp Manatoc, a plaque hangs with Troop 152 and the year 1912. Was there an unofficial organization of Troop 2 in 1912, then the troop was officially organized and chartered in 1915? One can only imagine.