

1911 – 1919

Introducing the Boy Scout Movement to Dubuque

An August 28, 1910 *Telegraph Herald* article discussed the Playground Association of America, as well as the Boy Scouts of America. The article concluded by posing a question to readers: "What is the matter with Dubuque taking up the *Boy Scouts* idea and organizing companies?" It would not be long before the city had an answer to this question.

By the middle of January, 1911, Chas Agard formed a troop at Summit Congregational Church with approximately 20 Scouts. The July 30, 1911 *Telegraph Herald* reported that Scoutmaster Agard and his Scouts went on a camping trip for several weeks at Willow Creek.

Dubuque Superintendent of Schools J. H. Harris attended a 2-day Child Welfare Exhibit in Chicago in March of 1911. Harris was first introduced to the Boy Scout Movement at this conference. When the Dubuque Council was first chartered in 1917, Harris was one of the original Executive Board Members of the new Scout council.

The Boy Scout program was formally introduced to Scout-age boys in Dubuque as part of a one-month visit from H. Laurance Eddy, the National Field Scout Commissioner. Eddy spoke to the Park Life boys at Audubon School on August 16, 1911. The next day, he spoke to boys and parents at the First Congregational Church.

The purpose of Eddy's visit to Dubuque was to promote and help launch the Boy Scout program in the city. Although Eddy called Baltimore, Maryland 'home' at the time, he wasn't new to the area. He received training for social work at the Iowa State Normal School. And, like many of the early Boy Scout 'career men', Eddy worked for the YMCA prior to beginning his professional career with the Boy Scouts.

Eddy planned to take the Park Life boys camping at Swiss Valley less than two weeks after arriving in Dubuque, but poor weather postponed the camping trip until the following week.

The Park Life organization, a nationally-recognized organization for children, had been incorporated in Iowa earlier in the year. Professor Horchem, representing the Park Life organization in Dubuque, was one of the adults who spent the first week of 'outdoor life' with the boys. A highlight of the week-long camp was a hike to see waterfalls that were on the McCabe farm. (In 1910, the Park Life boys went to camp immediately after school ended, and the boys did not return until a week before school started in September.)

While H. Laurance Eddy was helping to increase interest in Boy Scout activities in Dubuque, Scout activities did exist to some extent in surrounding areas that would eventually become part of the Northeast Iowa Council.

Further discussion and endorsement of the Boy Scouts happened at the April, 1911 Dubuque District Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. W. G. Crowder

of Oelwein, Iowa delivered a well-received presentation on the Boy Scout movement at this Epworth, Iowa conference.

Gustov Winter visited in the city of Dubuque in February, 1912 to help revitalize interest in the Boy Scout movement. Like Eddy's visit two years earlier, Winter's success was somewhat limited. National Field Scout Commissioner L. S. Dale came to Dubuque for a similar purpose in March of 1914.

At least a couple of Dubuque troops did register directly with the National Council in 1914. The troops received some exposure in local newspapers. In May of 1914, for example, 50+ Scouts hiked from the YMCA to visit the boys at the Park Life camp.

Nearly 1,800 people walked in the 6th annual Sunday School Parade on Tuesday, June 23, 1914. Representatives from Dubuque and area Protestant churches, and organizations such as the Boy Scouts, YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, and the Masons participated.

The Saturday following the parade, an instructor from the YMCA took 13 Scouts on a two-week camping trip near Frenress Lake. On September 26, the YMCA Scouts went on a day-trip up the Mississippi River to Clayton, Iowa. The event was planned by YMCA chairman B. A. Ruegnitz.

Interest Grows for Establishing a Boy Scout Council

Efforts in what proved to be the beginning of a permanent Boy Scout council in Dubuque began with an organizational meeting on October 10, 1916. Around 50 influential businessmen attended the meeting. The list of attendees included J. H. Wallis, Professor L. Q. Martin from Dubuque High School, Charles Agard, E. T. Baer, W. Buettell, attorney M. D. Cooney, W. F. Griner, P. K. Karberg, W. G. Martin, S. F. Murray, B. A. Ruegnitz, Allan Kane Jr., president of the Trades and Labor Congress, and J. M. Conley, editor of the Labor Leader.

National Field Scout Commissioner Judson P. Freeman spoke to the group concerning what the Boy Scouts were—and were not. The Boy Scouts of America offered educational as well as fun activities. It was not a training group for the military.

Like Freeman, other guests testified about the values of the Boy Scout program. The Scout Executive of the Davenport Council, J. W. Cooper described the activities and efforts he had used to organize the Boy Scout council in Davenport. District Judge John W. Kintzinger from Dubuque shared his belief that the Boy Scouts could help reduce the juvenile delinquency problem that currently existed.

Several Dubuque businessmen guaranteed the sum of \$350—the expense necessary to bring someone to the city and assist with organization efforts. This “someone” turned out to be National Field Scout Commissioner Edward Bacon, a member of the National Office staff who had responsibility for the Midwestern states.

National Representative Arrives to Lead Organizational Efforts

Bacon arrived in Dubuque on November 9, 1916 and brought with him the plans necessary to organize a permanent council. Professor L. Q. Martin from the Dubuque High School was chairman of the local organizing committee. The local committee of a few dozen men, under the leadership of Bacon and Martin, quickly began their promotional efforts.

The *Telegraph Herald* published multiple articles, many of which included photos that promoted the virtues of the Boy Scout program. Almost certainly Bacon provided the articles to the newspaper. Most articles were tailored in some way to the Dubuque community. In September Bacon had attended a conference for field workers of the National Council, and Dubuque undoubtedly benefited from his recent training in terms of how to organize a new Boy Scout council.

The *Telegraph Herald* articles were directed at boys who were at least 12 years old (Boy Scout age), potential adult leaders, and adults who might be able to financially support this worthwhile organization. The focus of each article carried one of the following themes:

- **Fun.** Boy Scouts were shown using signaling flags, camping in the wilderness, carrying the U.S. flag, and doing conservation projects.
- **Endorsements.** Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, teachers groups, and women's groups gave endorsements of the Boy Scout program. Published local endorsements were made by District Judge John W. Kintzinger; Paul Rankin, Secretary of the Dubuque Commercial Club; J. H. Strief, president of the Iowa Federation of Labor, and E. T. Baer, General Secretary of the YMCA.
- **Character development.** Photos of Dubuque boys doing community service were accompanied by the headline "Great Outdoors Best Builder of Moral Fabric for the Boys". Other articles featured the Scout Oath and Law, including explanations of each.
- **Financial need.** Both financial need *and* fiscal responsibility on the part of the Scouts were emphasized. An appeal was made for money for organizational efforts. Part of the appeal was also to impress upon businessmen that a Scout needs to earn his own money and establish a bank account to buy his own uniform. During the 30-day organizational period, Troop 4 Scoutmaster Clarence Peterson loaned the committee \$100 from his troop's funds.

Funding the new Boy Scout Council

Alderman J. H. Wallis not only served as chairman of the October 10 organizational meeting, he agreed to serve as chair for the \$10,000 financial campaign that was to financially support a council for three years. The campaign began on Monday, November 27, 1916.

By mid-December, less than one month after launching the financial campaign for a local organization that didn't yet exist, the committee had received \$9,200 in pledges. Dubuque would soon have a Boy Scout council.

It would not be until June 1919 when funding again became a primary concern of those involved with operating the council. The Dubuque Council needed \$20,000 to cover

operating expenses for the next two years. This time, officers of the Boy Scout council asked the Rotary Club for assistance. While the boys were busy with their 'Can the Can' campaign to help clean up the city, the Rotary Club launched a successful 4-day campaign that raised the necessary \$20,000 for the Dubuque Council.

Dubuque Council Elects Officers

On January 17, 1917, members of the temporary Boy Scout council adopted a constitution and by-laws. The newly formed council also elected officers at this meeting.

Name	Council Office	Occupation
N. C. Gindorf	President	Banker (Union Trust & Savings Bank)
L. Q. Martin	Vice-president	High school teacher
A. C. Buettell	Vice-president	Wholesale merchant
S. F. Murray	Vice-president	Insurance
E. H. Willing	Secretary	Attorney
M. D. Cooney	Treasurer	Attorney
Louis A. Belsky		Auto merchant
Thomas E. Buechele		Clothier
J. M. Conley		Editor
Dr. J. V. Conzett, DDS		Dentist
James Daley		Truant officer
Thomas H. Duffy		Attorney
Andrew Fluetsch		Dairyman
James H. Harris		Superintendent of schools
Edward M. Healey		
Peter K. Karberg		H. B. Glover company
John A. Kerper		Lumberman
Arthur Levi		
J. H. Lowry		Telegraph Herald
Honorary D. E. Maguire		Judge
W. H. Meuser		Lumber company
George W. Meyers		Tobacco
Milton Urbach		Clothier
J. H. Wallis		Editor
John Walsh		
E. H. Willging		Attorney
William F. Wodrich		Hardware merchant
A. B. Wymer		Probation officer

Organizational efforts continued on May 19, when Walter H. Gunn arrived in Dubuque. This preliminary visit was, Gunn hoped, to help expedite organization of the Dubuque Council. Gunn brought with him three Scouts from Aurora, Illinois to help him demonstrate Scout skills to boys from Dubuque.

A 2:00 p.m. meeting was held at Carnegie-Stout library for prospective Boy Scouts. The meeting for prospective leaders was held later that night at the Dubuque Commercial Club. As the result of these meetings, representatives from the following groups expressed interest in forming a troop: YMCA, St. Mary's school, Immanuel

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1917 DUBUQUE TELEGRAPH-HERALD

Dubuque Boy Scouts Organization Completed With Election of Officers and the Adoption of Its Laws

THE members of the temporary Boy Scouts' council, selected some weeks ago during the formative period of the movement, met at the Du-Commercial club last Wednesday evening, adopted a constitution and by-laws, and elected officers who will hold office until the first annual election, which will be held next October, according to the provisions of the constitution.

Gindorff was elected president; H. Willging, secretary; M. D. Cooney, treasurer, and L. Q. Martin, A. C. Buetzell, and S. F. Murray vice-presidents. The council was re-elected.

The constitution and by-laws adopted by the council are as follows:

CONSTITUTION.

DUBUQUE COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

ARTICLE I.

The name of this organization shall be the Dubuque Council, Boy Scouts of America.

ARTICLE II.

The object of the organization shall be to promote the general welfare of the Boy Scout movement within the City of Dubuque and vicinity with the operation of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

ARTICLE III.

Membership.

This Council shall be composed of not less than twenty-five nor more than thirty members, who are to serve one year or until their successors are chosen.

ARTICLE IV.

Officers and Elections.

The officers of the Council shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected by the Council from their body at its annual meeting and who shall serve one year, or until their successors are chosen.

Sec. 2. The annual meeting of the Council shall be held during the month of October, in each year.

Sec. 3. The members of the Council for the year ending October, 1917, shall be: Louis A. Belsky; Theodore Buechele, A. C. Buetzell, J. M. Conley, J. V. Conzert, M. D. Cooney, James Daly, Thos. H. Duffy, Andrew Fluetsch, N. C. Gindorff, J. H. Harris, Ed. Healey, P. K. Karberg, John A. Kerper, Arthur Levi, J. H. Lowry, Judge Maguire, L. Q. Martin, W. H. Meuser, Geo. W. Myers, S. F. Murray, Milton Urbach, J. H. Wallis, John Walsh, E. H. Willging, W. F. Wyder, Andrew Wymer. For all subsequent years the method of electing the

members appointed to hold office until the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE V.

Meetings.

Section 1. The Council shall hold at least two meetings in each year, in the months of October and April, and the October meeting shall be the annual meeting.

Sec. 2. Notice of all meetings shall be sent to the members of the Council.

Sec. 3. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President upon his own authority and must be called by the President upon the petition of any six members of the Council, provided that notice in writing must be given to each member of the Council not less than two days before such meeting.

Sec. 4. At any meeting of the Council one-third of the membership thereof shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI.

Committees.

Section 1. All committees shall be appointed by the President.

Sec. 2. There shall be an executive committee which shall consist of the officers of the Council together with five other members.

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows:

(a) To pass upon the qualifications of the Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters, on recommendation of the proper authorities in charge of local troops.

(b) To register troops, patrols, and scouts.

(c) To pass upon recommendations of the Court of Honor to the National Council for the award of badges and other honors.

(d) To recommend ways and means of giving instruction in Scoutcraft to Scoutmasters.

Sec. 3. The President shall appoint a Finance Committee of five members.

Sec. 4. The President shall appoint a Court of Honor, which shall consist of three members, whose duty it will be:

(a) To conduct examinations for the various merit badges and such other Scout tests as may be prescribed in the By-Laws.

(b) To investigate and recommend all claims for honor medals or other special work.

(c) To pass upon appeals made from Scoutmasters' decisions.

ARTICLE VII.

Presentation of the National Council.

The Council shall appoint representatives on the National Council in accordance with the regulations of the National Council.

ARTICLE VIII.

Amendments.

This constitution having been adopted

supervise the work of the Scout Executive and the Scout Masters; a Committee on Headquarters and Camp, to provide suitable places and equipment for headquarters and camp, to pass on expenditures for these before they are made and to approve bills so incurred, for payment.

ARTICLE II.

Meetings.

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall hold at least two stated meetings in each year in the months of October and April.

Sec. 2. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President of the Council, or the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and must be called at the request of three (3) members of the committee.

Sec. 3. Quorums for all committee meetings shall be a majority of those entitled to be present. A majority vote of those present will determine all questions.

ARTICLE III.

Employees.

Section 1. The Executive Committee may employ the following:—

A Scout Executive, who will report directly to the President, unless otherwise directed by the committee.

Office Clerks.
Camp Director.
Camp Surgeon.

ARTICLE IV.

Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Troop Committee and Troops.

Section 1. Scoutmasters. The Scoutmasters shall be the representatives of the Council in charge of troops, and shall be responsible to the Executive Committee in carrying out the Scout program, as outlined in the Official Handbook, and for the use of badges, uniforms and other Scout equipment.

The Assistant Scoutmasters shall report to the Scoutmasters.

Sec. 2. Local Troop Committees. A Local Troop Committee, responsible to the Executive Committee, shall be organized for each troop. This committee will endorse the application of Scoutmaster for a commission, and co-operate with him in carrying out the Scout program, when the commission is granted.

In the event of the resignation of a Scoutmaster, this committee will take charge of all troop property and direct the work of the troops until such time as they may be able to secure another Scoutmaster.

Sec. 3. Scoutmasters' Association. The Scoutmasters shall maintain an organization, to be known as the Scoutmasters' Association, for the discussion of local problems and the interchange of ideas. It shall have the following officers:—

Chairman, to preside at meetings,
Vice-President, to preside at meetings

Figure. Original By-laws and Constitution of the Dubuque Council

Gunn Brings Dedication and Leadership to Dubuque

Walter H. Gunn arrived in Dubuque to begin full-time work as Scout Executive in June, 1917. Immediately he began the task of generating interest and doing what he could to organize Scout troops. Part of this task included convincing parents who were reading about 'The Great War'. Topping the parents list of concerns were two primary issues: (1) does becoming a Boy Scout make their son more obligated for military service, and (2) was the Boy Scout movement a training school for the military. Gunn's message was that the Boy Scouts of America was neither for nor against the military.



Figure. *Walter H. Gunn, Dubuque Scout Executive from 1917-1921.*

J. P. Freeman persuaded Gunn to enter Scouting professionally and accept the position in Dubuque. Gunn was a 1915 graduate from the YMCA College in Chicago, with a Bachelor of Physical Education degree. Upon graduation, he accepted a position as Physical Director of the East Aurora Public Schools. He served as a Scoutmaster of a troop until moving to Dubuque.

In 1921, Gunn transferred to the North Shore District of the Chicago Council and served as Field Scout Executive. He served as camp director for Camp Dan Beard, one of the council camps. Along with Carroll A. Edson, co-founder of the Order of the Arrow, Gunn jointly conducted all spring camps for 6 years.

The troop which met at Summit Congregational Church, was the first to complete their charter under the Dubuque Council. Charles Agard had the distinction of being Scoutmaster of Troop 1. Although a few Scouts troops had existed and chartered with the National Office in New York City prior to this time, these were the first troops in what was to become the permanent Boy Scout Council in northeast Iowa.



Figure. Out for a hike are (L to R): Dic Goadrich, Milt Blosch, Charlie Parkins, Mrs. Osborn, Harold Goodrich, Bob Knight, and Lynn Osborn.

The original troops to complete their charter with the new Dubuque Council:

Troop	Sponsoring Organization	Scoutmaster
Troop 1	Summit Congregational Church	Charles Agard
Troop 2	St. Raphael's Cathedral Parish	Rev. John A. Theobald
Troop 3	YMCA	Dr. Harry L. Holmes
Troop 4	Westminster Presbyterian Church	O. V. Hermsworth
Troop 5	St. Luke's Methodist Church	B. M. Briggs



Figure. Scoutmaster Harry Holmes, 3rd from right, and Troop 3 Boy Scouts

At the end of Gunn's first (partial) year as Scout Executive, the Dubuque Council ended 1917 with 118 registered Scouts. There were 53 Tenderfoot Scouts, 63 Second Class Scouts, and 2 First Class Scouts. The totals must have provided optimism for the Scout Executive and the Council Executive Board. For 1918, the council approved an estimated budget of \$4,371, a 65% increase of the previous year. (The 1918 yearend figures would reflect a net increase in 257 youth members, and an increase in the number of troops to 16, up from 7 the previous year.)

First Indoor Rally Attracts 400 Spectators

The Armory Hall was the site of the first indoor rally held by the Dubuque Council. It was held on Friday night, December 15, 1917. Troops competed in the following activities: (1) review of the troops, (2) inspection and roll call, (3) marching competition, (4) signaling, (5) first aid to the injured, (6) fire by friction, (7) knot tying, and (8) tug-of-war. Participating troops:

- Troop 1 Summit Congregational Church
- Troop 2 St. Raphael's Cathedral Parish
- Troop 3 YMCA
- Troop 4 Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Troop 5 St. Luke's Methodist Church
- Troop 6 St. Patrick's Catholic Parish
- Troop 7 First Congregational Church
- Troop 8 Franklin School

The Council's Court of Honor committee, which consisted of Judge D. E. Maguire, Dr. J. V. Conzett, and James H. Harris (Superintendent of Dubuque Schools), presented merit badges and rank advancement to Scouts as part of the festivities. First Class badges were awarded to Everett Nelson Sowers of Troop 3 and Joe Schaeffe of Troop 2. Sowers became the first Scout in the Dubuque Council to earn the First Class rank.

Scouts Prove Eager to Help 'Win the War'

The Boy Scouts of America clearly stated its intentions to support the efforts of the United States should the country become involved in "The Great War". This intent was introduced in a March 1917 *Boy's Life* article titled "If War Should Come!". On April 7, 1917, just one day after the United States entered the war, the Executive Board of the National Council issued a proclamation that committed the Boy Scouts of America to war service.

Dubuque-area Boy Scouts soon answered the call to serve. Their 'patriotic activities' included:

- increasing the food supply
- war saving stamps
- government dispatch bearers
- black walnut classification
- Liberty Loan campaigns
- Red Cross assistance

Increasing the Food Supply

In April of 1917 the Boy Scouts of America launched a campaign with the slogan "every Scout to Feed a Soldier". The goal was to encourage Scouts to plant their own garden and thus increase production and decrease consumption. Boy Scouts who participated in this campaign were referred to as "grub Scouts". Most issues of *Scouting* magazine and *Boy's Life* magazine during 1917 and 1918 featured 'grub Scouts' in action stories. Two troops in Dubuque participated in this program and planted gardens that totaled approximately 3 acres.

Dubuque Boy Scouts didn't limit their efforts of increasing the food supply to just gardening. On May 25 1918, U.S. Department of Agriculture representative R. S. Kirby spoke to around 50 Boy Scouts at the Carnegie Stout public library on the subject of barberry bushes. Kirby warned that 'black stem rust' from the bushes was harmful to wheat crops and that the bushes needed to be destroyed. Kirby also brought samples to show the Boy Scouts the difference between the barberry bushes and rose bushes.

During June and July, Dubuque Boy Scouts canvassed the city in search of barberry bushes. A Boy Scout didn't actually destroy the bushes, but rather attached a tag on each bush that he found. The tag instructed the owner to destroy the plant.

In Dubuque, 25,000 tags were attached to the harmful plants. The Mohawk patrol from Troop 5 tagged 2,500 bushes. For outdoing the other 15 patrols that participated in the campaign, the Commercial Club awarded the Mohawk patrol two new pup tents.

War Saving Stamps

A rally at the Carnegie Stout public library on Monday March 4, 1918 launched the Dubuque Boy Scouts War Saving Stamps campaign to secure commitments from local citizens to purchase war stamps. Over 150 Scouts attended the rally. William Lawther, Jr. served as chairman of the local campaign.

Boy Scouts across the country used red post cards, specially printed for the Boy Scouts by the U.S. government, for the purpose of securing commitments from citizens to buy stamps. The price of thrift stamps was .25 per stamp. War-saving stamps were \$5.00 each. The Scout mailed in the postcard, and the postmaster would collect the money once the stamps were delivered. Persons received 4% interest on their 'loan' to the U.S. Government. Nationally, Boy Scouts raised over \$53,043,698 for the government with this program.

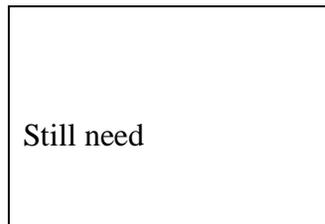


Figure. Ace Medal

Chief Scout Executive James E. West awarded a War Saving Stamp ACE medal to several Dubuque Boy Scouts to recognize them for securing a minimum of 25 subscriptions that amounted to at least \$250.00. The Superintendent of Dubuque Schools, J. H. Harris, presented medals to the following Scouts: John Rooney, Francis Kearney, Eugene Loetscher, John Chalmers, Austin Cooper, Chas Duffy, Stuart Page, Fridolin Heer, Joseph Mulligan, Gerald Schaeffie, and William Becker.

Carry government dispatches

President Woodrow Wilson issued a request for Boy Scouts to become government dispatch bearers. To fulfill this request, Scouts were to distribute pamphlets on the war that were prepared by the Committee on Public Information.

Nationally, thousands of publications were distributed. Nearly all of the Dubuque troops offered their services, but only one troop received the pamphlets and thus was able to serve as a dispatch bearer.

Black Walnut Classification

At the request of President Woodrow Wilson, the Boy Scouts of America were asked to help the war department determine the number of Black Walnut trees. The military used lumber from Black Walnut trees for gunstocks as well as for propellers and other airplane components.

Boy Scouts from five Dubuque troops began their classification tasks on June 8, 1918. They successfully located and reported several thousand feet of lumber. By the end of the war, Boy Scouts across the country had located 20,758,660 feet of standing Black Walnut, which would have been enough lumber to fill 5,200 railroad cars.

Liberty Loan Campaigns

Across the country, the Boy Scouts conducted their liberty loan campaigns only after 'adult' groups had finished their campaign. The success of the Boy Scouts efforts can't be questioned. After the third liberty loan campaign in Dubuque, for example, the men's and women's local committees had completed their canvassing and had more than doubled their quota. After this, the Scouts began their campaign and raised over \$15,000.

Attorney C. H. Czizek awarded a German helmet as a prize to the Dubuque Boy Scout who secured the most subscriptions in the May, 1919 campaign.

Liberty Loan Campaign	Date	Subscriptions secured by Dubuque-area Boy Scouts	Subscriptions secured nationwide by Boy Scouts
First	June 11-14, 1917	\$ 0	\$ 23,238,250
Second	October 21-26, 1917	\$ 21,000	\$ 102,084,100
Third	April 25-May 5, 1918	\$ 15,150	\$ 81,659,950
Fourth	October 1918	\$ 25,000	\$ 71,812,350
Fifth	May 1919	unknown	\$ 76,114,612

A total of 275 Boy Scouts in the Dubuque Council received the distinction of being considered 'honor Scouts'. To earn this distinction, a Scout performed 10 public service activities, and he participated in the Liberty Loan campaigns, the War Savings stamp campaign, and Red Cross drives.

Red Cross Assistance

The Scouts were ready to serve the Red Cross whenever asked, and in many instances, they were indeed asked. Activities and service provided by the Scouts varied. In mid-May, 1918, over 80 Scouts marched in the Red Cross parade on Main Street. Following the parade, Scouts from Troop 2, Troop 3, and Troop 5 set up first-aid stations/demonstrations along Main Street, on each corner between 5th and 9th streets.

In November, 1918, Boy Scouts assisted the Red Cross, the Visiting Nurses Association, and the Sisters of Mercy by delivering soup to the homes where individuals were suffering from the flu. Boy Scouts even filled in for one of the regular city ambulance drivers when he was unable to work due to the flu.

When soldiers returned to Dubuque in May, 1919, Boy Scouts helped the Red Cross workers with 'welcome home' preparations. Boy Scouts not only ran errands, they distributed boxes of flowers, food, and magazines to appropriate areas. Scouts also assisted with crowd control during the parade for the returning soldiers.

Boy Scouts First to Celebrate the End of the War

The news arrived in Dubuque around 2:00 a.m. on a cold morning in November, 1918. The war was over! When the much-anticipated news finally arrived, the Boy Scouts were the first to receive the news.



Figure. November 11, 1918 Telegraph Herald article indicates that the Boy Scouts are first to celebrate the end of The Great War

Dubuque Boy Scouts were determined to follow the Scout motto 'be prepared'. How did the Boy Scouts 'prepare' to be the first in the city to receive the news, and be the first to celebrate? For two days and two nights prior to when the armistice was signed, a Boy Scout was stationed at each newspaper office.

The Scouts took turns being stationed at each of the newspaper offices. At night, the other Scouts slept on the (cold!) gym floor at the YMCA. When the good news finally arrived at the newspaper offices, the Scout dashed to the YMCA and notified his fellow Scouts. The Boy Scouts were on location and ready to lead the celebration!

The Scouts first marched up to 18th Street, and met another group heading downtown. The Boy Scouts joined this group, and headed down Main Street with their impromptu parade, making as much noise as they could. Firemen rang the bell on the 4th Street fire station with a vengeance.

Impromptu parades formed throughout the day. The largest parade was on Main Street. At the front was the Dubuque Military band, followed by the Boy Scouts. Another, perhaps unusual parade participant, was someone driving a funeral hearse. With its siren constantly ringing, the hearse carried a symbolic corpse of the deposed German ruler

Kaiser Wilhelm II. Participants in this parade formed a caravan that extended for 5 blocks.

Since the origins of the Dubuque Council nearly two years earlier, Dubuque Boy Scouts did whatever they were asked when it came to war-related service. Their efforts were more than symbolic. For the Scouts themselves, their efforts had increased their patriotism, gave them a sense of purpose, and provided them with a feeling of accomplishment.

For Dubuque residents, war-related service projects helped define the Boy Scout movement as legitimate and worthwhile. When the Dubuque Council was first being organized, many parents wondered if the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America was to encourage and ultimately prepare their sons for the military. By the time “The Great War” ended, the questions now changed to concerns: would the Boy Scouts continue to exist now that service projects related to the war were no longer needed.

Death to the Rats!

Dubuque Boy Scouts didn’t limit their civic service efforts to war-related activities. A unique request came from local businessmen. Based in part on the success of a similar campaign the previous year, the Dubuque Council organized a 1919 campaign to rid the city of Dubuque of rodents. All boys in the city were eligible for prizes, not just those who were Scouts.

Boys received a 5 cent bounty for each rat, and 1 cent for each mouse. Instead of medals, which were awarded as prizes in 1918, boys with the most ‘kills’ could earn a first, second, or third place award of \$15, \$10, or \$5. Businessmen also donated prizes for the most successful troops. Earl Marihart, winner of the 1919 campaign, also recorded the most kills in the contest the previous year! His prize was a wool blanket, which in the days before “sleeping bags,” was an excellent prize.

Winners of the 1919 campaign:

Earl Marihart	104 rats
Peter Frohs	67 rats
Earl Bokker	72 rats
Anthony Gibbs	57 rats
Harry Dell	46 rats
Philip Jones	41 rats

The popular campaign was conducted three years later, and Sam Bloom of Troop 3 turned in 232 rat tales to win the contest that year. The Dubuque Chamber of Commerce offered their support by paying a bounty of 1 cent for each “kill”.

Can the Can

Dubuque Boy Scouts received praise for their service by many local dignitaries during the first 3 years of the Dubuque Council. One community service project, however, was recognized nationally with a full-page story in the January 15, 1920 issue of *Scouting* magazine.

The 6-day campaign to collect empty cans that littered the city was conducted in June of 1919. Slogans used during the campaign were “Can the Can,” “The Tin Can is the Mosquitoes Home – Can It,” and “Clean Up Dubuque—The Boy Scouts will Show You How.”

The Boy Scouts brought the cans to a vacant lot on the corner of 8th and Clay Street. Each night, the can pile was covered with oil and then lit in order to help control the mosquito problem. Prizes were awarded to the boy who brought the most cans—and the boy didn’t have to be a Boy Scout to be eligible for the prizes. Troop 2 won the troop prize.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

FRUIT growers say of their produce, "We eat what we eat, and what we can't we can," but in Dubuque, Iowa, there is a group of Boy Scouts who go the fruit men one better. Their slogan is "We eat what they can when they can't and then can the can!"

No matter how carefully its original contents were prepared and sealed the empty tin can is a real menace to health when left lying around. The Boy Scouts in Dubuque, however, backed by the local Board of Health, the Commercial Club, the newspapers and everybody interested in the "Spotless City" idea, ordained that the cans should pass.

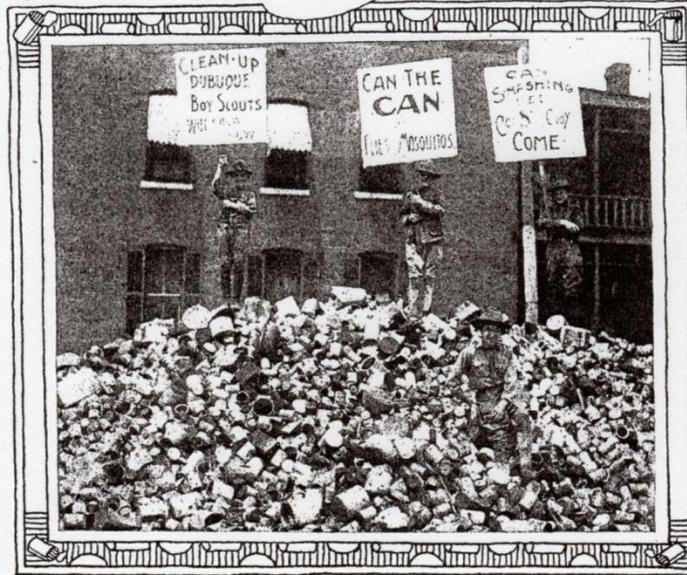
Prizes were offered for the boys bringing to a municipal can pile established on a vacant lot near the business centre of the city the largest number of old tin cans. A checker was stationed at the lot each day during the six day "Tin Can Drive" to count the empties and issue receipts for them. Every boy in town, whether Scout or not, was eligible for the competition.

During the week the menace of the empty tin can was preached in the schools by special health lecturers provided by the Board of Health and other interested organizations.

Scouts paraded the city with such slogans as "Can the Can," "The Tin Can is the Mosquitoes' Home—Can It," and "Clean Up Dubuque—The Boy Scouts Will Show You How."

The large show window of the Local Scout Council's office was fitted up with a mosquito hatchery. This was made of cheese cloth, the front edges being pasted to the window, the glass of which furnished the outer side. At the start the hatchery contained three glass jars of dirty water, two jars containing water from undrained sloughs within the city limits and the other water taken from tin cans in one of the unsightly back alley piles. This slough water developed all sorts of animalcules, the jar of water taken from the tin cans producing the most mosquito larvae or wrigglers which developed into a swarm of full sized mosquitoes, including the malaria variety, in a few days. This exhibit naturally attracted a great deal of attention. The city newspapers devoted considerable space every day to a story on the growth of the can pile and the progress of affairs at the mosquito hatchery.

Every night the can pile was covered with oil and then lighted in order to destroy any organic life which might be developing. After blazes died away all cans



"CANNING THE CAN"

How the Boy Scouts of Dubuque Did It

which still looked suspicious were treated to a generous dose of chloride of lime.

The campaign closed on Saturday noon with more than 56,000 cans accounted for. The pile represented every known variety of tin can from the little pepper box to the old tin wash boiler. The champion collector held receipts for 14,165 cans—a wonderful total for one boy—and the second boy had 6,793 empties to his credit.

But that didn't finish the cans. They had to be smashed so no water could lie in them again to tempt home hunting skeeters. The boys of the town were therefore invited to a can smashing bee on Saturday afternoon. Dozens responded to the call and soon the 56,000 cans looked like a collection of metal pancakes. One boy smashed fifty almost beyond recognition in five minutes by stop watch! Trucks from the street cleaning department then hauled the remains off to the city dump.

At the close of the Tin Can Drive a local newspaper said that tin cans were as scarce in Dubuque as Hohenzollerns at the Peace Conference.

Here are a few Suggestions for other Community Campaigns.

- "Clout the Rat" Campaign.
- Traffic Regulation.
- Service Tent at Sea Beach.
- Fire Prevention Survey and Demonstration.
- Park Police Work.
- Community Christmas Charity.
- War on Moths and Caterpillars.

- Extermination of Barberry Bushes.
- Collecting Salvage Material (paper, rubber, tin foil, bottles, etc.).

- Tree Planting.
- Walk Right Campaign.
- Anti-Spitting Campaign.
- "Swat the Fly."
- Building Bird Houses for City Parks.
- City "Clean Up" Campaign.

W. S. S. FOR WASTE MATERIAL

In many communities the scouts have been active each year in the clean up week conducted by the city authorities. Now the Department of Commerce is enlisting the services of the

scouts in cleaning up the city dump and at the same time salvaging waste material which is paid for in War Savings Stamps, making this a combination clean up and thrift campaign. The great annual loss of the city dump has led to the organization of the Waste Reclamation Service, which will work in conjunction with the National "Clean Up and Paint Up" Campaign Bureau, and the Savings Division of the United States Treasury.

It is estimated that urban communities send annually to the city dump, for every 1,000 residents, thirteen tons of valuable waste material. At least one-fifth of this material is old paper that should be used in making other paper, instead of being burned. Another item of waste is rags; others are bottles and metal.

A ton of waste paper will save eight trees. Last year two million tons of box-wood were manufactured from old paper. If this paper had been destroyed sixteen million trees would have had to have been cut down.

Eight per cent of the value of each ton of waste material is in rags, from which roofing felt can be made. When you destroy them you increase the building cost in your community. Clean rags can be used in making paper.

The Waste Reclamation Service suggests that separate bags be used for the collection of various kinds of material, but that the classification be kept simple, and that the waste dealer do the sorting. The financial arrangements for the payment of Thrift and War Savings Stamps must be worked out between the waste dealers and the local waste reclamation council. But scouts can distribute information to housewives of the dates of collection and sale, of the kind of material that should be saved for use instead of being thrown out, and of means of collecting it and having it transported to headquarters.

Figure. Can the Can campaign was featured in Scouting magazine

Activities during the first few years of the Dubuque Council indicate that service to others—the country as well as the community—was a priority for local Scout leaders. Scout Executive Gunn often attended troop meetings and went on weekend outings. This

frequent and direct involvement with the boys served as a constant reminder that if boys were to remain Boy Scouts, activities had to be fun, too.

The Durango Scout Cabin

By January of 1918, the Dubuque Council had 8 troops. If asked where they would like to spend time with their fellow Boy Scouts, a majority would give the same answer: a site known as the cabin near Durango. The cabin was located on what is now Hales Mill Road, just eight tenths of a mile from the intersection of Hales Mill Road and Burton Furnace Road.

To get to the cabin, Scouts took the Great Western train to within 1.5 miles of the cabin, and then hiked the rest of the way.

The cabin was a two-story structure. When the Boy Scouts decided to begin using the cabin, it had no windows or door. One half of one wall was missing. Scout Executive Gunn lead the efforts to repair the cabin and make it usable. Soon the cabin had a huge fireplace, a kitchen stove, and a handmade table. The sleeping quarters were on the second floor balcony.

Kept at the cabin was a journal that allowed the Boy Scouts to record events and activities. The January 20, 1918 *Telegraph Herald* published some of the entries recorded in this journal.

December 7 was a red-letter day. It was cold enough in the sheltered downtown streets but Troop 4 again essayed the cabin trip. Stilly and John B. left Dubuque at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Gunn was to come after. We got to the cabin at about 7:00 p.m. and there was no oil in any of the lanterns and we were all about froze. Mr. Gunn came about 8 o'clock: after telling stories until 11:00 o'clock, we turned in and slept. In about an hour, we got up and made a roaring fire.

December 28. The afternoon was spent gathering wood, plastering chinks in the cabin, framing the door, etc. Beef stew for supper, canned beans, onions and rutabagas. The evening story was "The Bloody Half Acres". All slept well as Art Baer was quiet.

Breakfast the next morning consisted of flapjacks, stew, and the bunch left on the 2:40 p.m. train for the city. The "bunch" this time consisted of Art Baer, Art Francis, John Rae, M. Stillman, Elmo Adams, and the Scoutmaster.

Leonard "Lefty" Schuster often served as Campmaster at the cabin during the first few years. He challenged boys to come in all kinds of weather, no matter how cold it was, or how much snow was on the ground. Schuster was known to ask "are you a real Scout, or just a steam-radiator Scout who sits indoors and reads his Scout manual?"

The cabin was most commonly used for weekend, overnight trips and for longer, winter camps that were held around the Christmas time.

Camp Quaker Mills: 1917-1919

The summer camp location in 1917, 1918, and 1919 for the Dubuque Council was the same. It was a site 3.5 miles North of Manchester, near the Maquoketa River. Scouts referred to the camp as Camp Quaker Mills.

A total of 25 Scouts attended Camp Quaker Mills during the first season.

The second annual summer camp was a two-week summer camp session, held August 17 – 31, 1918. Boys had two options to get to camp. Most chose the August 16 date.

- August 16. Boys were transported by auto to Dyersville. From there they hiked the approximately 25 miles to get to camp. Adults Charles Agard and Blainey Matthews led this contingent.
- August 17. Boys could catch a 1:00 p.m. train at the Illinois Central Depot.

Scout Executive Walter Gunn felt that the infantile paralysis epidemic held the attendance to a lower-than-expected 51 boys. Health concerns due to this epidemic were not taken lightly. Each Scout completed a physical prior to attending camp. A physician, Dr. E. G. Dittmer, visited the camp twice a week for each week that camp was in session. In addition, the council had to (1) secure a permit from the local Board of Health to leave the city, (2) receive permission from the State Board of Health, and (3) complete a permit from the city of Manchester in order for the Scouts to pass through their city.

Boys who attended camp signed up as individuals, rather than with their troop. Upon arrival, Scouts joined the Boone troop, Cody troop, Crockett troop, or the Custer troop. Since the council was formed in 1917, attendees for all practical purposes were either first-year or second-year Scouts.

One day the Scouts hiked to the fish hatchery, leaving at 9:00 a.m. and returning at 6:00 p.m. On another day, the Scouts formed a baseball team, went into Manchester and defeated the 'town team'.

Another day the Scouts enjoyed a full day of contests in water-related activities. The events included:

- long boat race
- 25-yard swim
- boat tug-of-war
- 100-yard swim
- boat paddle with hands only
- 25-yard swim on back
- high diving
- fancy diving

First place winners in each event received three pies, second place was awarded two pies, and third place winner received one pie. A few days later, pies were again the reward for Scouts who placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the following field events:

- 50-yard dash
- standing broad jump
- running high jump
- stretcher-carry race
- pole vault
- roman horse race
- chariot race
- wall scaling

Night-time activities included boxing matches, a concert by the Boy Scout fife and bugle corps, and of course campfires. On Sunday 21 Scouts attended the Catholic church. The remaining Scouts attended the Methodist Church in Manchester, and some assisted with the reading of the Scripture lessons.

At the end of the 2-week session, approximately 20 Scouts remained and decided to camp at the Delaware County Fair. They served as guards for various exhibits.

Prior to the 2-week-long summer camp session at Camp Quaker Mills during the summer of 1919, troops had the opportunity to participate in what was known as 'troop camp'. The troop camp was held near Palmer's Creek, which was just a 30-minute walk from the West Dubuque car line. Five sessions of this 4-day camp were held.

Session	Participating troop(s)
July 14 – 17	Troop 15 and Troop 7
July 21 – 25	Troop 3
July 28 – 31	Troop 16 and Troop 17
August 4 – 8	Troop 9
August 11 – 14	Troop 13 and Troop 10

Scout Executive Gunn and Campmaster Lefty Schuster provided adult leadership to the troop camp. This "troop camp structure" gave troops the opportunity to camp as a unit, and to polish their Scout skills prior to the 15-day session later in the year at Camp Quaker Mills. Program activities included hiking, water sports, and athletic games.

The Camp Quaker Mills summer camp session began on August 15 when the Scouts left the Elks lodge for Dyersville. From there, the Scouts would hike the remainder of the trip. On August 16, the Scouts pitched camp in Earlville. Prior to arriving at Camp Quaker Mills the next day, the Scouts marched in military formation in Manchester. Their fife and drum corps also performed for Manchester residents.

A feature of the opening night of camp was a baseball game between the Boy Scouts vs. the (adult) members of the Dubuque Council. Alderman J. H. Wallis pitched the adults to a 5-1 victory over the Boy Scouts. Later in the week these same Boy Scouts would travel into Manchester and defeat the local town team.

Troops were formed on the first day of camp. Leaders of these troops were Ed Schaetzle, Custer troop; Lynn Osborn, Cody troop; Art Bergren, Boone troop; Don Whelan, Crockett troop.

The final totals indicate that 106 Scouts and 21 leaders and/or officials attended of one of the 4-day camps, and 40 Scouts and leaders attended Camp Quaker Mills.

Yearend Activities

Service projects and summer camp were of course not the only activities that Gunn helped organize as a new Scout Executive.

The Dubuque Council held its first indoor rally at the Armory Hall on December 14, 1917. Over 80 Boy Scouts and leaders participated in a Scout Rally held January 5, 1919 at the cabin near Durango. The most hotly-contested event was the sawing event, won by Troop 5 from St. Luke's Church.

A Halloween 'spook hike' was a highlight for many Scouts. The 1919 Spook Hike, the 3rd such hike held since the arrival of Gunn as Scout Executive, attracted 175 Scouts.

A Scout Rally, held December 30, 1919 at Eagle Point Park, was the year-end event for 32 Boy Scouts and their leaders. Winter temperatures didn't deter the primarily outdoor contests: troop inspection, wood chopping, fire building, cooking, signaling, tree identification, and hiking. Individual champion of the event was Troop 9 Scoutmaster Bob A. Ruegnitz.

A Decade of Growth and Acceptance

By the end of the decade, the image of the Boy Scouts of America was seldom challenged. Local groups such as the Rotary Club, the Commercial Club, the YMCA, school officials, the Red Cross, and religious groups of various faiths all proactively supported the Boy Scout movement in Dubuque.

Many members of the original executive board of the Dubuque Council were in professions that had direct contact with the youth of the city. These adults knew that structured opportunities for Scout-age boys were limited. The Boy Scout program could bring to these boys character-building activities that were both fun and available to all economic and social classes.

Whether it was war-related activities or civic service such as collecting cans or killing rats, boys proved that they were eager to be a part of such an organization. Outings such as weekend overnights at the cabin near Durango, or 2-week summer camp near Manchester, gave the boys a chance to be away from home and experience 'the great outdoors'.

The efforts of individuals also drew widespread praise. The local Court of Honor petitioned Dan Beard and the National Court of Honor on behalf of Frederick Nelson, a 15-year-old Boy Scout from Troop 3 to receive recognition. In July of 1919, Nelson

rescued a girl from drowning. Local newspapers demonstrated a willingness to carry multiple stories on such accomplishments.

Scout Executive Walter Gunn keyed the rapid growth of the Boy Scout movement in Dubuque. By the end of 1917, the Dubuque Council consisted of 118 registered Boy Scouts from seven troops. With Walter Gunn's leadership and energy, the number of Scouts registered would increase to 301 Boy Scouts from sixteen troops by the end of 1918. By the end of 1919, there would be 356 Scouts that registered with the council, and two troops that chartered directly with the National Office.