

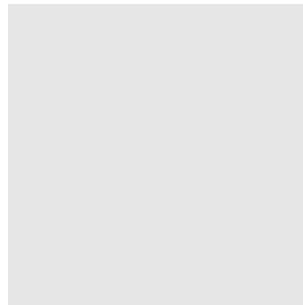
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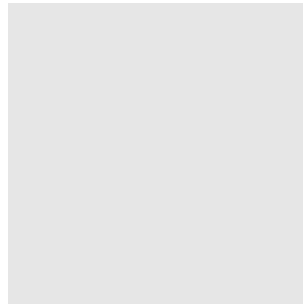
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Boy Scouts Northeast Iowa Council celebrates 100 years

BY JOHN KRUSE john.kruse@thmedia.com 9 hrs ago



Matt Klutzaritz
contributed



Jacob Sindt



Collin Sindt (from left), 18, Jacob Sindt, 16, and C.J. Clarke, 16, all of Dubuque, work on Jacob's Eagle Scout project on Sunday at the Calcite Trailhead in the Mines of Spain in Dubuque.

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EILEEN MESLAR

Serving nearly 4,000 Scouts with the support of 1,200 volunteers, the Boy Scouts Northeast Iowa Council is still going strong, even after a century.

The local council for the Boy Scouts of America covers Dubuque, Delaware, Clayton and Allamakee counties in Iowa, along with parts of Jackson County, Iowa, and Jo Daviess County, Ill.

This year, the Northeast Iowa Council celebrates its 100th anniversary.

“I’m proud that it’s been around 100 years and to be a part of that,” said Jacob Sindt, 16, of Dubuque, a member of Boy Scout Troop 69. “I feel like I’m contributing to my community.”

Founded in 1917, the council originally only covered the Dubuque area, with the surrounding area being included over time.

Matt Klutzaritz, Scout executive and CEO of the Northeast Iowa Council, said while it isn't the largest council in the country, it is one that is steeped in tradition.

“You get a lot of people who will tell you, ‘Oh, my kids are in scouting,’ or ‘My dad was in the Scouts,’” Klutzaritz said. “There’s a long history of scouting in families here.”

Compared to the rest of the country, the Northeast Iowa Council’s region fares well in the percentage of youth it has involved in Boy Scouts, Klutzaritz said.

Nationally, about 9 percent of children in the country who are at the scouting age are involved with the organization. In the Northeast Iowa Council’s area, 19 percent of boys ages 12-18 are involved in Boy Scouts, and 29 percent of boys ages 7-11 are in Cub Scouts.