

Reps. Potvin, Hoadley, Maturen, Plawecki, Sarah Roberts, Webber and Yanez offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 12.

A resolution to declare February 8-14, 2015, as Boy Scout Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, The members of the Michigan Legislature consider it a great privilege to celebrate this occasion and proudly extend tribute to all the leaders, parents, friends, family, and scouts who have made the Boy Scouts of America successful across our state. This organization has had a profound impact on countless lives in our state and nation; and

Whereas, The scouting program was founded in 1907 by Robert Baden-Powell in Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, England, to encourage young men to develop personal goals and actively pursue their personal interests. In 1909, American journalist and publisher, William D. Boyce, lost his way in a dense London fog. A boy came to his aid and, after guiding the man, refused a tip, explaining that as a Scout he would not take a tip for doing a Good Turn. This gesture by the unknown Scout inspired Boyce to start Scouting in America; and

Whereas, The Boy Scouts of America were incorporated on February 8, 1910, in New York City, received their federal charter as granted by the United States Congress in 1916, and celebrated their 100th anniversary in 2010. Since the Boy Scouts of America awarded the first Eagle Scout in 1912 to Arthur Eldred, over two and a quarter million scouts have been awarded the Eagle Scout rank. Every year, local packs, troops, and crews celebrate this rich history with Boy Scout Week; and

Whereas, Today, the Scouting program represents the largest voluntary youth movement in the world, with approximately 195 countries having scout programs. The Boy Scouts of America has more than 2.6 million registered scouts, over 1 million leaders, and over 100,000 registered units. Their goal is to train youth in responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in outdoor activities, educational programs, career-oriented programs, and community-service activities. Those scouts and leaders performed over 13.5 million hours of service to their councils and communities, with nearly 1.1 million youth attending a council camp or national high-adventure camp last year; and

Whereas, In 2015, the Order of the Arrow will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society and recognizes those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives; and promote camping and responsible outdoor adventure, leadership development, and cheerful service to others. In 1915, Camp Director E. Urner Goodman and Assistant Camp Director Carroll A. Edson searched for a way to recognize select campers for their cheerful spirits of service at Treasure Island Scout Camp in the Delaware River. Goodman and Edson founded the Order of the Arrow when they held the first Ordeal Ceremony on July 16, 1915. By 1948, the Order of the Arrow, recognized as the BSA's national brotherhood of honor campers, became an official part of the Boy Scouts of America. Toward the end of the twentieth century, the Order of the Arrow expanded its focus to include conservation, high adventure, and servant-leadership. To date, more than one million people have been members of the Order of the Arrow and currently include more than 170,000 youth and adult members in nearly 300 local councils across the globe. In celebration of the 100th anniversary, up to 15,000 youth and adult leaders will gather this summer for an inspirational and unforgettable experience full of fellowship, top notch training, evening theatrical shows, adventure, and fun at the National Order of the Arrow Conference on the campus of Michigan State University; and

Whereas, The councils that make up the scouting community in Michigan are the Bay-Lakes Council and the Michigan Crossroads Council - with four field service councils being Great Lakes, President Ford, Southern Shores, and Water and Woods Field Service Councils - will celebrate Boy Scout Week with a number of events, including Scout Sunday and Scout Sabbath at local places of worship, community service projects, Courts of Honor, and flag-raising ceremonies. These endeavors will serve as a reminder of the vital impact the scouting program has on our communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare February 8-14, 2015, as Boy Scout Week in the state of Michigan. We recognize the great accomplishments and contributions that the Scouting movement has had upon the character and development of Michigan's youth; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Bay-Lakes Council, the Michigan Crossroads Council, and the national office of the Boy Scouts of America as evidence of the highest esteem given by the members of the Michigan Legislature.