

## EXECUTIVE EDITION



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Ever wonder who runs the Boy Scouts of America? A national committee made up of volunteers from many backgrounds guide the organization through its most important decisions. They are led by Scouting's National Key 3.



**BSA's National Key 3, from left - National Commissioner Tico Perez, Chief Scout Executive Wayne Brock, and BSA National President Robert Gates**

The top professional Scouter in the organization is the Chief Scout Executive. He is selected by BSA's National Executive Committee to oversee the national office and all that happens in the field. Throughout BSA's history, a dozen men have held the post, each bringing his own style and vision to the office. Soon there will be one more.



## THE FIRST CHIEF SCOUT

In 1910 as the new Boy Scouts of America was taking shape, Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, and other visionaries were developing program and writing literature. Support from Theodore Roosevelt and others was bringing positive attention to the fledgling organization. With volunteers and staff ready to move forward, Scouting needed a strong administrator. They found that in James E. West.

Orphaned at a young age and handicapped by tuberculosis, West had nonetheless had the inner strength to make his own way. He earned a law degree and became a strong proponent of children's rights.

President Roosevelt recommended West to the Boy Scouts. The two had worked together on youth issues when Roosevelt was in the White House. West had also gained experience with the YMCA and other groups.

Hired on a six-month trial basis, Dr. West stayed on as Chief Scout Executive for 32 years, helping build the BSA into the nation's most successful youth organization.



**James E. West**



**Dr. West's Chief Scout Executive Pin**



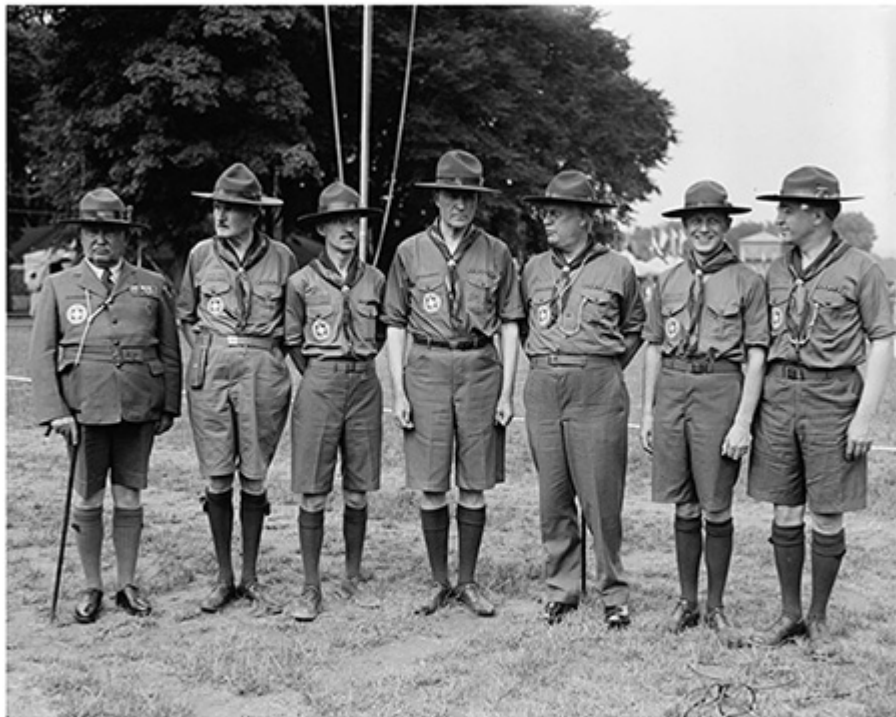
## ELEVEN MORE CHIEFS

Elbert Fretwell succeeded Dr. West in 1943 as Chief Scout Executive. A professor of education at Columbia University, he had long been an active Scouting volunteer, receiving the Silver Buffalo Award in 1939. A 1944 sketch autographed by Walt Disney honored Dr. Fretwell's service.



**Disney artist Hank Porter's drawing autographed by Walt Disney**

After Dr. Fretwell, every Chief Scout Executive has been drawn from among active BSA professionals. Most began their careers serving in the field as district executives, then accepted positions of increasing responsibility until reaching the pinnacle of the Scouting profession.



**Current and future Chief Scout Executives James West (third from right) and Arthur Schuck (second from right) at the 1937 National Jamboree. E. Urner Goodman (third from left), founded the Order of the Arrow.**

One with strong connections to the BSA national office was Arthur Schuck, who served as program director and then Deputy Chief under James West. He took office following Dr. Fretwell's retirement.



**Arthur Schuck as Chief Scout Executive  
1948-1960**

Mr. Schuck believed that Scouting should strive "To give to America a new generation of men of character, with ingrained qualities that make for good citizenship."

That has been a guiding principle for the nine men who followed Schuck as Chief Scout Executive. Here they are, with their dates of service:



**Joseph Brunton  
1960-1967**



**Alden Barber  
1967-1976**



**Harvey Price  
1976-1979**



**J. L. Tarr**  
1979-1984



**Ben Love**  
1985-1993



**Jere Ratcliffe**  
1993-2000



**Roy Williams**  
2000-2007



**Bob Mazzuca**  
2007-2012



**Wayne Brock**  
2012-2015



## **BSA'S NEW CHIEF SCOUT**

This autumn, Michael Surbaugh will assume the post of BSA's Chief Scout Executive.



**Michael Surbaugh**

He takes office at a time of great challenge for the organization, and also tremendous opportunity. His management skills, vision for the future, and ability to bring people together will be critical as Scouting moves forward.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected as the Boy Scouts of America's Chief Scout Executive," he says. "As I transition into this role, I am committed to continuing the legacy of leadership to solidify Scouting's role in the development of America's youth and to empower our volunteers to deliver the kind of life-changing experiences that can only be found within Scouting."



## **A PROFESSION WITH A PURPOSE**

In 1925, Chief Scout Executive James West threw his support behind the BSA's first training course for professionals, a 30-day curriculum to set new Scout executives on the right path. The program evolved through the years, based from the 1930s through the 1970s at Schiff Scout Reservation near the BSA's National Office when it was in New Brunswick, New Jersey.



**District Executive Training Course - Schiff Scout Reservation - 1946**

Training today takes place at the BSA's Center for Professional Development in Westlake, Texas, about fifteen miles west of the current National Office. From introductory courses to advanced seminars, the Center prepares new executives for challenges in the field and hones the skills of those with years of experience.



**Scouters completing coursework at the BSA's Center for Professional Development**

Professional Scouters inspire, recruit, train and support the BSA's volunteers, work with community leaders, and rally public support for Scouting's activities.



Sound interesting? Want to transform your interest in Scouting and youth development into a satisfying career that can make a real difference?

The BSA can answer your questions and get you started toward wearing the shoulder patch of a Scouting professional. Check it out here:

<http://www.scouting.org/Careers/WorkingWithUs.aspx>



## SCOUTING'S FUTURE

Dedicated professionals are breathing fresh energy and ideas into Scouting's program. BSA staff throughout America are from diverse backgrounds and with a wide range of experiences that promise good things for the years to come.



Bryan Hayek photo

**Christine Salisbury**

Among them is Christine Salisbury, Program Director for the Mid-America Council. A graduate of Kansas State University with a master's degree in architecture, she was a Venturing Silver Award recipient.

For three seasons Christine worked at Northern Tier, then ten seasons on the staff at Philmont Scout Ranch including three summers as Chief Ranger.

She enjoys cycling, backpacking, dog sledding, and ultimate Frisbee. Mix in her tremendous enthusiasm and dedication to Scouting, and the BSA has a fantastic resource now and for the future. Best of all, she is just one of many Scouting professionals of her generation who will guide the BSA in years to come.



Philmont Scout Ranch photo

**Christine (row two, far right) with the 2011 Philmont Ranger Leadership**

On a visit to the BSA National Office in Irving, Texas, Christine was invited to sit a moment at the Chief Scout Executive's desk. No one knows what the future holds, but Scouting is being well served by its current top executives, and by those who will one day take their places.



Patrick Adams photo



(This edition of the *Be Prepared Newsletter* was developed and written by Robert Birkby, author of the current editions of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fieldbook*, *Scout Stuff*, *The Conservation Handbook*, and *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*.)