

E-Totem Article June 2009

I had a great opportunity to attend the BSA National Meeting in Orlando recently. I attended general sessions as well as specific sessions devoted to commissioner service. What I found is that we all have the same challenges when it comes to providing the best program possible for the youth in our respective councils. We all want what's best but the implementation can be really tough. Everyone is so busy! We ask ourselves how can we add any more to our busy schedules? But you know what...if we want it badly enough we will find the time. We know that one of the best investments of our time is for the youth of our community. Some of sessions I attended offered some practical suggestions for program implementation and improvement. And those sessions were certainly helpful. But the best by far were the general sessions where they talked about the "New BSA" and the future of the Boy Scouts of America. The "New BSA"! In a nut shell it's all about how we take the best of the past 100 years and add that to the vision of the next 100 years. Technology is a really big part of our next 100 years. Stay tuned for a new look to the national web site that's coming soon. One tool that is already available to unit leaders is "online advancement". I encourage every unit leader responsible for tracking advancement to take a really close look and use this tool. It's quick and efficient. Volunteer and staff time can be trimmed significantly by using this tool. It's easy to find by going to the council website and clicking on "Internet Advancement". This the preferred method for reporting youth advancement, award and merit badges. Give it a try. Continue to promote WashJam! The program looks absolutely outstanding. Register on the council web site. Planning is critical for success. We need to know who's coming! We need more commissioners to help support units during WashJam. Register online for your preferred staff position if you are not committed to being there with a unit.