

THE EAGLE

2007 ANNUAL REPORT BUFFALO TRAIL COUNCIL, INC.

1101 W. TEXAS AVENUE, MIDLAND, TX 79701-6171

www.buffalotrailbsa.org

In January of 2007 I asked our scouting volunteers, our board, and our professional staff one simple question; **What Does Success Look Like For The Buffalo Trail Council?**

In my efforts as President of the Council, I suggested the following five short term goals to help answer this question;

- Increase our volunteer base by 250 new volunteers within the next year: This includes the recruitment of new volunteers to serve on the Council Board, Executive Committee, Council Committees, District Committees and the District Commissioner Staff.
- Increase BSA Membership by 5,000 youth participants within the next five years: This is a total of 1,000 new scouts for each year for the next five years.
- Increase Camp Usage: Provide new camp opportunities (BTSR Outback and Hughes Aquatics Base) that will generate 150 new campers per week of summer camp. The revenue generated from these new campers can fund a 2nd District Executive for the Comanche Trail and the Big Bend Districts.
- Increase the Council's Endowment Funds and Major Gifts Campaign by 10% for each of the next two years.
- Develop a 20 -30 Year Vision for the Buffalo Trail Council: This vision shall include a comprehensive process for the development of an Annual Plan, a 5 year Strategic Plan, and a Long Term Vision Plan for all council facilities, programs, finances, staffing, endowments, and gifts.

As we close out the Buffalo Trail Council records for 2007 it is my pleasure to report on our progress concerning these council goals:

- We have experienced a 22% increase (over 900 scouts) in all levels of our program (Tiger Cubs to Varsity Scouting and Learning for Life participants). As of December 2007, we have over 5,000 registered scouts and participants in the council. This is a great start to reaching 10,000 members by 2012.
- For the first time in several years we have volunteers serving in all key council and district volunteer positions. We still have work to complete the goal of 250 new volunteers; however we are well on our way to achieving this goal.
- In 2007, volunteers and staff increased the programs and usage of our summer camp at BTSR (Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch) by 35% which resulted in an increase of additional council revenue of almost \$75,000. As promised, we have hired a new professional staff to serve the Comanche Trail and the Big Bend Districts.
- Board members, Neil Florer (V.P. of Endowments) and Kyle Womack (V.P. of Fund Development) have far surpassed my expectations in raising new funds for endowments and our Friends of Scouting Campaign. Our friends within the area continue to be generous in supporting the scouting program in West Texas.
- Board Vice President, John Hood and his Strategic Planning Committee are making the final revision to the 2008 Strategic Plan for the Buffalo Trail Council. This 2008 Strategic Plan will be submitted to the full Board in April. The hard work and results of this committee will truly begin to answer the question; **"What Does Success Look Like For The Buffalo Trail Council?"**

I hope you will agree that the Buffalo Trail Council is moving forward with increased memberships, additional volunteers, added services, additional funding, and plans for the future. All these goals could not be accomplished without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, our friends of scouting, our foundation friends, and with the help of our dedicated staff. My goals as Council President for 2008 remain the same as they were in 2007. We must serve more youth, generate new funding sources, build our endowments, utilize our current properties and programs to serve more scouts, and continue to plan for the future.

Thank you for your past support of the scouting program here in West Texas and we look forward to your continued support in 2008. With your continued dedication and service to the scouting program, **Success for the Buffalo Trail Council in 2008** and in the future is very achievable.

Yours in Scouting,
James W. Riggen
Buffalo Trail Council President

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. The ability to attract new members is the foundation for success. To carry out the objectives of the Buffalo Trail council in making the programs of Scouting available to community organizations as a part of their youth development program, additional Scouting units must be established with community groups across our council. The organization of new units remains an ongoing priority of the Buffalo Trail Council. Existing Scouting units must strengthen themselves by adding additional "New" members and their families to their existing programs.



2007 UNITS

	2007	2006	+/-
Cub Scout Packs	48	47	1
Boy Scout Troops	54	54	0
Venturer Crews	26	23	3
TOTAL Traditional Units	128	124	4

	2007	2006	+/-
Tiger Cubs	318	290	28
Cub Scouts	695	673	22
Webelos Scouts	509	469	40
Lone Cub Scouts	0	2	-2
Total Cub Scouting	1522	1434	88
Boy Scouts	774	775	-1
Lone Scouts	0	2	-2
Varsity Scouts	13	9	4
Total Boy Scouting	787	786	1
Venturers	307	306	1
Sea Scouts	0	0	0
Total Venturing	307	306	1
Total Traditional	2616	2526	90
Learning for Life			
LFL Elementary	2043	1267	776
LFL Junior High	338	258	80
LFL High School	68	84	-16
LFL Exploring	70	53	17
LFL Special Needs	27	37	-10
Total LFL	2546	1699	847
TOTAL	5162	4225	937
Percent of Youth Served	13.53%	10.76%	2.77%

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special emphasis was placed on reaching "underserved" populations throughout the council boundaries. Traditional Scouting programs were established and delivered using traditional methodology. Non-traditional methodology was employed to deliver the various programs in some areas. This methodology included our new Soccer and Scouting and Scoutreach (after-school) programs.



SCOUTING & SOCCER
 Total Youth 114
 Total Units 4

AFTER SCHOOL
 Total Youth 75
 Total Units 2



RETENTION INDICATORS

Recent studies conducted by the national organization suggest that there are a number of key variables that affect how long a young person will stay active in Scouting programs. These Retention Indicators include advancement, trained leadership, summer camp attendance, Boy's Life subscriptions, and quality unit level programs.

The Buffalo Trail Council has implemented a coordinated effort involving staff and volunteers at all levels to both measure and positively affect all of these variables; and thereby affect youth and unit retention.

TRAINING

	Basic Trained	Youth Protection Trained	Total Trained
Tiger Cub Den Ldrs.	21.60%	16.20%	5.40%
Den Leaders	23.60%	19.10%	11.20%
Asst. Den Leaders	16.70%	16.70%	11.10%
Webelos Leaders	39.30%	39.30%	28.60%
Asst. Webelos Ldrs.	28.60%	42.90%	14.30%
Cubmasters	39.10%	32.60%	23.90%
Asst. Cubmasters	38.90%	30.60%	25.00%
Scoutmasters	76.50%	78.40%	58.80%
Asst. Scoutmasters	34.70%	45.80%	24.30%
Venturing Crew Adv.	56.50%	52.20%	30.40%
Crew Assoc. Advisor	71.40%	47.60%	47.60%



OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

CUB SCOUTS

Day Camps Held	4
Packs Attending	29
Youth Participation	179
Resident Camps Held	3
Packs Attending	55
Youth Participation	120

BOY SCOUTS

Camps Held	1
In-Council	
Troops Attending	32
Youth Participation	388
Other Councils	
Troops Attending	112
Youth Participation	1911

HIGH ADVENTURE

Troops	63
Youth	436
COPE	512
Climbing/Rappelling	160

LEARNING FOR LIFE

Elementary	228
High School	65
Special Needs	10

RETENTION

	Boy Scouts	Cub Scouts	Venture Crews	Total
Big Bend	70.40%	72.20%	New	77.60%
Chaparral	73.80%	48.30%	60.50%	60.87%
Comanche Trls	75.60%	50.90%	66.70%	60.87%
Lone Star	70.90%	45.40%	75.00%	64.40%
Sand Hills	76.00%	67.60%	33.30%	63.77%
Council	73.34%	43.88%	47.10%	65.50%

BOY'S LIFE

Currently, Buffalo Trail Council is ranked #6 in the Nation of like sized councils for Boy's Life subscriptions.

Cub Scouts Subscribed.....	74.3%
Boy Scouts Subscribed	50.5%
Units with 100% Subscribed.....	37

PROGRAMS

DEVELOPMENT (FUNDRAISING)

Strong quality programs are delivered with quality "Trained" leaders and fiscal soundness. A variety of development activities occur over the year to ensure enough financial resources.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE IS COMPRISED OF 5 AREAS OF EMPHASIS:

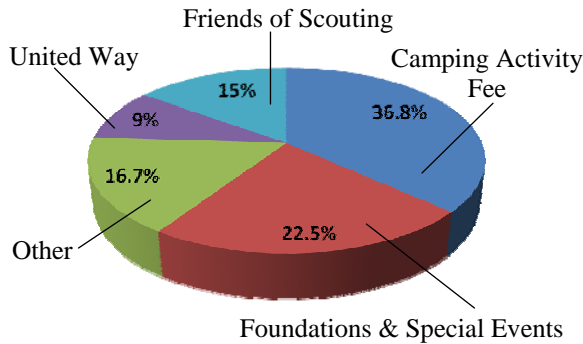
1. Friends of Scouting (net): \$261,988
2. Project Sales:\$17,062
3. Special Events (net):\$166,746
4. Direct Mail:\$11,931
5. Foundations: \$128,500

OTHER DEVELOPMENT AREAS INCLUDE:

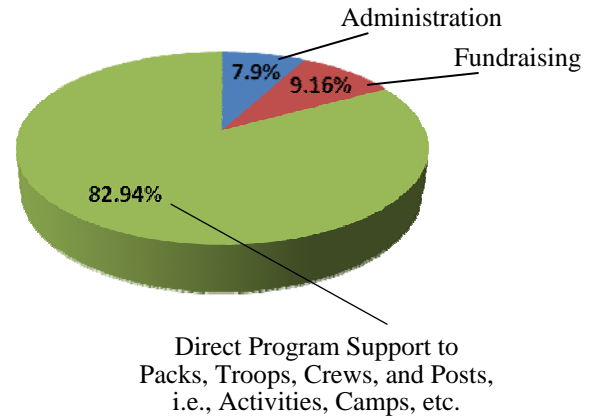
1. United Way:\$157,976
2. Product Sales (popcorn – gross):\$343,140

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME: \$1,891,893 *♦



EXPENSES: \$1,784,522*♦



* The numbers listed are unaudited numbers.
 ♦ The Board of Directors determined to take a one-time adjustment to financial statements at year-end to correct errors in the financial reporting from prior years.

2007 PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

The new Presidents Circle recognition was continued with 66 individuals participating in this new recognition group. Members committed to a minimum of \$500 per year over a 3-year period for one of our various development programs.

John R. Anderson
 Penny & Ernest Angelo
 Beverly & Rick Armstrong
 Misty & David Baker
 Barbara & John Biffle
 Judy & Rusty Buckingham
 Donna & Jim Byerlotzer
 Kathy & Chip Chapman
 Community National Bank
 Donna & Curt Cowdrey
 Robert G Elliott
 Jan & Neil Florer
 Betty & Robert Gaines
 Dee & Lyman Gifford
 Evelyn & Peter Hagist
 Russell Hall

Betty & Ronald Harkrider
 R.W. 'Whitey' Harrington
 Ted Hogan
 Amy & John Hood
 Ellen & Charles House
 W.B. 'Dub' House
 Doak Huddleston
 Jay Isaacs
 Ed & Marilyn Judson
 Gina & Keith King
 LAN Solutions
 John Larson
 Robert C. Leibrock
 Ann & Doug Lunsford
 Debbie Markley & Billy Priebe
 Ralph McLaughlin
 Linda & Randy A. McClay

Jane & Guy R. McCrary
 Don Meek
 Jon Morgan
 Kimberly & Bill Morris
 Forrest Muire
 Claire & Daniel G. Nelson
 Fred Newman
 James F. Newman
 Steve R. Payton
 Bruce Peeler
 LaVoe & Ken Peeler
 Pam & Kyle Peeler
 John Larson
 James Fritz Phillips
 Sarah & Mark A. Philpy
 Lois & David H. Powers
 Patricia & James Riggen
 Jennifer & Martin Ruehl

Sally & Buddy Sipes
 Betty & Ladd Smith
 Nieta & Rod Stephenson
 Kim & Frank K. Stowers
 Dorothy & Hayes Stripling
 Dr. Roddy Strobel
 Lois & Bob Templeton
 Betty & Don Tomlin
 John Underwood
 Dorie & Bruce Wallach
 Carolyn & Byron Eugene Welch
 Fred Westmoreland
 Mike Willson
 Brenda & Kyle Womack
 Sue & Gary Wood
 Jill & Joe Wright

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Council Commissioner
Treasurer
VP Strategic Planning/President Elect
VP Marketing
VP Development
VP District Operations
VP Program
VP Properties

James Rigger
Richard Johnson
John Scott
John Hood
Charles Spence
Kyle Womack
Charles House
Bill Houston
Steve Dennis

VP Membership/Relationships
VP Finance
VP Outreach
VP At Large
VP At Large
VP At Large
VP At Large
VP/IM Past President
Corporate Secretary

David Powers
David O'Neil
Liz Thornton
Neil Florer
Sam Howell, II
Debra Bean
Ralph Harding
K. Kyle Peeler
Lyman Gifford, CFRE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Larry Adams
Debra Bean
Rusty Buckingham
Steve Castle
Chip Chapman
Steve Dennis
Dr. William R. Fannin
Neil Florer
Lyman Gifford
Ralph Harding
Ron Harkrider
Steve Harry
Oley Hedrick
John Hood
Mark Hooper
Charles House
Bill Houston

Corey Houston (Youth)
Sam Howell, II
Richard Johnson
Dr. Randall Kelly
Gina King
Doug Lunsford
Bryan Marlar
Dr. John Martinez
Guy McCrary
Craig McCune
James F. Newman
David O'Neil
Don Orren
Bruce Peeler
Ken Peeler
K. Kyle Peeler

Mark A. Philpy
David Powers
James Rigger
John Scott
Ladd Smith
Stephanie Sparkman
Charles Spence
Rod Stephenson
Frank K. Stowers
Hayes Stripling
Liz Thornton
Don Tomlin
Dan Wagoner
Dr. Byron Welch
Kyle Womack
Gary Wood



LEADERSHIP

COUNCIL TEAM

Lyman Gifford, CFRE - Scout Executive/CEO

FIELD TEAM

Field Director
Sr. District Executive, Lone Star

District Director, Big Bend &
Comanche Trails
Sr. District Executive, Sand Hills
& Chaparral

District Executive, Chaparral
District Executive, Special Programs

RANGERS

Ranger, BTSR
Ranger, HAB/Thomas

David O'Neil
Warren Wallace

Nicky Martinez

Scott Britton

Nicole Colletti
Celestina Bascus

Dan Damon
Jim Caldwell

SUPPORT TEAM

Executive Assistant
Accountant

Director of First Impressions &
Scout Shops Manager
Fundraising Secretary/Admin. Asst.
Registrar/Accounting Asst.
Program Secretary

PART-TIME SUPPORT TEAM

Odessa Shop
Publishing Secretary
Midland Shop
Big Spring Shop

Judy Bennett
Kathy Davenport

Felis Subia

Kelly Mount
Mary Pearce
Jana Hensley

Rayonna Cotton
Tracy Macilroy
Cory Telschow
Eunice Thixton



AWARDS GIVEN



Eagles	37
Arrow of Light.....	63
Bobcats.....	290
Total Merit Badges Awarded	1903



TOP 10 MERIT BADGES

First Aid	94
Swimming.....	82
Environmental Science.....	70
Family Life.....	57
Emergency Preparedness	54



Camping.....	52
Indian Lore	50
Personal Fitness.....	50
Rifle Shooting.....	50
Communications	46



FACILITIES

The Buffalo Trail Council manages seven facilities: Three (3) Offices: Midland Service Center, Odessa & Big Spring Satellite offices. Four (4) Camps: Hughes Aquatics Base (HAB), Camp Thomas (COPE), Camp Pegasus, Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch (BTSR).

Each facility is maintained and cared for by staff and volunteers. Annual maintenance occurs to maintain the appearance of these facilities. A specific line-item is placed in the "board approved" operating budget for this purpose. Additionally, capital improvement projects are undertaken to improve the appearance of a property, increase/improve delivery of program and/or provide ability to deliver new programs.

DURING 2007 A VARIETY OF PROJECTS WERE UNDERTAKEN:

BTSR

1. Development of new Circle H program
 - a. General clean-up and debris removal
 - b. Building of tent platforms
 - c. Installation of electrical service
 - d. Installation of water system
 - e. Refurbishment of "out buildings"
 - f. Enhancements to road access
 - i. Continued review of infrastructure needs
 - ii. Installed water meters
 - iii. Developed utility lines map
 - h. Completed and published new topographical map of entire ranch facilities
 - i. Primary landmarks, building, water, rest-rooms, etc listed
2. Backcountry
 - a. Latrines built and installed
 - b. Water "drop sites" for use of participants
 - c. Opening of new program in Madera Canyon (Circle H Ranching Heritage)
 - d. Expansion of Mountain Man program and relocation to Pole Pens
 - e. Initial program development for new program on Forbidden Mountain (9th & 10th Calvary Heritage)
 - f. Initial program development for additional hiking areas (including to Mt. Livermore)

- a. Repairs to all backcountry roads following flash-flooding in late summer
3. Horse program
 - a. Installation of shade tent begun

HAB

1. Installation of new septic system for first-aid lodge
2. Completion of new first-aid lodge
3. Initial program development for new summer program

COPE

1. Initial program development for new summer program
2. Initial development of final phase of climbing tower construction



New Latrine in back country



Power Line at Circle H

Big Spring Satellite Office

1. Roof repairs completed
2. Water damage repairs underway
3. Repainting of interior/exterior underway
4. New carpet installed
5. New doors installed
6. Installation of new computerized inventory/point-of-sale system
7. Connect computer system to all offices
 - a. Rearrangement of current facility usage

Odessa Satellite Office

1. Installation of new computerized inventory/point-of-sale system
2. Rearrangement of current facility usage
3. Connect computer system to all offices

Midland Service Center

1. Installation of new computerized inventory/point-of-sale system
2. Rearrangement of current facility usage
3. Installation of computer "domain"
4. Connect primary computer from Midland to satellite offices
5. Installation of cubicle furniture
6. Underwent facilities assessment by architectural/engineering firm
7. Launched \$700,000 Capital Campaign for facilities repairs and enhancements
 - a. \$450,000 raised to-date
 - b. Includes lead gift from Abell-Hanger
 - c. Includes challenge grant from Abell-Hanger
 - d. Replaced outdated computers



Power Line at Circle H



New Water Tank at Jenkins Cabin



Circle H Water System



Outback Water System



BUFFALO TRAIL COUNCIL
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BUFFALO TRAIL COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Buffalo Trail Council is to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and in other ways prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

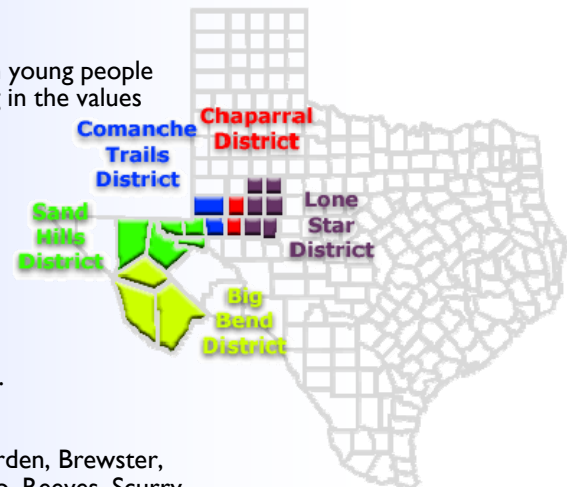
VISION

The Buffalo Trail council is the foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training in West Texas. In the future BTC will continue to:

- Offer young people responsible fun and adventure.
- Instill in young people lifetime values and develop in them ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.
- Train young people in citizenship, service and leadership.
- Serve West Texas communities and families with its quality, values-based program.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVICED

The Buffalo Trail Council serves an eighteen county area in West Texas: Andrews, Borden, Brewster, Culberson, Davis, Ector, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Mitchell, Presidio, Reeves, Scurry, Sterling, Ward, and Winkler.



SCOUT LAW

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal,
 Helpful, Friendly, Courteous,
 Kind, Obedient, Cheerful,
 Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best
 To do my duty to God and my country
 and to obey the Scout Law;
 To help other people at all times;
 To keep myself physically strong,
 mentally awake, and morally straight.

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