

The Hancock County Tourism Commission offers a grant program that assists local organizations with projects that increase tourism and attracts out-of-county visitors to economically benefit Hancock County. Organizations requesting funds must use the funds to bring in new business; develop local events, attractions, festivals or sporting events. It is our goal that funding such projects will draw and increase the number of visitors, especially overnight visitors to Hancock County, thereby providing added economic benefits to the community.

Grant Requests will be provided to the Tourism Commission for Review and Approval. Please submit to the Tourism Director by email at tourhancockcounty@outlook.com, or by mail at Hancock County Visitor Center 119 W. North St. Greenfield, IN 46140 at least 5 business days prior to the tourism meeting (it meets the second Tuesday of the month at 5pm at Greenfield City Hall). A representative must attend the meeting to answer any questions/clarifications that the commission may have in regard to the request. Attach additional information as required.

Please note, that at the end of your project or event, you must submit a written report or present a follow-up report to the Hancock County Tourism Commission. This report must be made within 60 days of the end of your project. Failure to submit a follow-up report may adversely affect future grants.

Applicant Information

Company, Business or Organization Name Applying for the Grant: **Boy Scouts of America Troop 233, chartered by Bradley United Methodist Church**

Contact Person and Title: Kathi Dickerson, Troop 233 Committee Chair

Mailing Address: 706 Cranberry Dr

City: Greenfield State: Indiana Zip: 46140

Preferred Phone Number: 317 468 3380 (Kathi) Alternate Number: 317 498 2159 (John LaBore)

Email: thumperaf@hrtc.net Date of Incorporation:

Federal Tax ID Number (if applicable) 35-0867962 Not for Profit? Yes

If yes, Tax Exempt Number: 0001868551

List Board of Directors, Committee or Project Members: Laura Schindler, Karen Hummel, Jill Castellano, Erika Galyan, John LaBore, Kathi Dickerson Stacy Denison and Kris Jones

Request Information

Describe the need or event: The Central Indiana Merit Badge University program is an annual program that is now in its 10th year connecting BSA certified Merit Badge Counselors with Boy Scouts from an eight-state area that are working on a variety of merit badges. For many Boy Scouts from smaller communities in the region, our event provides one of the few opportunities within the region in which they can meet with certified BSA counselors (who are certified for specific merit badges) and earn merit badges they are interested in, including many of those that are required for them to eventually earn the rank of Eagle Scout. In the most recent events we have been able to find enough certified Merit Badge Counselors to offer 50+ different merit badges in 100+ classes during the event (we offer multiple class sections of some of the merit badges due to high demand for certain merit badges). Local troops in Hancock and nearby counties have also benefited immensely from having this program available; for example, Troop 233, the host troop, has had more than 30 Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout in the past 10 years, which is as many that earned the rank in the troop the previous 40 years. This higher rate of Scouts earning Eagle is largely due to the greater availability of qualified Merit Badge Counselors present during the now-annual event compared to previous years before the event was started, thus helping keep boys on track during their teens toward completing the requirements for Eagle Scout rank. All of these Eagle Scouts have had (before turning 18) to complete Eagle projects that benefited our local area; many of these projects have involved the Eagle Scout candidate raising thousands of dollars and investing hundreds of hours of work by themselves and volunteers that they are responsible for managing; these projects not only immediately tangibly benefited the community, but the community also benefits immensely for years to come from local boys becoming young men with strong character, integrity, improved skills, and a background that includes leadership training and practice. We are now seeing a virtuous cycle in action, as more than a few of the Scouts that benefited from this annual program in its earlier years have returned as young adults in recent years to serve at the annual event as certified Merit Badge Counselors to a new generation of Scouts. The specific need that we are requesting the Commission to consider funding is for event t-shirts and patches that will be provided to each attending Scout. These t-shirts not only commemorate the event on the front, but on the back side promote several other events and locations in Hancock County, such as the Riley Festival, the Riley home, and Nameless Creek Youth Camp, and the Hancock County Tourism Commission is always noted within the text on the t-shirts as the source of funding for the t-shirts. The t-shirts qualify as "Class B" shirts for Scouts to wear to outdoor Scouting activities such as the week-long summer camp that most Scouts attend each summer with their home troop along with several hundred other Scouts at the same time from other locations, so both the event and other Hancock County events and venues become highly visible to other Scouts, parents, and Scout leaders coming from a wide area.

If the need is for an event, what is your estimated attendance? Our past several annual events have each had attendance of more than 500 Scouts with attendees routinely coming from at least 8 different states (IN, IL, OH, MI, WI, KY, MO, and at least one other state with Scouts having come from as far away as NY, VT, VA, GA, LA, TX, and KS in the past). For these past several events we have hit maximum capacity at Greenfield Central Junior High School, where most of the classes are held. We also use other facilities in the county to go beyond the school capacity, always including Nameless Creek Youth Camp

(for the Cooking merit badge and Wilderness Survival merit badge) and the Greenfield Central High School Pool (for the Swimming merit badge and the Lifesaving merit badge), and others depending on merit badge subjects offered (i.e., Heartland Resort golf course if offering the Golf merit badge; the Hancock County Fairgrounds if offering merit badges such as Animal Science, Horsemanship, Archery, Dog Care, Pets, etc; Beckenholtz Park if offering the Fishing merit badge; Indiana Box Company if offering the Pulp and Paper merit badge, and others).

How will the funding of this request increase tourism or impact other Hancock County businesses in a positive manner? Since our event occurs over a weekend in November, and many of these Scouts and their families travel from not only distant sections of Indiana but other states, the families often book weekend stays in local hotels while attending the event, and we also know that many parents will shop and dine in the local area while their Scouts are attending our event since we make it possible for the parents to drop their Scout off in the morning and then pick them up at the end of the day. All Scouts are required to wear their Scout uniform to our event so their presence in local hotels is obvious to hotel staffs during the weekend of the event.

How will you measure the impact on the County or your organization from this potential funding? All those attending our annual event have to pre-register through an online system, and their home location is captured in this system. We generate reports out of the system that tell us where Scouts are coming from each year. Depending on distance from Greenfield, it is safe to assume that those from outside a certain radius are staying overnight somewhere in the Greenfield area and that many of the parents are spending dollars in local stores and restaurants while their Scouts are attending merit badge classes. Part of our post-event report summarizes the locations the Scouts are coming from, and how many Scouts are coming from each location. This permits the Commission to easily comprehend impact.

Request Budget

What contributions are you making toward fulfilling the request? Each attending Scout pays a fee to attend the event that covers meals (all three meals are provided to the Scouts at the school that Saturday), rental of school and other facilities, insurance, transportation to/from outlying class venues, and miscellaneous costs associated with specific merit badges (i.e., model rocket kits for the Space Exploration merit badge, electronic kits for the Electronics merit badge). The parents and leaders of our host troop (Troop 233) contribute hundreds of hours of time to prepare and execute this event each year. Many of our parents and leaders have been involved multiple years with this event because they understand the incredible opportunity the event is providing to not only their own Scouts, but Scouts from across a multi-state region. Our volunteers are the ones that also find and secure the participation of the certified Merit Badge Counselors from across the area that come in and generously contribute their time at no charge to work with Scouts to help them in the process of earning merit badges.

Please provide an entire budget for your event. You may submit separate documents.

Project Needs	Description
<u>\$ 500.00</u>	<u>MBU patches for each participant</u>
<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>T-shirts for each participant</u>
<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>

What funding, if any, is being sought from other organizations for this project? This event benefits each year from discounted fees granted by the Greenfield Central Community Schools for the use of the junior high and the high school pool; a discount for the use of Nameless Creek Youth Camp; no charge for the use of Beckenholtz Park or the facilities at Indiana Box Company; and a discount for the use of Hancock County 4-H Fairgrounds. Depending on merit badges offered, other facilities (such as Heartland Resort golf course, etc.) often provide free usage of their facility (and often the time of their staff) by Scouts working toward specific merit badges.

(When possible, the Hancock County Tourism Commission suggests that local companies or contractors be utilized when assisting with this project)

Have you previously requested or been granted funds by the Hancock County Visitors Bureau? If so, when and for what purpose: Yes, for the same annual event.

Timing

How soon can the request being considered begin: Now. **What is the timing for the request to be completed:** No later than the September 2018 commission meeting. **What critical dates need to be considered in the funding process?** This event will take place the weekend of November 3, 2018. Since this request is for production of tshirts and patches, sufficient time must be allowed for the vendors to produce the tshirts and patches. **What other dates are important to this request?** None.

Signature

I hereby submit this application and supportive documents for the proposed request. I have read and understand that I must comply with the Grant Guidelines attached. I understand that if the funded request is approved, the printed and or broadcast material must indicate that a source of the funding was the Hancock County Tourism Commission.

Applicant Signature: Kirk Dick Date: 8-13-18

Title: Committee chair

Company or Business Name: Troop 233

If approved; who should the check be made out to? Troop 233

How would you like to receive the check? Circle one

Pick up at Visitor Center / Mail to address on application / Mail to address below.

Mail to: _____

FOR TOURISM COMMISSION USE ONLY

Hancock County Tourism Commission Approval: Yes or No

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signed: _____