

Hancock County Tourism Commission Grant Application Hancock County Tourism & Visitor Center Office  
119 W. North St., Greenfield, IN 46140 317-477-8687 ♦ info@visitinhancock.org ♦  
www.visitinhancock.org

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 2019 MBU Committee Chair**

Mailing Address: **706 Cranberry Dr**

City: **Greenfield** State: **IN** Zip: **46140**

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

Email: **thumperaf@hrtc.net**

Federal Tax ID Number (if applicable) **35-0867962**

Are you a 501c3 Not for Profit? **Yes**

Tax Exempt Number: **0001868551**

Please List Board of Directors, Committee or Project Members (you may attach a separate sheet with a list of all board members if needed): **Kathi Dickerson, John LaBore, Steffanie Cain, Honey Daley, Stacy Denison, Erika Galyean, Karen Hummel, Rhonda Torga, Tammy Vermilye.**

**Describe the project need or event:** The Central Indiana Merit Badge University program is an annual program held in Greenfield that is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> 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



***Thanks again for your dedication above and beyond the call of duty. Thanks for your sacrifice that has changed the lives of thousands of scouts.***

***Sincerely and most respectfully,***

***Steven Hite  
Troop 12  
New Paris***

***If the need is for an event, what is your estimated attendance?*** This year our estimate is ***650-750 Scouts and leaders*** (counting leaders that take adult training offered at our event and parents that help drive the Scouts to the event from out of town), but not counting our local adult volunteers that help host the event. 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, NJ, 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). ***Our 2018 event had 503 registered Scouts that attended, with 451 of those from outside Hancock County and 91 of those from outside Indiana. Since nearly all Scouts (due to most not yet being 16 years old) had to be driven to the event by their Scoutmasters or parents, and 112 DIFFERENT communities (other than Greenfield) were represented across 8 states by those Scouts, it is safe to assume that more than 100 adults also came to Greenfield along with those Scouts. Thus, total out-of-town visitors to Greenfield during this event fell in the 600 to 700 range during the event weekend in November 2018.*** During our last several years of holding the event at Greenfield-Central Junior High School, we have actually had to block the Scouts into two shifts at each mealtime due to the space limitation in the school cafeteria.

***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 (see 2018 post-grant report for a breakout of number of Scouts from the specific cities/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.



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. Troop 233 Scoutmasters have reported that they see many of the shirts funded by the Hancock County Tourism Commission worn by boys from other troops at the summer camps our Scouts attend each year.

On August 5, 2019, an inquiry was received from a Scout leader, Steven Hite, in New Paris, Indiana, asking if we were holding the event again this year. We told him yes, it would be on November 1-2 this year. Below is his response in bold italics. Note the awesome story about his son in the linked article that appeared in the Goshen (IN) News. It is the kind of feedback that keeps our volunteers willing to put in the many hours to execute this annual event.

***Well, just let me say, you have done an amazing job! I host individual clinics but nothing like what you have done. And just so you know, your clinics were a main part of my oldest son earning every merit badge possible and then some.***

[https://www.goshennews.com/news/local\\_news/new-paris-boy-scout-becomes-most-decorated-scout-in-organization/article\\_7e244d5c-993e-55e2-a913-44296619cc4f.html](https://www.goshennews.com/news/local_news/new-paris-boy-scout-becomes-most-decorated-scout-in-organization/article_7e244d5c-993e-55e2-a913-44296619cc4f.html)

***My youngest son Levi, is on his way to try to earn every merit badge as well and we have made this annual pilgrimage for as long as we can remember. We try to schedule around it as best we can. Before Levi was old enough to be in scouts, he would still come along and we would have some bonding time while Nathan was in classes.***

***We usually had 4-6 scouts total that would participate and of those, 5 will be earning their Eagle's because of your program. Lots of great memories have happened because of your event.***

***We have been to MB Clinics all over the midwest. Our two favorites are yours and St. Louis STEM clinic. Both First Class programs!***



**How are you planning on engaging the county hotel industry in your event or project?** Our emails and messages sent to Scout leaders and parents (from our 4,000+ name email notification database) identify the names of local hotels and provide the location (i.e., those hotels primarily located less than 2 miles from the GC Junior High at the Hwy 9 and I-70 interchange). We do not seek out discounts for Scout families as generally they are going to find the local hotels less expensive anyway than hotels located further away (i.e., those in or near I-465). Thus the local hotels can charge their regular prices (or prices that they provide through the usual online discounted processes such as hotwire or priceline, etc.)

**How do you plan to measure the tourism impact on visitors with this project or event?** 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 (as evidenced by our post-grant reports during previous years). 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.

**Tourism Support Budget** What is the total amount that you are requesting the Tourism Commission to support? \$3,600

Please provide a breakdown of the Tourism Support Budget for your event. You may submit separate documents.

Project Needs	Description
\$ 600.00	MBU patches for each participant
\$3,000.00	T-shirts for each participant
\$3,600.00	Total Cost

**What funding, if any, is being sought from other organizations for this project?** This event typically benefits each year from discounted fees granted by the Greenfield Central Community Schools for the use of the junior high (entire facility) 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. No other organization is being requested for cash funding, as each attending Scout pays a fee to attend the event that: 1) Covers meals (two meals – breakfast and lunch --- are provided to the Scouts at the school that Saturday), 2) rental of school and other facilities, 3) insurance, 4) transportation to/from outlying class venues, and 5) 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 volunteer 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.

(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 Tourism Commission? If so, when and for what purpose were those funds used?** Yes. The HCTC has funded t-shirts and patches for the anticipated number of attendees during previous years of this event. All t-shirts have been acquired from a Greenfield company (Team Image) each year.

**Timing When are the funds needed for this project?** T-shirts and patches will need to be ordered immediately after the end of the online registration in October.

**If this is a long term project, is there anyway that funds could be split up over time, with partial payment now, and partial payment at a later date? If yes, how are you proposing this split to happen?** No, this is a once-annual event. Each year we make a separate request based on anticipated attendance that year.

**When will the event be completed or the project finished?** The event date is November 1-2, 2019.

**You will need to submit a follow up Final Grant Report Sixty days after the completion of this project or event.**

**On what date, will the Tourism Commission be expecting your Final Grant Report along with all of the receipts detailing the expenditures for the Tourism Support Budget listed above?** No later than January 2, 2020.

Karl Dick 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 via the Hancock County Tourism and Visitor Center.

Applicant Signature: Karl Dick Date: 8-25-19

Title: Committee chair

Company or Business Name: Troop 233

If approved; what name should be listed on the check? 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Approval: Yes or No

Amount Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Final Grant Report Received? Yes or No

When: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete? \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted to the Board for Review: \_\_\_\_\_

Returned Funds? Yes or No

If yes, amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: