

## A&WMA's Educational Outreach at the 2001 BSA National Scout Jamboree: Now Prepares for 2005 National Jamboree Exhibit on the Conservation- Environmental Trail



**The BSA Conservation Committee Invitation and A&WMA Jamboree Committee:** More than 20 A&WMA members provided coverage for the first ever A&WMA Exhibit at the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Jamboree in 2001, which was attended by 40,000 scouts. In doing so, A&WMA joined with 21 other agencies and associations in extending an environmental training and awareness message to the thousands of scouts that visited along the Conservation-Environmental Trail at Fort A. P. Hill, VA. Similar plans are underway for the 2005 National Scout Jamboree, July 25- August 3, 2005.

*"I had a great time and really enjoyed working with the other volunteers and visiting the other exhibits"*, Robert Chatham, A&WMA volunteer from the Mid Atlantic States Section, North Central Chapter.



While most other participating agencies had been a part of the BSA National Conversation Trail for decades, some dating back to the 1930s, this was A&WMA's first such Exhibit and we learned a lot from our partner, the Water Environment Federation (WEF), who four years earlier participated in their first Jamboree in 1997. While some preparatory steps were taken at the A&WMA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City in June 2000 to gain support for an advanced ad hoc subcommittee from the Education Council, Public Education Division, and the K-12 Committee to support Jamboree 2001, after the official invitation from BSA National Conservation Committee to A&WMA to participate was received in January 2001 timeframe things picked up speed. After acceptance of the invitation by Dick Scherr (Executive Director), A&WMA members Jim Ryckman and Doug Pelton started working with the BSA National Conservation Committee in relation to the BSA Jamboree Operating Plan. Meetings were convened at Fort A. P. Hill by Max Peterson, Chair of the BSA Conservation Committee, to cover administration, exhibits, public relations, logistics, conservation merit badges, key planning milestones, personnel assignments, budgets, the operating plan.

Illustrative of the level of interests received from A&WMA members, the following encouraging e-mail from Woodbury, Minnesota was received May 9, 2001 from David Benforado, former A&WMA President:

*Hi Jim,*

*Don't know who came up with this great project, but he/she should be congratulated. Hope it is successful...*

*I've been in Scouting since 1937 -- and through the years have been Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, Committeeman. Both of my sons were Eagle Scouts. I'm not active with any troop now, but I've kept involved as Merit Badge Counselor for Environment Science, Soil and Water Conservation, and Safety.*

*I would be interested in helping in any way I can. I retired from 3M's Environmental Engineering and Pollution Control Division in 1994. ...*



*Will look forward to hearing from you.*

*Yours in Scouting and AWMA,*

*Dave Benforado*

Similar e-mails expressing interests and support came in from throughout A&WMA.

Jim Ryckman coordinated pre-registration with members, completion of medical forms, provided for Youth Protection Training (YPT) per BSA National Policy, on-site daily staff assignments, and arranged for exhibit equipment support, security, and preparation of the program. Doug Pelton of Versar - Geomet was the key liaison from South Atlantic States Section to the A&WMA Jamboree Committee and the BSA National Conservation Committee. His support proved indispensable in providing for the success for the first A&WMA Exhibit at the BSA National Jamboree 2001. Based upon these results and the obvious interests from many A&WMA members (and former scouts and scouters), the Education Council approved the establishment of the National Boy Scout Jamboree Committee, as a Standing Committee within the Public Education Division of A&WMA in the Fall of 2001.



**The Program:** Overall, the A&WMA Exhibit in 2001 received volunteer support from 9 Sections and 13 different Chapters. These volunteers contributed their time, talent, and expertise and other support to make this environmental outreach available to over 20,000 scouts, who participated on the Conservation-Environmental Trail. It was an outstanding team of A&WMA Professionals that conveyed the A&WMA message to the scouts. The A&WMA Exhibit Program provided for the following topics: *A&WMA Overview, Environmental Management, Solid Waste Management, and Pollution Prevention, Composting (demonstration), Air Quality & Risks, Air Toxics, Sampling and Weather Station (Demonstration), and considerations for International Responsibilities & Global Issues (Thinking Globally, but acting locally).*



The A&WMA Exhibit Staff gathered at the gateway to the A&WMA-BSA Jamboree Exhibit on the Conservation Trail. Left to right: Doug Anderson, Henry Graham, Pete Courtney, Jim Ryckman, Lou Militana, Tom Herman, and Gerald Howard

The 2001 A&WMA Volunteers: Jamboree Exhibit Supporters: Full & Part Timers were:

Name	Section/Council	Chapter
Jim Ryckman	East Central	Southwest Ohio
Tom Herman	East Central	Kentucky
Ashok Kumar*	East Central	University of Toledo
Dough Pelton	South Atlantic States	Baltimore Washington
Doug Anderson	South Atlantic States	Baltimore/Washington
Leo Stander	South Atlantic States	Research Triangle Park.
Nancy Roache	South Atlantic States	Research Triangle Park
Paul Roache	(Life Scout)	
Willaim Barnes	South Atlantic States	Old Dominion
Louis Militana	Mid Atlantic States	Delaware Valley
Mike Musheno	Mid Atlantic States	Delaware Valley
Robert S. Chatham	Mid Atlantic States	North Central
Justin Chatham	(Life Scout) "	"
Gerald Howard	Greater St. Louis	Greater St. Louis
Derek Wasserman	Greater St. Louis	Greater St. Louis
Haskins Hobson	Greater St. Louis	Greater St. Louis
Pete Courtney	Southern States	Georgia
David Benforado	Upper Midwest	Northland, MN
Henry Graham	Louisiana	Baton Rouge, LA
Jose Juszkiewick*	Mid Atlantic	Central New York
Joel Anne Sweithelm*	Education Council	Ed. Program Manager
Michelle Collins*	Technical Council	
* other support		

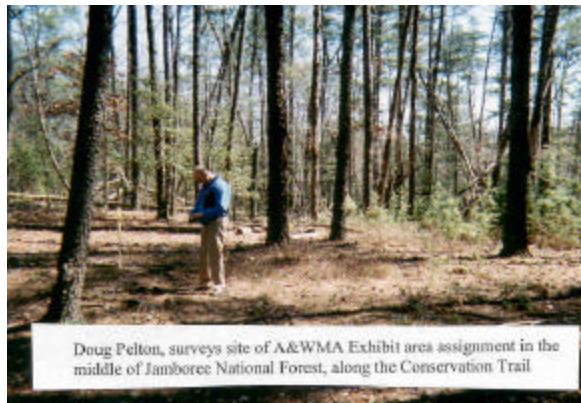
Justin Chatham (right) and Paul Rouche (left), both A&WMA Youth Staffers and Exhibit Guides, visit with a pioneer-hunter touring the Jamboree National Forest and the A&WMA Station.



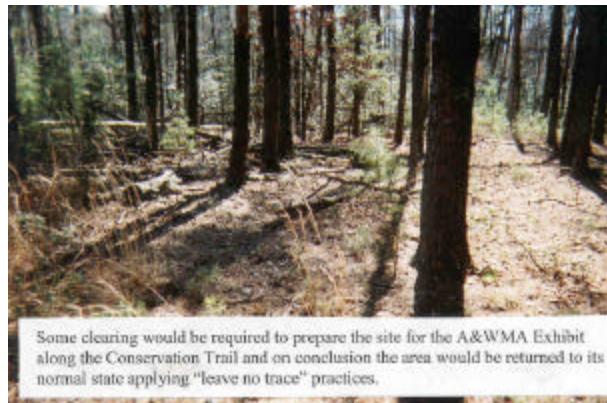
A&WMA's Environmental Outreach to Scouts is supported by the son and father team Justin Chatham (Life Scout) and Robert Chatham (A&WMA Member)



**Planning for the Conservation/Environmental Trail:** The team was responsible for the advanced planning and outlay of the A&WMA Exhibit in the center of the Jamboree National Forest along the Conservation Trail. Doug Pelton and Jim Ryckman participated in a couple advance meetings on-site with the BSA Conservation Committee. Pre-site work included staking and roping, clearing the assigned site it of all debris/fallen trees and eventually returning the site to its natural state as in "leave no trace" upon departure. This was a yeoman's job led by Doug Pelton and Doug Anderson. Ken Spears of WEF, our neighbor and A&WMA partner up the trail, shared his experience and advice and some equipment.



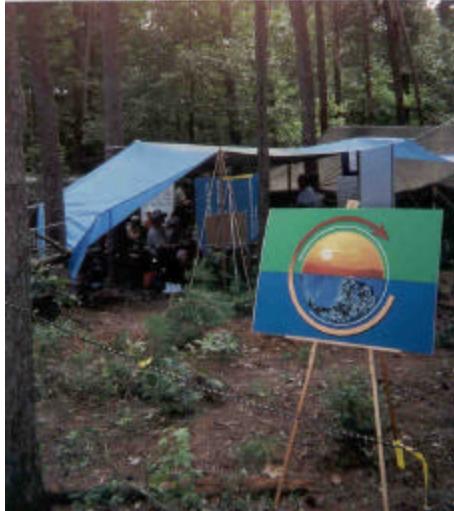
Doug Pelton, surveys site of A&WMA Exhibit area assignment in the middle of Jamboree National Forest, along the Conservation Trail



Some clearing would be required to prepare the site for the A&WMA Exhibit along the Conservation Trail and on conclusion the area would be returned to its normal state applying "leave no trace" practices.

**Site Preparation and A&WMA On-Site Exhibit Setup:** The A&WMA team started its on-site set up work a couple days before the 40, 000 scouts were to arrive at Fort A.P. Hill -- all anxious, excited and ready to participate in the various action centers and to visit the national exhibits and program areas, to include the Conservation Trail. This indeed took a team effort to complete the layouts and to position the displays. This included securing and camouflaging an equipment storage trailer, setting up tents and shading, display tables and seating, installing the gateways off the trail, setting up the displays and easel mounted posters, electrifying the site for multi-media support.

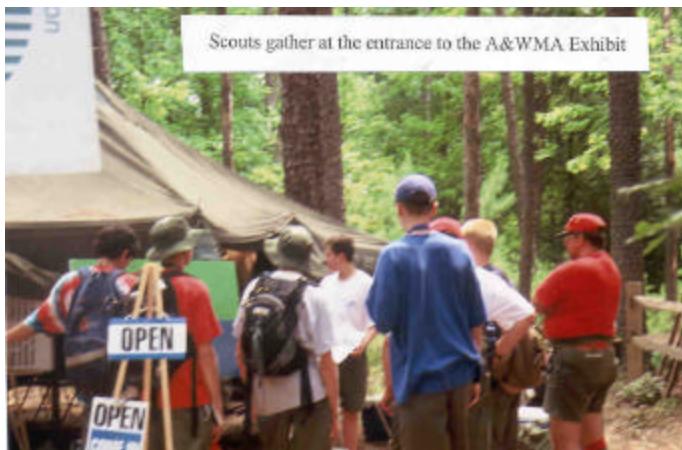
Outdoor classroom, shaded & protected from elements  
A&WMA Poster illustrates life cycle



In retrospect, Nancy Roache of the EPA and the Research Triangle Park Chapter found “*the exhibit was laid out well and the presentations went smoothly.*” **In preparation for the 2005 Jamboree, asked what was the greatest challenge once on site?** Doug Anderson of Baltimore Washington Chapter answered, “*Getting setup and ready for the people was the biggest challenge.*” Doug Pelton of South Atlantic States Section recommended to keep the scouts interests that more volunteer help is needed to provide for “*dynamic exhibits and hands on demonstrations*”

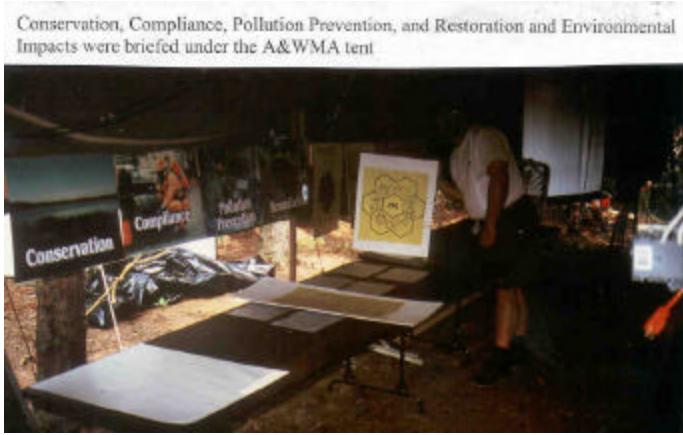
### Conservation Trail: Operations, A&WMA Exhibit:

The daily objective was to try and keep the displays fully staffed, the exhibit open for the 10 day duration of the Jamboree, and to keep a steady flow of scouts moving through the exhibit in groups of 8 to 10 at a time. It was a challenge given the high volume of scouts and limited available staffing. Assignments were made at the beginning of each day. Topical rotations were made to keep folks fresh and to provide some relief so that members could also visit other areas of the Jamboree as well. Once the gates to the A&WMA Exhibit were opened, the scouts kept flowing through.



While gathering at the entrance way, awaiting a full group size, a reception member would engage the scouts in an environmental leadership challenge and tells them what they were about to see. As the groups entered the exhibit they would learn about A&WMA and of some of the similarities between BSA and A&WMA in terms of environmental stewardship, mission and structure. This was followed by a brief station on current environmental issues/career

opportunities. Each group would then move on to hear about the environmental impact process and permitting, followed by a display on pollution prevention, solid waste management.



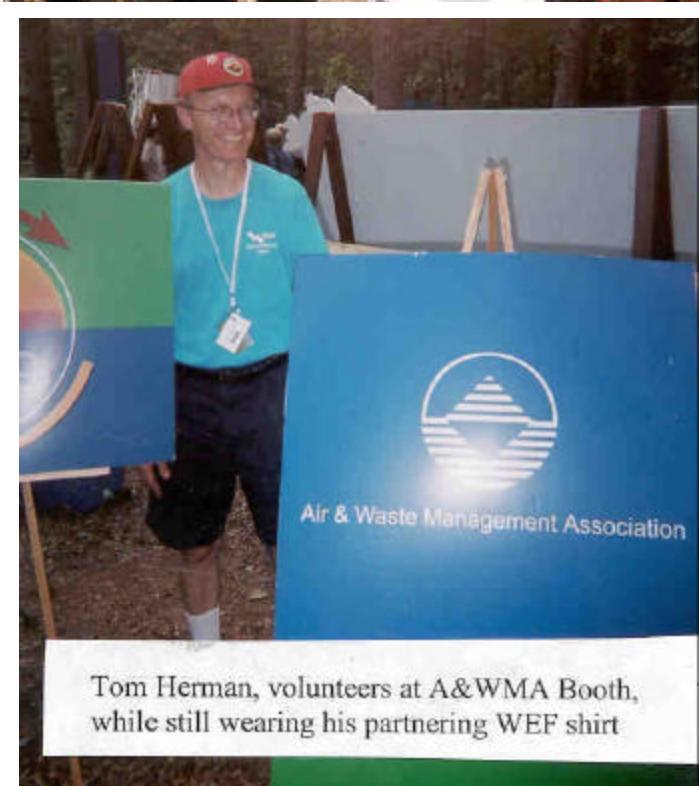
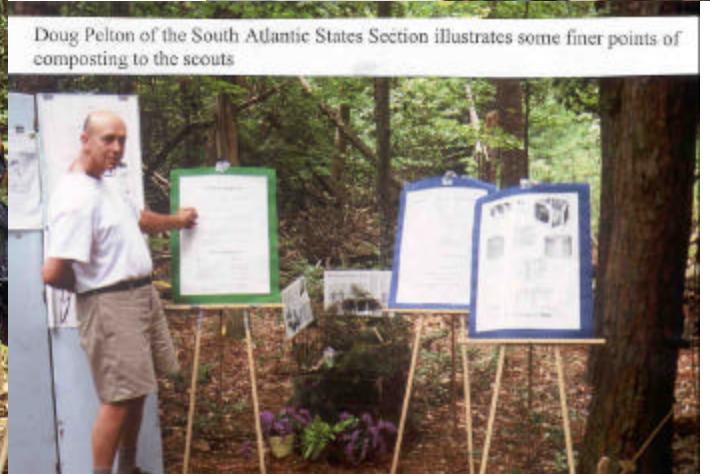
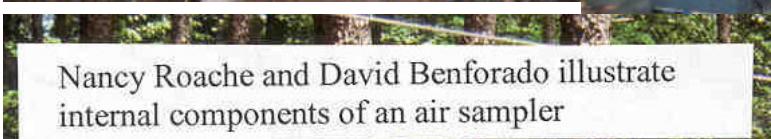
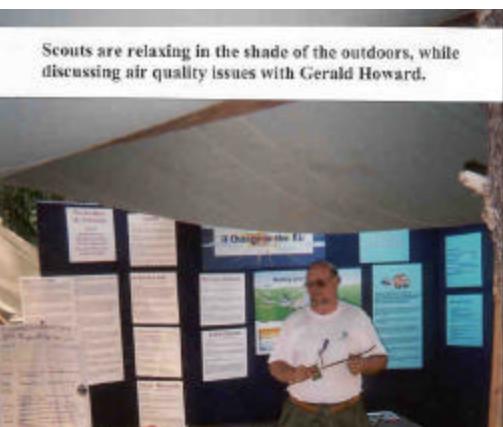
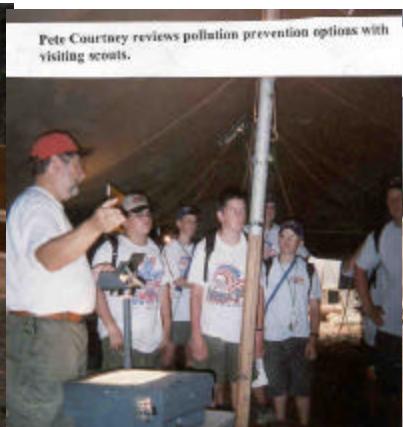
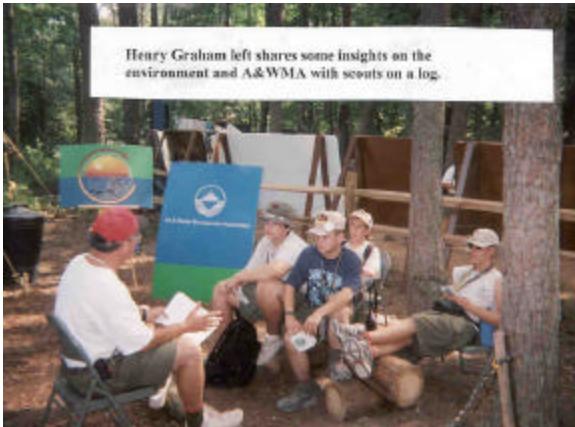
They were then led outside for a composting demonstration and an ecological discussion. The air quality training, air toxics & environmental risks station was next on the A&WMA tour. The groups would then proceed to the air quality sampling and weather monitoring station for a hands-on demonstration. Prior to exiting the A&WMA Exhibit area and getting their passports stamped, an A&WMA member would briefly engage the scouts in a discussion of international responsibilities & global issues. The goal was to process each scout group within about 15 minutes and to allow those that wanted to work on special merit badge requirements to take longer, dependent upon the availability of A&WMA volunteers to support additional work.

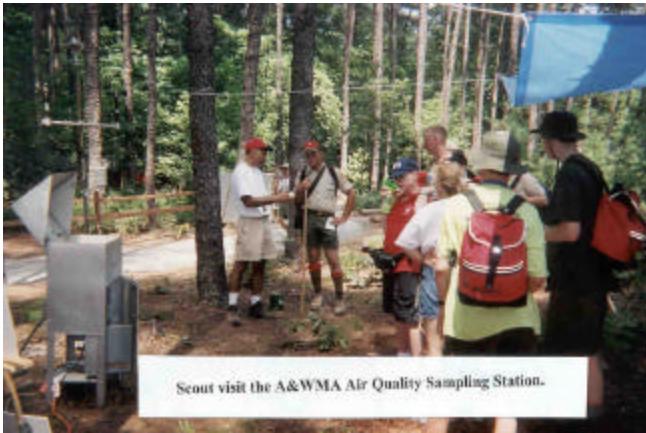


Doug Anderson reviews Air Quality issues with visiting scouts and scouters.

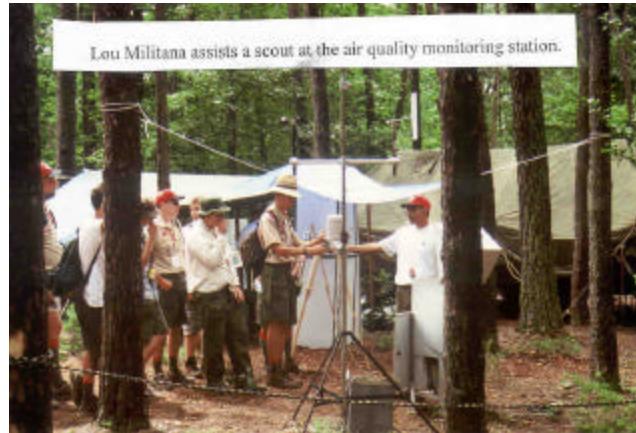


Scouts examine a sampling canister.





Scout visit the A&WMA Air Quality Sampling Station.



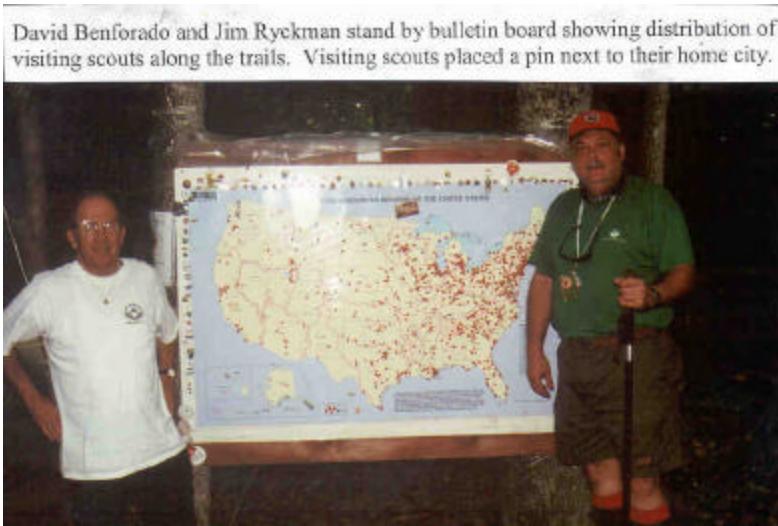
Lou Militana assists a scout at the air quality monitoring station.

### Lessons Learned:

*"I think the material that was presented was excellent, however considering weather more effort up front should be made in preparing waterproof presentation materials"*, according to Nancy Roache, EPA

Tom Herman of Louisville Kentucky supported both the A&WMA and the WEF Exhibits along the Trail over the 10 day period emphasized the importance of having enough volunteers *"to help staff the exhibit to handle some 2000 scouts a day and to process them in small groups in 10-15 minutes."*

The A&WMA National Scouting Jamboree Committee is indeed grateful for all the volunteers, loan of equipment, the teamwork and support received in 2001. Now we are preparing for the Jamboree in 2005 and we hope to more than double the number of on-site A&WMA volunteers and to provide for more hands-on displays.



David Benford and Jim Ryckman stand by bulletin board showing distribution of visiting scouts along the trails. Visiting scouts placed a pin next to their home city.



Lou Militana prepares to enter the Jamboree dining facility sporting an A&WMA shirt and Jamboree hat.

### Overview of the 2001 and the Challenge for 2005 Jamboree:

According to Pete Courtney of Ranger Georgia, *"The dedication of each of the A&WMA volunteers who staffed the exhibit was admirable, which says a lot for the value of scouting to any organization. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to have worked with each of the other staff members in the exhibit."*

**BSA Conservation After Action Report to National BSA:** Over 20,000 scouts participated on the Trail, out of the 40,000 scouts who attended the Jamboree in 2001. The Conservation/Environmental Area was one of the premier attractions of the Jamboree with significant contributions to conservation, outdoor themes, and environmental awareness.

- Visiting scouts and adults completed over 137,487 activities in 10 days.
- 21,850 Conservation Passports were issued to scouts and visitors entering the Conservation Trail.. Of these, 14,155 Scouts and visitor completed at least ten activities to earn the Conservation Patch for 2001.
- More than 1270 scouts completed all requirements for at least one conservation/environmental related merit badge. Of these, 134 scouts completed all requirements for the Environmental Science Merit Badge. Many more scouts received credit for partial completions to take back to their home BSA Councils to complete.

*“The conservation patch was a great idea. It gave the boys a goal and reward for completing the requirements along the trail“, according to Doug Anderson of the Baltimore Washington Chapter and a current Scoutmaster.*



In summary, the “BSA After Action Report” noted that 489 volunteers supported the Conservation Trail alone, with support coming from 13 Federal Agencies, 4 State organizations, and 5 Private non-profit organizations. Their contributions totaled over \$671K, excluding salaries, for an average of \$30.5 K per organization, with an average full time staff of 22.2 persons.

**A&WMA Exhibit Support for BSA Conservation Trail, After Action Report:** While the 2001 A&WMA Jamboree initiative was undertaken without a budget, the individual volunteering members (full/part timers) contributed nearly \$29K in borrowed equipment and supplies to make the exhibit a reality. This amount excludes the value of contributed vacation time and professional time from work. While the equipment side was reasonably covered, the volunteer staffing was somewhat short handed, needing more volunteer support from all of the Chapters and Sections to fully cover the ten-day period. Note: In 2001 most advance volunteer support was committed to supporting of the 94<sup>th</sup> A&WMA Annual Meeting held in Baltimore. However, given advanced planning, the establishment of a standing A&WMA Scouting Jamboree Committee and the success of the first exhibit, **we are hopeful that even more member support from the Chapters and Sections and the Region will be received for the 2005 National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill July 25- August 3, 2005.**

- Need help setting up and staffing the Exhibit and attracting scouts to the booth
- Need volunteers to help with dynamic presentations to scouts
- Also need volunteers to support environmental merit badge requirements.
- Need volunteers to peak environmental interests, fulfill merit badge requirements (side bar if we have adequate staff):

Note: With sufficient volunteers to help man the A&WMA booth in 2005, more focus can be provided in supporting the environmental science & conservation merit badge requirements too.

*“While the material that was presented was excellent... even more scouts would visit if more hands-on presentations can be displayed”*, according to Nancy Roache. To this end, support from A&WMA volunteers is sought and is welcomed.

We currently in the planning and registration process and wish to extend an invitation to all interested active and retired A&WMA Members to sign up as a “volunteers” to help support this excellent opportunity for environmental outreach in 2005. Based upon lesson learned in 2001, we are also focusing on refining the “program” with interactive/engaging activities as we are challenged to provide a unique experience to every scout in a limit amount of time (10-15 minute per group).

- As best we can, we hope to inspire, educate, excite the boys about the environment and their leadership role in it.
- We need eye-popping computer environmental graphics, stunning photos of air or waste related facilities or natural phenomena.
- Anything that we can do that might physically engage the boys in a fun way would be great (akin to WEF's crawl through the sewer pipe).
- Some actual Hi-Vol sample filters (good air vs. bad air) to graphically illustrate conditions in cities.

As for Haskins Hobson of St. Louis with the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Missouri and former Eagle Scout, he was thankful to A&WMA for the opportunity to participate. He noted that *“it’s a yeoman’s job to gather volunteers from across the country to fill two weeks worth of work. I enjoyed my experience and enjoyed the opportunity to give back to the scouting program in a meaningful way as an environmental professional.”*

That was the Jamboree 2001, sign up for some fun and support the A&WMA Exhibit at the 2005 Jamboree!

**Summary: A&WMA Volunteers Needed for the 2005 National Scout Jamboree:** We are recruiting A&WMA members who are would like to spend a day or more at this year’s Jamboree to work in the exhibit. While at the Jamboree, volunteers will also be able to visit some of the other activities. To volunteer to help with the A&WMA exhibit, contact the A&WMA Education Council’s National Scout Jamboree Committee: Jim Ryckman, Chair, phone: 937-257-0093, e-mail: [jim.ryckman@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:jim.ryckman@wpafb.af.mil), and/or Tom Herman, Vice Chair, phone: 502-775-7719, e-mail: [herman@zeonchemicals.com](mailto:herman@zeonchemicals.com).