



# BUILDING FOR THE NEW CENTURY

## A Campaign for Boxwell Reservation

Spring 2022

**GOAL:**  
**\$10,600,000**

**RAISED TO DATE:**  
**\$6,764,987**

### BOXWELL'S GATEWAY GETS NEW DESIGN

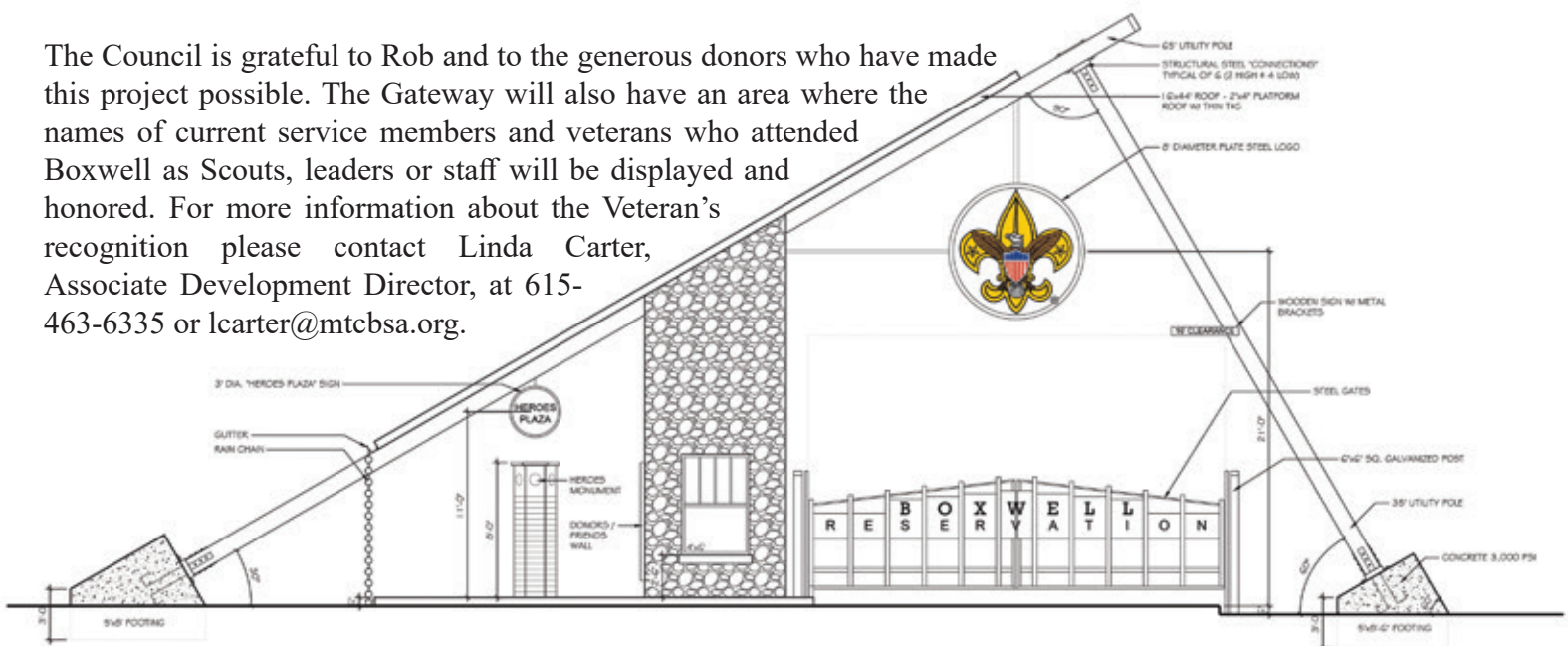
After some starts and stops the new 100th Anniversary Veterans Gateway at Boxwell Reservation has a new design and construction is underway. Rob Ponder, an architect in Atlanta with deep ties to Boxwell has generously donated the design and will continue to share his talents on future projects.

Rob, the son of well-known Nashville artist Phil Ponder, is no stranger to Boxwell. He was happy to share his story with us. Rob wrote, "I spent my 1st week at summer camp at Parnell in 1971 (site 11- Saskatchewan). I was a two-week camper in the summer of 1973. I was staff at Parnell for the summers of 1974 and 1975. I was in the Handicraft area teaching Leatherwork, Indian Lore, Wood Carving, and Basketry. I continued to come to Boxwell for one-week sessions through college and ended up bringing my troop from Atlanta, Georgia to Boxwell for five summers in the late 80s. Altogether I spent 15 summers being at Boxwell for at least one week!"

Rob received both bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from Georgia Tech. He was a partner in the first firm he joined out of school but ultimately opened his own architecture practice in 1998. That firm is Ponder & Ponder, Architects out of Norcross, Georgia where he is a partner with his wife (and fellow architect), Carmen.

Rob continued, "My love of Boxwell never diminished. I have attended as many staff reunions as I can... including the one this last fall. After the reunion this last fall I called (Scout Executive) Larry Brown to ask how I might be able to put my 38 years of architectural experience to use for the benefit of Boxwell. I was excited to be able to contribute the design of a signature "Gateway" for the Reservation! My first impulse was to create the design that is now being built... which will be an omage to the Cripple Crab that has been the original "greeting structure" for the last 62 years. I believe there will be a few more opportunities for me to help Boxwell by contributing to the design of the "built environment" around the Reservation. The best part about that is that it will give me plenty of excuses to make "site visits" to a place that I love.

The Council is grateful to Rob and to the generous donors who have made this project possible. The Gateway will also have an area where the names of current service members and veterans who attended Boxwell as Scouts, leaders or staff will be displayed and honored. For more information about the Veteran's recognition please contact Linda Carter, Associate Development Director, at 615-463-6335 or [lcarter@mtcbsa.org](mailto:lcarter@mtcbsa.org).



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## *A NOTE FROM THE CAMPAIGN CHAIR*

Fellow Scouts, Friends and Volunteers,

Since early 2020, our Council has been operating in the perfect storm, defending itself against a viral health pandemic and legal claims largely not of its own making but for which it may be held financially responsible. This perfect storm has not yet ended. With new miracle vaccines showing signs of reducing the sickness and a Delaware federal judge expected to rule on a settlement of claims in the coming few days, our Council can and will return to normal operations.



Friends of Scouting supporters have closely followed these events hoping that there will soon be blue skies ahead. Ever optimistic and supportive throughout the last two years, our friends have provided volunteer time and money which has allowed our Council to remain strong, vibrant, and forward thinking. The Middle Tennessee Council, Boy Scouts of America can take pride in its being a leader among the 250 councils serving our nation and has distinguished itself during these difficult times by expanding membership and programs.

As you know from past editions of this newsletter, the Boxwell Capital Campaign was prudently placed on hold more than a year ago because of the uncertain risks associated with the legal issues. Prior to the temporary hold we were fortunate raise \$6.75 million, about 60% of our original campaign goal. We have not finished our job.

The Boxwell campaign will be renewed when we know with certainty the legal path is clear. We have yet to secure funding for the largest and most important of our Boxwell improvement projects, the Aubrey Harwell Leadership Center, which also houses a new kitchen which serves all camps within Boxwell. Upon renewal, our original budget estimate to construct the Harwell Center will increase by 25% or more. The campaign committee is expected to ask for a modification of the original campaign goal to cover added costs, mostly due to increased costs for labor and materials experienced over the last two years. We will have more information about the campaign renewal and its goals in the coming weeks. Be prepared to help deliver this last portion of funding needed to complete the Harwell Leadership Center and to successfully conclude our Boxwell capital campaign.

Let's begin our next 100 years by dedicating ourselves to sustaining and advancing our Council for another 100 years.

Best in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harris Haston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Harris Haston  
Campaign Chair

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT – JUSTIN CROSSLIN

When I think back to one of the most important things in my life which helped develop me to be the leader I am today, other than my family and my faith, it's the Boy Scouts of America program. The Scout Oath and Law are not only an integral part of program, but also good tenants for life when developing future community leaders. However, the friendships made along the journey while sharing experiences, both fun and exciting as well as challenging, can also last a lifetime. So, years ago when I asked myself where I wanted to devote my time and resources within the community, naturally I chose Scouting.



One of the best opportunities for every Scout to build those Scouting qualities and friendships comes from the long-term camping program and other events held at Boxwell Reservation. An invaluable part of Middle Tennessee Scouting and an envy of many other councils around the country, the over 1,100 acre property has been a source of character building, learning, and fun for thousands of Scouts over the 60+ years since it was opened at its current location.

Boxwell had special meaning to me as a Scout; however, as an adult leader in my children's troops, I realize now just how special a place it is and how fortunate we are to have it. Providing a place for Scouts to have the opportunity to build independence, confidence, and courage in a safe, rewarding environment is a rarity in today's world filled with confusion and distractions.

I hope you will join me in supporting the Boxwell campaign for the positive benefit of future generations of Scouts.

Thank you.

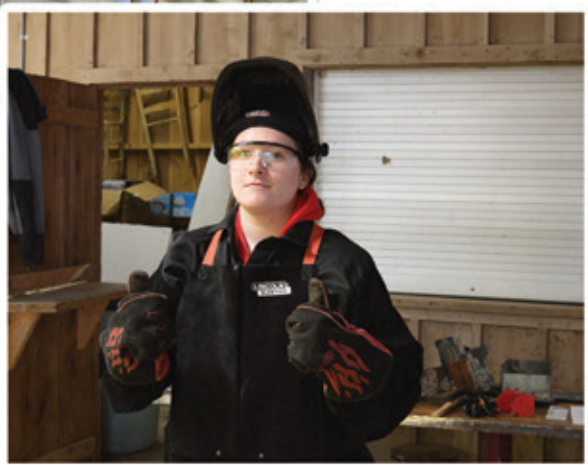
Justin Crosslin Jr - Eagle Scout '89

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## *A Scout's Eye View*

### THE SKILLED TRADES CENTER'S IMPACT ON SCOUTS

My name is Hannah Neal and I am a junior at Blackman High School in Murfreesboro and a member of Troop 2019, Crew 357 and Ship 1919. My Troop 2019 was the very first female Troop established in the Middle Tennessee Council! I am happy to share my experience with the skilled trades at camp and how excited I am that the Roy Grindstaff Skilled Trades Center at Boxwell will be open for use this summer to provide hands-on and life-skills opportunities for Scouts.



The Skilled Trades Center will open a new window for Scouts to learn trades such as welding, plumbing, electrical work, automotive maintenance, and more. Scouts can now be exposed and experience crucial trades that are not as common to learn. The program encourages Scouts to work hard and practice trades that can benefit them and society. I not only had the opportunity to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Center last fall, but I also participated in a welding demonstration. I also led a tour of Boxwell and expressed my gratitude for what Boxwell and the amazing moments of Scouting have brought to my life.

*(continued on page 4)*



# Building for the New Century: A CAMPAIGN FOR BOXWELL RESERVATION



*\* In addition to outright and pledged gifts, \$86,000 has been received for a maintenance reserve fund*

Gift Range	# Gifts Needed	Goal	As of 2-14-2022	# Gifts Received
<b>Legacy</b> \$1,000,000	1	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	1
<b>Benefactor</b> \$500,000- 999,999	7	\$3,000,000	\$500,000	1
<b>Leadership</b> \$250,000 - 499,999	10	\$2,600,000	\$1,750,000	7
<b>Strategic</b> \$100,000 - 249,999	20	\$1,800,000	\$2,176,273	20
<b>Major</b> \$50,000 - 99,999	25	\$1,500,000	\$350,031	7
<b>Investor</b> \$25,000 - 49,999	30	\$700,000	\$610,000	24
<b>Less than</b> \$25,000			\$278,683	63
<b>Gifts in Kind</b>			\$100,000	1
	93	\$10,600,000	\$6,764,987	124

## A Scout's Eye View (cont.)

At Boxwell Summer Camp 2021, I had the great pleasure to take the welding merit badge. I took the class in the afternoon for two hours each day. During the class, we learned the beginning aspects of welding and welding safety. I may have been the only girl in the class, but that did not stop me from learning this trade. The welding merit badge has inspired me to continue the practice. Many of the boys that were in my class were also inspired. I plan to attend a welding course at TCAT, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology.

On my Scouting journey, I have been active in the Order of the Arrow holding multiple lodge positions, served as MTC Venturing's Vice President of Program, joined Sea Scouts, backpacked at Philmont, attended NYLT, had to opportunity to staff the MTC 100 Year Anniversary Jamboree, and met hundreds of people that helped me on my way.

I am thankful for the opportunity to join a troop. Scouts BSA has broadened my experiences and views of future careers in the skilled trades.

Campaign information online  
<https://www.mtcbsa.org/boxwellcampaign>

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Please Contact Larry Brown, Scout Executive, at [lbrown@mtcbsa.org](mailto:lbrown@mtcbsa.org) or 615-383-9701 if you have questions or would like to make a gift.