

September 23,2005

Brad Smith will always be remembered for his love of the outdoors. This love was demonstrated through his dedication to the Boy Scouts of America. Brad was a Cub Scout, a Boy Scout and a Boy Scout Leader. He lived his life in service to others through Scouting. Brad could always be counted on to be there giving of himself and the many talents he brought to Scouting.

Brad began his Scouting career as a Cub Scout in 1968 with Pack 606 at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. He earned his Arrow of Light as a Webelos Scout, and crossed over to Troop 606 in 1971 where he went on to earn his Eagle Scout in October, 1973. He was elected to the Order of the Arrow and was a member of the Hi-Cha-Ko-Lo lodge and later the Kansa Lodge. He remained active in his Troop in various leadership roles until 1977. Brad attended summer camps with his Troop at Quivira Scout Ranch near Sedan, Kansas where Brad was a member of the Tribe of Quivira. As a youth, he was given the Indian name, Wachtschu Achpamsin, which means "Mountain Hiker". Brad enjoyed high adventure camping, and one of the highlights of his Boy Scout career was a backpacking trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico.

Brad resumed his involvement in Scouting in 1994 when his oldest son, Brandon, joined Pack 736 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church as a Cub Scout. Brad served as a Webelos Scout Den Leader. Then, in 1995, Brad joined together with several other Boy Scout leaders and started Troop 736 where Brad initially served as a Troop Committee Member. Brandon crossed over to Troop 736 in 1996 when it was officially chartered. Brad and Brandon were charter members of the Troop where Brad then served as an Assistant Scoutmaster until 2001. From the beginning, the strength of the Troop was in its adult leadership and their commitment to providing a quality program for the boys. The weakness of the Troop was having 36 new Scouts and no older boys to provide the natural leadership roles that were found in established Troops. This required the adult leaders to take a more "hands-on role" as they developed the young boys into leaders. In July 2000, Brad was able to share the high adventure experience of his youth by returning to Philmont Scout Ranch with a trek of Boy Scouts that included his son, Brandon. During this period of his tenure as a leader, he was awarded the Webelos Den Leader knot and the Boy Scout Leader Training knot.

In 1999, Brad's youngest son, Austin, joined Pack 736 as a Tiger Cub. Brad served as the Tiger Cub Coach for the Pack for two years. Then, in 2001, he agreed to serve as the Pack Committee Chairman and did so until 2004. During that time, the Pack grew from approximately 65 registered boys to over 120. Brad was instrumental in maintaining a volunteer staff of over 60 active adult leaders who were 100% trained. Brad was never one to be up in front of a crowd drawing attention to himself. He was always a strong, quiet leader that had the respect of all youth and adults who knew him. As a Cub Scout Leader, he was awarded the Tiger Cub Coach knot in 2001 and the Cub Scouter knot in 2003. In 2004, he was named Pack Committee Chairman of the Year by the White Buffalo District. Austin crossed over to Troop 736 in 2004 where Brad has been serving as Troop Committee Chairman. In addition to serving both Pack and Troop 736, Brad served on the staff of several White Buffalo District training events. It is estimated that through Brad's involvement and leadership in Scouting, he has touched the lives of more than 300 youth and adults.

Brad had a true love for the outdoors. He enjoyed spending summers boating with his family at their cabin on Beaver Lake. He also loved spending time in Colorado. He led a number of Boy Scout summer camp trips to Colorado, and he enjoyed snow skiing and even camping there in the winter. As a Boy Scout leader, Brad's primary focus was on providing a quality program that would maintain the interest of the boys. He respected the ideals of the Boy Scout program and its methods for fostering youth leadership. He was always there behind the scenes as a mentor and coach to any youth that needed it. Brad's desire was for every boy to participate, and he placed a special emphasis on getting boys to summer camp. As a result, a memorial fund has been established with Aldersgate United Methodist Church that will be used to provide camperships for qualifying Scouts to attend summer camp.