



State Representative Greg Smith

House District 57

*Serving Union, Wallowa, Umatilla &
Morrow Counties*

News Release:

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Rep Smith Keynote Speaker for Scouting Campaign

(Heppner) "This is not just an investment in a local Scout council today, but an investment in the future of our society," noted State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) in preparation for the annual Friends of Scouting event this weekend near Joseph. Smith will be the featured speaker for the luncheon which begins at 1 PM Saturday, September 24th at the [Wallowa Lake State Park](#) Pavilion. The event is hosted by the Eastern Oregon District of the [Blue Mountain Council](#) for the [Boy Scouts of America](#).

Friends of Scouting get together each year made up of parents and others from the community to learn about the organization and provide financial support. "The cost to provide scouting opportunities for a youngster is minimal compared with many after school athletic activities, and the rewards are far greater in terms of developing mental and physical fitness," Smith said. "Many of the children who benefit most from Scouting are the ones who can least afford these kinds of programs."

Representative Smith reached the rank of Eagle Scout by the time he was 14. Today his four sons, ages 6-14 are all involving in Scouting, carrying on the family tradition. Smith has served as Cub Master for Heppner Pack 661 and he continues to be a Merit Badge Councilor for the 3 citizenship badges required to achieve the Eagle Scout award.

More than 4 million young men and women between 7 and 20 years old are served through 300 local councils. Smith pointed out, "The Scout Slogan is 'Do a good turn daily' and this weekend, we're asking folks to do a 'good turn' for Scouts and give generously."

The tragedy in the Gulf coast has brought out the best in the Scout family. Several troops from all over the country are pitching in with a variety of projects, from food drives to collecting back packs and school supplies, to help surviving evacuees. Dozens of local Scout councils will now have to rebuild their programs in hurricane disaster areas. [Click here](#) for information on how you can help.

"Scouting builds strong character and strong bodies using life skills education, leadership development, and values training," said Smith. A recent national study conducted by Harris Interactive Research indicates too many young people in our country engage in high risk behaviors. The study also shows former Scouts are more likely to graduate from high school and college, and feel that scouting has had a positive, long lasting effect.

For more on the National BSA go to www.scouting.org. [Click here](#) for more on the [Blue Mountain Council](#) (www.bmcbsa.org) of the BSA and [link here](#) for the Council's [Eastern Oregon District](#)

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