



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
SANTA FE TRAIL COUNCIL

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Santa Fe Trail Council, BSA Partners with Finney County Museum on display at the Finney County Museum - New exhibit entitled “Be Prepared” opens with photos, artifacts and memorabilia in Front Door Gallery**

**Garden City, January 21, 2017**— Young men in the 19-county Santa Fe Trail Council, Boys Scouts of America have been learning and following the Scout motto, “Be Prepared,” since the council was chartered in 1946, and some of their activities and accomplishments over the past 71 years are highlighted in a new exhibit at the Finney County Historical Museum.

Entitled “Be Prepared,” the exhibit just opened in the museum’s Front Door Gallery, which features short-term displays that change repeatedly throughout the year. Expected to remain in place for approximately two months, the exhibit was created in partnership with the Santa Fe Trail Council and coincides with the observance of Scout Week, marking 107 years since the national organization was launched on Feb. 8 in 1910.

The exhibit includes a collection of historic photos dating back two generations, as well as a variety of uniforms used over the years by Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Explorers and leaders. There are also backpacks, walking sticks, camping gear, neckerchiefs, Boy Scout handbooks and related items, ranging from the council’s original 1946 flag to a framed display of annual patches from the organization’s Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch near Walsenburg, Colorado.

Visitors can also see a few souvenirs, including a commemorative neckerchief from the first Boy Scout National Jamboree in 1937, and a picture showing the dedication in 1950 of the Statue of Liberty replica at the Finney County Courthouse, placed there as a project of the council.

“We really appreciate the help of the Santa Fe Trail Council in collecting and loaning us so many pieces of Scout memorabilia,” said Steve Quakenbush, executive director of the Finney County Historical Society. “For families involved in Scouting, this should make for a lot of reminiscing.”

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Council Executive Michael Stewart credited a number of Southwest Kansas residents for loaning items, including Jim Douglass, Kevin Knoll, John Treder, Marlin Wells and Duane West.

The Front Door Gallery is located just inside in the museum's main display hall, and admission is free. The location is 403 S. Fourth in Garden City's Finnup Park, adjacent to Lee Richardson Zoo's pedestrian gate at the Ben Grimsley arches. The eight by 14-foot gallery hosts approximately six displays and collections each year.

While exhibits are open each weekday and weekend afternoon, museum office hours run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and information is available at 620-272-3664.

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### **About the Santa Fe Trail Council, BSA**

As a Boy Scouts of America chartered council in southwest Kansas, Santa Fe Trail Council serves the families of southwest Kansas with an outdoor adventurers' program that offers leadership, citizenship training, and mental and physical development activities. The council offers two camping properties, Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch (Walsenburg, CO) and Mandan Scout Camp and Training Center (Dodge City, KS) for families and youth to enjoy. The council serves the following counties: Clark, Finney, Ford, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Lane, Meade and Morton Counties, as well as Ness, Scott, Seward, Stanton, Stevens and Wichita Counties For more information, please visit [www.sftcbsas.org](http://www.sftcbsas.org).

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