

Boy Scouts celebrating 100 years

Mich. group traveling country to mark anniversary

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UTICA —

On Friday, a group of Boy Scout leaders traveling across the country stopped in Utica to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

“Today’s kids are tomorrow’s leaders,” said Scout Master Dan Woitulewicz of East Pointe, Mich. “If we don’t start today to teach them to have values and skills, where will we be in the future?”

Woitulewicz was among five scout masters and assistant scout masters from Michigan who parked a trailer — decorated with pictures, maps and images of scout manuals of the past — in front of the Revolutionary Trails Council offices on Genesee Street.

The group, which is one of 14 such teams covering different parts of the country, met with local scouts and council leaders and also planned to present a poster commemorating the anniversary to the council.

Their journey will cover 45,000 miles as they wind toward Irving, Texas, for the official 100th anniversary on Feb. 8, 2010.

Austin Buseck, 13, of Dolgeville, said he had been a scout for seven years.

“It’s really interesting,” he said. “We get to go outdoors. We get to learn about things like knots and keeping the Earth clean.”

Buseck was with Assistant Scout Master Rodney Siver and fellow scout Brendan Stuttard, 12.

There are 10,000 scouts in the local Revolutionary Trails Council, which includes troops in Oneida, Herkimer, Madison Hamilton, Lewis and Otsego counties.

Revolutionary Trails Scout Executive and CEO William Garrett said he was honored by the visit.

“I really respect and appreciate what they are doing,” he said. “This is a group of volunteers, and for them to travel to every council is wonderful and amazing.”