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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ESTABLISHES FUND WITH THE
HEARTLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION***

HAYS, KS: In recognition of the celebration of 100 years of scouting and of the need for a local endowment, the Coronado Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America has established a fund with the Heartland Community Foundation.

“We are extremely proud and excited that the CCBSA has partnered with us,” said Mendi Alexander, board chair of the HCF. “The Boys Scouts have a long and powerful tradition of preparing young men for leadership in America. With the establishment of a fund within our organization, and with the support of donors who truly love and respect scouting, we can ensure that financial support for that outstanding organization will continue for many years.”

Carol Harfmann of Hays is President of the Coronado Area Council of Boy Scouts of America and has been associated with scouting in this area for more than 20 years. “My love for scouting was ingrained at an early age,” Harfmann said. “I have been so impressed by those young men as they grow into adulthood and become leaders and role models. I truly believe the importance of scouting in a young man’s life is immeasurable.

“As we celebrate 100 years of scouting, the establishment of this fund will enable scout leaders to continue to mold the lives of the young men who come to them,” Harfmann said. “Our goal is to double the size of this fund in the next three years through donations from local and area community members. We’re looking forward to another 100 years of service to our youth and to America.”

Don Sheppard, Chief Executive Officer for the CCBSA, said “Creating a local endowment with the Heartland Community Foundation is critical at this juncture. “Our plan is to build a sizeable fund and then expend only the earnings for program needs. We want the public to know that gifts to this fund will be graciously accepted and that all the income generated in our service area will remain in this area.”

The CCBSA’s service area covers the counties of Gove, Ellis, Trego, Rooks, Russell and Osborne. Currently there are 539 young men involved in scouting programs in those counties.

According to Matt Stuchlik, District Scout Executive, "Scouting has played an integral role in the development of young men in this area for a long time. Watching them grow from Cub Scouts to Eagle Scouts and to be a part of that progress is tremendously rewarding to me. Also, I'm looking forward to working with the Heartland Community Foundation as we raise funds to support our work in this area."

Aaron Cunningham of Hays is one of those individuals who progressed through the stages of scouting to attain the highest rank possible, the coveted Eagle Scout rank.

"I began as a Cub Scout and have been with scouting for 10 years with Troop 133 of the First Presbyterian Church in Hays," Cunningham said. "As I climbed the ladder through the ranks I realized just how important scouting has been in my life. Scouting has taught me leadership skills, helped my development as a person and really has opened the doors for me when it comes to problem solving."

Bob Lowen, Executive Director of the Heartland Community Foundation, said giving a gift to support the CCBSA fund is easy. "Just send a check, made out to the Heartland Community Foundation, to P.O. Box 1673, Hays, KS 67601, with a note stating the gift is directed to the Boy Scout fund. And remember, gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law."

Lowen also noted that anyone who is age 70 ½ or older, should consider gifting the earnings from their IRA to the HCF and direct their gift to the Boy Scout fund. "This is a very simple way to support a wonderful program. The other good news is that the donor will not be taxed on the earnings from the IRA," Lowen said.

The Heartland Community Foundation is a 501 C (3) charitable, not-for-profit public organization and is affiliated with the Greater Salina Community Foundation. The HCF encompasses Ellis, Rooks and Trego Counties and is governed by a 14-member volunteer board of directors. Lowen said the Foundation's mission is to meet charitable community needs through leadership, grants and donor services.

For more information about how to give a gift to the Boy Scout Fund or about the HCF, call Lowen at 785-621-4090 or email him at directorhcfoundation@hotmail.com.