

news release



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Release Date: March 7, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOY SCOUT TROOP COMPLETES JOURNEY TO 48 CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

Boy Scout Troop 200 from Rosholt, Wisconsin will visit their final six states in March, 2008 as they journey to Niagara Falls, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC. Since Troop 200 formed in 1996 they have traveled almost 50,000 miles. The first adventure started in 1998 with a visit to the Badlands and Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota. Each year since, the troop has journeyed to a different part of the United States, with visits to the Great Smoky Mountains, New York, Washington DC, Florida, New Orleans, South Padre Island, San Diego, the Carolinas, Yellowstone. Their travels have also included Mexico and Canada. The Scouts have experienced over 70 national parks, memorials, monuments and other historic sites.

Troop 200's 38 members come from Rosholt, a small town of 518 residents, and surrounding communities in rural central Wisconsin. Average trip attendance is 85% at a cost of \$175 per Scout. The group utilizes a bus for their travels and has gradually improved the quality of their transportation vehicles over the years. In the early days, they started with a 1975 International Bluebird school bus and have since upgraded to a 47-passenger motor coach through fundraising and community support. Interstate Graphics, a national vehicle graphics company has donated the printing of a bus wrap to celebrate the Troop's accomplishments with visuals depicting many of the places the travelers have visited. RealWheels Corporation added the final touch with a donation of stainless steel simulators that create the appearance of aluminum rims.

While Troop 200 looks forward to seeing the Statue of Liberty and visiting their Nation's Capital, they are also looking beyond. Chris Martin, Scoutmaster of Troop 200 says they have even bigger dreams. "We have journeyed to many incredible places in the continental US, but the Scouts have a goal of getting to Alaska and Hawaii someday. Obviously our bus can't float, so Hawaii is going to be a real challenge."

Scouts work hard to pay their own way through various fundraising activities throughout the year. To help defray costs, the Troop depends on help from various sponsors. "There's just no way we could ever cook enough burgers or sell enough popcorn to maintain our program," says Martin. "We've been very fortunate to have some generous supporters that believe in our program."

Martin emphasizes that it isn't the Troop's mission to travel, but a way of complementing their overall program. Over the past 12 years, the scouts have camped 114 times, totaling 347 days, provided 1,245 hours of community service and awarded six Scouts the Eagle Scout Rank (twice the national average). Martin said, "We tie knots, camp, learn first aid and how to survive in the wilderness, but we also help Scouts experience this great country."

Troop 200 is a part of Samoset Council, which serves 13 counties in north-central Wisconsin. To learn more about Troop 200 and their accomplishments, visit them online at www.troop200.com.

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For more information on Troop 200, past trips, upcoming itinerary or to schedule an interview with the Troop, please call Chris Martin at 715-572-4758 or email Chris at cjm@troop200.com.

For more information on the Boy Scouts of America, please contact Mike Sulgrove, Scout Executive of the Gerald R. Ford Council in Grand Rapids, MI at 616-785-2662 or email Mike at msulgrove@bsamail.org.