



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL



PARC
Program Activity &
Resource Campus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information

Scout Executive Charles Rogers: 610-613-8221 / Charles.Rogers@Scouting.org
PARC Director of Investor Relations Michele Bisceglie: 317-418-7565 / Michele.Bisceglie@Scouting.org

Boy Scouts Announce Campaign Progress, Offer Community Details on Project 28 Acres in Exton to be Developed into First New Program Property for Council since 1920s

WEST CHESTER, PA (April 22, 2016) – For anyone who has repeatedly driven past a certain ‘Coming Soon’ sign—now accompanied by a dirt pile—on Business Route 30 in Exton, one question has undoubtedly leapt to mind: When is this PARC thing going to get built?

Today, in front of a standing-room-only crowd of civic and business leaders gathered at Milestone Events in West Chester, the Chester County Council, Boy Scouts of America let everyone in on the answer: They will build their new Program, Activity & Resource Campus (PARC) in \$2.7 million time. That’s the gap to goal for the Council’s current \$5.2 million capital campaign to develop a donated 28-acre parcel of wetlands, woodlands, streams and wide open green spaces into an educational adventureland.

“PARC is located in the heart of our service area as well as in the population center of our community,” said Scout Executive Charles Rogers. “As the first new program property for our council since the 1920s, it will allow us to provide better support for our current members, enhance our capacity to invite more young people into the Scouting program and offer additional opportunities to be a resource and partner to other local organizations.”

PARC will feature environmental education, outdoor living skills development, team-building and leadership enhancement activities as well as recreational opportunities such as fishing, hiking, sports and fitness. The 15,000 square foot facility anchoring the campus, which has been conceptually designed to include a green roof, roof-top solar panels and geothermal energy as both building elements and educational features, will house a Leadership Development Center and a Resource Center offering flexible and technologically appropriate instruction, training, meeting, event and social space. There will also be a Scout Store to support the ever-evolving interests of young people and the Scouting program that serves them.

“The values, confidence and team-building experience that a young person gains through his or her involvement in Scouting will influence every aspect of their personal and professional life,” said Richard “Dick” Vermeil, former head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, honorary chair of the PARC capital campaign and keynote speaker of today’s event. “That’s why Scouting has played—and will continue to play—such an important role in keeping our communities strong. PARC will be a tremendous asset in supporting the needs and interests of today’s youth as they train their hearts, minds and habits to become the leaders we need for tomorrow.”

According to Rogers, PARC is being designed to support advancement opportunities for Scouts, including more than 40 current merit badges, education initiatives such as STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and career education programming. “PARC will allow for dynamic utilization day and night,” said Rogers, “making after school, after work and weekend use more accessible to a substantial number of current and potential Scouting members as well as to the community at large.” Additional activities under consideration for the site include bike trails, camping training sites, observation platforms for wetlands and streams, bouldering and Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (C.O.P.E.) courses, a zip line, a climbing wall and a fitness obstacle course.

More information about the PARC project, including a narrated fly-over video of the property, is available at www.CCCBSA.org/PARC. Those interested in a guided tour of the site can make a reservation through the website or by emailing PARC@CCCBSA.org.

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About Chester County Council, Boy Scouts of America

Since 1919, Chester County Council has been chartered by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to deliver the comprehensive youth development programs of Scouting through partnerships with community organizations in Chester County, PA, and in the northwestern corner of Cecil County, MD. The Council currently partners with 112 community organizations that charter a total of 168 Scouting units: Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Venture Crews and Explorer Posts. Approximately 2,800 men and women volunteer in a variety of leadership roles so that 5,700 youth (boys in grades 1-12 and girls in grades 9-12) can enjoy the benefits of Scouting. For more information, please visit www.CCCBSA.org.