



Event: **Preparing America’s Patriots**  
Date & Time: Thursday, May 23, 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
Location: Great Wolf Lodge, 2501 Great Wolf Drive, Mason, OH 45040  
Honorees: **Charles Rittgers, Ellen Rittgers, and Scott Snow**  
Contact:

John Ralbovsky, District Director  
Boy Scouts of America, Dan Beard Council  
[John.Ralbovsky@scouting.org](mailto:John.Ralbovsky@scouting.org)  
C: 513-403-6829

Ben Adelman, District Executive  
Boy Scouts of America, Dan Beard Council  
[ben.adelman@scouting.org](mailto:ben.adelman@scouting.org)  
C: 513-365-0147

### The Boy Scouts of America, Dan Beard Council Announces Third Annual *Preparing America’s Patriots* Event at Great Wolf Lodge

Cincinnati, OH, April 3rd, 2019 – SCOUT ME IN; Amid all the excitement an organization can muster, the Boy Scouts of America, Dan Beard Council’s Hopewell District (*Warren County, Middletown, and Monroe*) has announced their third annual fundraising event promoting American values and patriotism – the *Preparing America’s Patriots* dinner. The event will have a new look this year, being moved to the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The previous two events were held at the Jaguar Land Rover dealership in Blue Ash.

The event will also have a different feel to it, as this year’s honorees will receive an award named after one of the Hopewell District’s most illustrious volunteers who passed away in January – John A. McMinn.

#### Serving the Needs of America’s Families

Speaking about the event and its significance, John Ralbovsky, Hopewell District Director and Eagle Scout said, “*Preparing America’s Patriots* recognizes individuals in our communities of outstanding character or those who embody the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.” When Scouts take the Scout Oath, they promise to, among other things, serve their country and help other people at all times. The Scout Law states that *A Scout is: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.*

“Above all else, the BSA teaches youth to respect others, to be kind and to help people, no matter what differences there are between them,” Mr. Ralbovsky said. “There is nothing more American than that, and in today’s environment, this is more important than ever to pass on to our young people. We expanded our program this year to include girls as well as boys so that we are better able to serve the youth of America, and to forge them into the next generation of leaders and patriots.”





**A Grassroots Effort**

The Preparing America's Patriots fundraiser aims to raise \$35,000 to support Scouting in Warren County. It is designed to support the at-risk youth in the Hopewell District, and to increase Scouting awareness in the community. Contributions will support the Scouting programs in Hopewell District, provide outreach services for those at-risk youth, and continue to improve our communities through our community service projects.

Warren County currently serves 2,500 Scouting youth and, last year alone, produced 75 Eagle Scouts – Scouting's highest rank. Over 14,000 hours of community service were logged by Scouts and 600 adult volunteer leaders, according to the Dan Beard Council.

There will be three honorees at this year's event: **Charles and Ellen Rittgers**, of the law firm Rittgers and Rittgers, and **Scott Snow**, Chief of the Reading Police Department. Mr. and Mrs. Rittgers boast a long career of advocacy in the community as successful attorneys for their clients, while Chief Snow has not only served in law enforcement for over 35 years, becoming Chief of Reading Police Department in 2008, he also has a long record of volunteer work with the Hopewell District and Dan Beard Council, helping the organization in its mission to serve as many youth in the community as possible.

These honorees will receive the *John A. McMinn Memorial Award*, newly named this year after Mr. McMinn, who spent decades as a passionate Scouting volunteer with both his local Troop 186 in Lebanon (chartered by the Lebanon Presbyterian Church), and in the Hopewell District as a whole. Mr. McMinn passed away on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at age 85, and the awards were renamed after him this year in order to carry on his legacy of service and leadership to the community and Scouting.

**About Hopewell District**

The Hopewell District is one of eight districts in the Dan Beard Council. It serves the communities of Lebanon, Morrow, Mason, Kings, Maineville, Little Miami, Loveland, Springboro, Carlisle, Franklin, Waynesville, Middletown, Monroe and Madison Township. The district annually serves over 2,500 Scouts at all ranks and has 600 trained volunteer leaders.

**About Dan Beard Council**

The Dan Beard Council is the administrative body of the Boy Scouts of America in the Greater Cincinnati area. With a geographic area of 12 counties in Southwestern Ohio and Northern Kentucky and an average annual membership of 33,000 youth, the Dan Beard Council is one of the larger metropolitan councils in the country and the largest youth organization in the Cincinnati area.

###

