



Above: Members of Troop 395 at Big Red Mountain at Philmont Scout Ranch. **Back row left to right:** David Bull, Ben Butler, Mark Jalukut, Will Jalkut, Malone Bridgers, crew leader Judson Thompson, and Leonard Thagard. **Front row left to right:** Joe Davis, Davis Bull, Hugh Butler, Carson Treadway, John Thagard and Andrew Rostick.

Troop 395

...to do my duty to God, and my Country...

BY DAVID SLOOP, ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER |
Photography by Troop 395 and Karen Haneline

Troop 395 has been privileged to have been sponsored by White Memorial for more than seventy years and is still going strong to this day. The troop currently has approximately 160 registered Scouts and Webelos and 40 registered leaders, many of whom are members of WMPC. For comparison purposes, most troops average between 20 to 40 scouts. Our troop is scout led, which means many of the older scouts lead the younger scouts in meetings, outings, and program planning. Currently, our scout troop meets on Tuesday nights and the Webelos meet on Thursday nights.

According to records, the troop was founded in 1951 and chartered as Troop 95 with Emmett Fontaine being the first Scoutmaster and Walter Hannah being the first Assistant Scoutmaster. As fate would have it, Emmett Fontaine's great-grandson would join Troop 395 in 2020. In 1954, the troop number was changed to Troop 395 for reasons unknown.

While troop records have been relatively scarce, we do have a plaque showing Eagle Scouts starting with Chuck Miller in 1951. Other scoutmasters of note include Sam Thompson (1965-1969) and John McMillan who served as Scoutmaster for twenty years from 1969 to 1989. >

COMMUNITY SERVICE IS A LARGE PART OF OUR TROOP WITH OPPORTUNITIES RANGING FROM RISE AGAINST HUNGER, TROOP 395'S ADOPT-A-TRAIL CLEANUP, RALEIGH RESCUE MISSION, WARMTH FOR WAKE, FOOD BANK, AND MANY OTHER CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.



Left to right:
Boy Scout Ceremony

John was known to be a pillar to the community and to the troop as a father figure to hundreds of scouts as he had no children of his own. In 2014, one of our scouts, Griffin Bensen, interviewed John as part of a rank requirement, and John mentioned his favorite memories as a young scout included the 1955 National Jamboree in Valley Forge, PA; the World Jamboree in the Philippines, and meeting Queen Elizabeth. Sadly, he passed away in 2019.

Community service is a large part of our troop with opportunities ranging from Rise Against Hunger, Troop 395's Adopt-a-Trail cleanup, Raleigh Rescue Mission, Warmth for Wake, Food Bank, and many other charitable organizations.

Eagle Scout projects have also served our community in a variety of projects ranging from trail bridges, state park signs, tables and benches, and many other unique projects. We average roughly twenty-five Eagle Scouts each year which is the highest of any troop in the Oconeechee Council.

Besides service, the best part of Troop 395 are the incredible outings we have been on. Camp Campbell at Kerr Lake has always been a favorite to many scouts throughout the years where we earn many water rank requirements and merit badges. Camp Raven Knob in Mount Airy has been the traditional Summer Camp and a favorite to many where the scouts earn up to six merit badges in one fun-filled week. >



Top to bottom:
Jack Peterson's Eagle Scout Project -
the WMPC Little Free Library;
Eagle Scouts on another adventure.

Troop 395 crew photo from Philmont Scout Ranch base camp.

Back row left to right: Ben Butler, David Bull, crew leader Judson Thompson, Davis Bull, Malone Bridgers, Mark Jalkut and Leonard Thagard.

Front row left to right: Joe Davis, Andrew Rostick, Hugh Butler, Philmont Ranger Sam Hauser, Carson Treadway, Will Jalkut and John Thagard.



Left to Right: Troop 395 meets Tuesday evenings at WMPC.



The scouts are notorious for thinking the food is the worst ever, but many will sign up for the Cooking Merit Badge where they can cook and enjoy their own food out of Dutch ovens. Scoutmasters have been known to sample some of their scouts' food as well!

High Adventure is another highlight of our troop as we regularly send crews to Philmont, Sea Base, and the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Philmont, located in Cimarron, New Mexico, has been a favorite to those scouts and leaders who can make the 12-day expedition where a crew typically backpacks approximately 100 miles and enjoys many activities such as rock climbing, fly fishing, black powder rifle shooting, horseback riding, and many more. Climbing up Baldy Mountain at an elevation of 13,000 feet is every scout's goal. Sea Base is another favorite where crews raft out to a barrier island in the Florida Keys and enjoy the rustic life for one week while fishing, scuba diving, and other fun activities.

Those of you who are former scouts will remember the thrill of running out to the mailbox to find the latest copy of *Boys Life* Magazine. One of our WMPC scouts, Reid Walker, was featured in an article in December of 2017

for his first place accomplishment in the USA Gymnastics National Tumbling & Trampoline Championships. We couldn't be prouder of Reid for his accomplishment and representing Troop 395.

Troop 395 is fortunate to have many adult leaders from White Memorial who are involved not only at a troop level, but also the district level. Current WMPC leaders include Grant Livengood, Matt Walker, Stan Hardesty, David Sloop, Leonard Thagard, Stanford Baird, and many others. The Troop is currently led by Brad Davis, Scoutmaster, and Duncan Jennings, Troop Chair.

We fondly thank White Memorial and its staff for 70 years of support for Scouting and Troop 395. When Baden Powell created Scouting, one of the primary purposes was Duty to God. This is reflected in our Scout Oath which starts with "On my Honor, I will do my best, to do my duty, to God and my Country, to obey the Scout Law...." The final character trait of the Scout Law is "Reverent". Whether our scouts have earned the offered scouting religious awards or whether they continue to explore and develop their faith, White Memorial will always be that conduit and home all of our scouts will have for years to come. ■