



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
WESTMORELAND-FAYETTE COUNCIL

## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### **SCOUTS TO HONOR AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE JUNE 19**

May 13, 2014 (Greensburg, PA) The year was 1917, and World War I had transformed the United States of America. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was hard at work in support of the war efforts, selling Liberty bonds and war savings stamps totaling more than \$355 million, collecting 100 railroad cars full of nutshells and peach pits for gas mask manufacturing, and planting 12,000 Boy Scout war gardens. The domestic oil and natural gas industry jumped into action, too. Companies that had never collaborated began to work with each other, and with the U.S. government, to ensure that critical petroleum supplies were effectively delivered to the armed forces.

When the war ended, the oil and natural gas industry continued to realize its obligations to the public, and so did the BSA. The American Petroleum Institute (API) was formed in 1919, and its goals included cooperation with the government in matters of national concern, strengthening the U.S. economy through a unified effort to foster foreign and domestic trade in American petroleum products, and contributing to the development of industry-wide safety practices. With more than 500 corporate members, API is currently one of the country's largest national trade associations. The Boy Scouts of America has mirrored that growth, with a recent statistic showing that 13 million service hours were completed by Scouts and volunteers in one year alone.

Recognizing a shared vision for patriotism and social concern, the BSA Westmoreland Fayette Council, the self-supporting, nonprofit corporation operating the Scouting program in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties, will recognize API at its Annual Friends of Scouting Dinner June 19 for the Institute's efforts to advance economic growth and responsible citizenship in the U.S. The dinner will be held at the Greensburg Country Club, with a cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m. and dinner service at 6:30 p.m.

Featured speaker at the dinner will be Stephanie Catarino Wissman, Executive Director of API of Pennsylvania (API-PA) since 2011. Wissman is responsible for

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representing API-PA and its member companies in interactions with government, media, the business community, and the public. Wissman has previously served as

the Director of Government Affairs for the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, and as Manager of Government Affairs for the global communications provider Embarq, formerly Sprint. She is active in the community as immediate past president of the Tender Years Parents Association and an immediate past board member for the State YMCA Youth in Government program and Pennsylvania Highway Information Association. She has been appointed by Pennsylvania Governor Thomas Corbett to serve on the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board.

Proceeds from the Friends of Scouting Dinner honoring API will benefit the BSA Westmoreland Fayette Council's continued service to more than 10,000 local youth and 2,000 adult leaders, who are engaged in programs emphasizing character building, citizenship training, and personal fitness. BSA initiatives offered by the Council include Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturing (for young men and women ages 14 through 20). The Council also sponsors programs through Scouting's subsidiary, Learning for Life, which provides career exploring activities and academic and personal support services, especially for at-risk youth. The Council operates a service center in Greensburg, Pa. and maintains youth camps in Scottdale, Pa. and Bakersville, Pa.

Tickets may be purchased for the Friends of Scouting at the Westmoreland Fayette Council service center located at 2 Garden Center Drive, Greensburg, at the Website [www.ScoutDinner.org](http://www.ScoutDinner.org), or via telephone at (724) 837-1630. Donations are also being sought for live, silent, and chance auctions to be held at the dinner, and arrangements can be made by calling the service center.

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