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Scouts celebrate centennial by planting trees

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On Monday, Feb. 8, the Boy Scouts of America celebrated its 100th anniversary.

The Scouts of the Sweetwater District participated in the yearlong celebration kickoff with a centennial tree planting at various locations throughout Douglas County. Scouts gathered on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday of Centennial Week to place trees at Clinton Nature Preserve, Deer Lick Park, the Douglas County Courthouse and Boundary Waters Park.

The plantings began with a ceremony that spoke to the roots of the Boy Scouts of America as well as a look to the future. Scouts from all levels, from first-year Tiger Cubs to Eagle Scouts, participated by placing the trees and assisting with the covering. The ceremony closed with a prayer led by Boy Scouts from the various units in the district.

Other metro Atlanta Scouts planted a tree just outside the front gate at Six Flags Over Georgia. A commemorative plaque will be placed beside the tree explaining its significance.

These are among 100 trees the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America planted to commemorate the anniversary. Planting trees highlighted a major pillar in Scouting: Love and respect for the outdoors.

Since 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has promoted character development and values-based leadership training for youth ages 7 to 20. The BSA's 100th anniversary is geared toward growing membership, increasing manpower and maintaining financial strength while enhancing public awareness and perceptions of Scouting.

The centennial tree planting is sponsored by The Home Depot, which provided the trees to the Boy Scouts of the Atlanta Area Council.

The Sweetwater District is a part of the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America representing Douglas County and serves youth in various programs, including Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts and Venturing. For more information on Scouting in Douglas County, see www.sweewaterbsa.org.

The Atlanta Area Council covers Douglas, Paulding, Carroll, Cobb, Fulton, Cherokee, Clayton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Haralson, Newton, Pickens and Rockdale counties. For more information on the Atlanta Area Council, see www.atlantabsa.org or call Jenna Knight at (770) 956-3178.

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