

CROSSROADS OF AMERICA BSA TORNADO RELIEF TEAM

Crossroads of America Council Boy Scout Troops and Venturing Crews have been invited to join forces with the Lincoln Heritage Council in an effort to assemble a large work force of volunteers to assist with tornado relief efforts in Southern Indiana. This effort, coordinated by the Crew 2010 Emergency Response Unit, is a unique opportunity to demonstrate the character and spirit of our organization by providing intense, productive, hands-on aid to fellow Hoosiers hit by this tragedy.

Stricken areas in Southern Indiana have been inundated with donations of food and supplies ever since the storms occurred. What is needed most now, however, is able-bodied help in digging out from the carnage of debris that was left behind. This is a unique opportunity for Scouts to embrace and carry out the ideals of our organization, and have a positive impact on those truly needing our help.

The event will take place on Saturday, March 31st. Participating Troops and Crews will assemble at a designated base camp in southern Indiana and be dispatched in work groups to assist at pre-scouted sites needing laborers. The work groups will then return to the base camp throughout the day to eat (free lunch provided), re-charge, and get new assignments. A similar crew of approximately 170 workers blitzed the town of Pekin, IN on March 10th and made a meaningful difference. The hope is to assemble an even larger workforce this time, and have even more of an impact.

Details:

Crews and Troops from the Crossroads of America Council will assemble at the former (vacant) Seymour Holiday/Quality Inn*, Seymour, IN at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 31, 2012 before continuing on to the base camp at the Henryville United Methodist Church** (late-arriving volunteers may go directly to the church). Teams will work until approximately 6:30 p.m., returning home that same day. Everyone participating should bring the following:

- Long pants.
- Long sleeve shirts are recommended (helps reduce cuts/scratches and keep off fiberglass insulation).
- Heavy-soled boots or shoes (tennis shoes are discouraged).
- Heavy leather work gloves (two pair are recommended).
- Safety glasses and/or sunglasses may help keep debris and sticks out of eyes.
- Water bottle (filled, additional water will be available).
- Sunscreen and sun-protection.
- Hand sanitizer (important in dealing with bacteria left behind by strong storms).
- Heat-tolerant snacks.
- Day pack.

Useful supplies:

- Heavy-duty contractor-grade trash bags.
- 5-Gallon buckets.
- Flat-nosed and/or narrow scoop shovels (ones that fit inside 5-gallon buckets are best).
- Heavy rakes.
- 2-Way radios.
- Chainsaws can be helpful but must be operated by adults only and used far away from Scouts.

Any Troop or Crew interested in participating should contact Chuck Smith at 765-436-2759 (e-mail: crsmith@cabinsandcandlelight.com) and provide their unit type, unit number, an approximate number of people they would be bringing, and group leader phone and e-mail contact information. Current tetanus vaccinations are recommended for all participants.

*Former Seymour Holiday/Quality Inn (vacant, no sign): take I-65 south to S.R. 50 (exit #50). Turn right (west) on S.R. 50, and then turn right into the vacant hotel just past Chili's (on the north side of the road).

**Henryville United Methodist Church, 113 S. Ferguson St., Henryville, IN: take I-65 south to Henryville (exit #19). Turn left (east) at the exit onto S.R. 160 and take it almost 1 mile to U.S. 31 (same as Ferguson St.). Turn right (south) on U.S. 31 and go 1/2 block. The church is on the right (west). Park in the rear.