

Chambersville Tree Farm's

"Centennial Circle Of Trees (CCOT)"

Program Concept: The Centennial Circle Of Trees is a planned conservation and educational program involving the Owner and Staff of the Chambersville Tree Farm (CTF), and the Lone Star District, of the Circle Ten Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA), which has 62 Scouting units based in McKinney and Northern Collin County.

Under this cooperative agreement, the Chambersville Tree Farm has provided the location and donated 140 different specimen trees from it's inventory. The Boy Scout units of the Lone Star District have provided volunteer manpower and labor for the trail development, construction, site preparation and tree planting. Also, several local scouting units have donated additional trees to CCOT and assisted in their on-site planting and cultivation.

The Centennial Circle of Trees was formally dedicated on Saturday, November 13, 2010, when local Scouts and their leaders assisted in the planting of several trees and guiding tours of the site. About 45 species of trees were on-site at the time of the dedication. Throughout the Winter of 2010 and Spring months of 2011, additional trees were obtained and planted at CCOT, with the number of on-site trees planted reaching 170 species by December 22, 2010. By May 30, 2011, more than 205 different species of trees and shrubs were growing on-site.

During the weekend of April 8 – 10, 2011, the Lone Star District again held it's annual Camporee at the Chambersville Tree Farm (the first had been held there in 2010), with over 500 Boy Scouts and adult leaders camping. Also, for 2011, the Wikapi Chapter of the Order of the Arrow (OA) held it's call-out campfire and OA initiation "ordeal" on-site, with over 80 OA youth and adult candidates working on the tree farm, pruning trees, pulling weeds and assisting with the CCOT trail maintenance.

Although initially established to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, who were founded in February 1910, the Centennial Circle Of Trees," continues to develop as a "hands-on" conservation effort for the Scouting youth of Collin County. In addition to the annual Lone Star District three-day camporees held at the farm, in October 2010, more than 850 Cub Scouts from McKinney, Frisco, Allen and other smaller communities held their fall "CUBE" (Cub Outdoor Experience) event at the tree farm, with new Cub Scouts learning to fish, shooting bows and arrows, and B-B guns, and learning about nature and the environment. In addition to the Lone Star District activities held at the farm,

numerous Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops periodically use the tree farm as a site for monthly camp-outs, fishing events, nature and conservation projects and touring the CCOT. In May 2011, more than 100 local Boy Scout youth and adult leaders completed their three-day "Oak Leaf" (youth leader training) and Adult Outdoor Leadership Training programs on the grounds of the Chambersville Tree Farm

When the Centennial Circle of Trees reaches it's expected completion date, in the Spring of 2012, it is projected that more than 250 different species of trees and shrubs (crape myrtles, hollies, ornamental trees, etc.) will have been planted along the five-acre circular trail. All of the tree specimens to be planted at CCOT will be either native to Texas, or are proven "Texas-hardy species." Thus, they are acclimated to surviving during hot Texas summers, under drought and soil conditions of the existing local climate and environmental conditions.

Once the initial development and planting of the trees had been completed, the local Lone Star District Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs will continue to assist in the perpetual maintenance and further development of the site project. Additionally, the Centennial Circle Of Trees will provide numerous opportunities for individual Eagle Scout Projects, to include the development and improvements to trail signage, trail bed improvements and the construction of benches and weather shelters for CCOT visitors.

The Centennial Circle Of Trees conservation project is open, free of charge, to the public, for individual tours. Local school districts and other youth and civic organizations interested in nature, tree development and related conservation activities are also welcome to use the CCOT facility, at no cost.

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