# Decades Fact Sheet

## 1970

As the 1970s dawned, BSA officials worried that Scouting was not in tune with the times. In response, they ordered an overhaul of the Boy Scouting program that deemphasized outdoor skills. For the first time, a Scout could become an Eagle Scout without earning the Camping merit badge or knowing how to swim.

The experiment didn't last long. In 1978, the program returned to its roots with revised requirements. A year later, a new *Boy Scout Handbook* appeared, drawing heavily on Scouting traditions for much of its content.

**1970.1.** Urban Scouting

A more successful response to changing times was an increased environmental emphasis. In 1970, the BSA created Project SOAR (Save Our American Resources), prompting tens of thousands of Scouting units to create recycling programs, clean up litter, and plant trees to fight erosion. On a single day in 1971, Scouts collected more than 1 million tons of litter.

The 1970s also saw growth in the BSA's high-adventure programs. The Maine National High Adventure Area opened in 1971, offering canoeing and backpacking trips in the state's abundant wilderness areas. Four years later, volunteers developed a high-adventure program in the Florida Keys that would become the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base in 1979.

Now well into its second half-century of service to America, the BSA could boast a strong alumni base. In 1972, it created the National Eagle Scout Association to keep adult Eagle Scouts informed and engaged. In 1978, it unveiled a public service campaign featuring such notable former Scouts as Gerald Ford, Henry Fonda, Hank Aaron, Rich Little, and Mark Spitz, each of whom credited Scouting with some of his success in life.

## PHOTOS

**1970.2.** Bronze Buffalo

**1970.3.** Scout Handbook

**1970.4.** 1977 Jamboree

**1970.5.** 1973 Jamboree

**1970.6.** Disabilities awareness

**1970.7.** Roughing it

**1970.8.** Patrol spirit

**1970.9.** Conservation

**1970.10.** President Nixon

## VIDEO

**1970.V1.** Philmont Scout Ranch is host to extraordinary terrain—and hiking.

**1970.V2.** Scouts get a feel for America's mining history at Philmont.

**1970.V3.** Rappelling the steep rock faces of Philmont's mountains is a favorite high-adventure activity.