

RECEIVED
JUN 14 1988

Date: June 13, 1988

From: Nancy Hackett *Nancy*

To: Mary Somerville, ALSC President
Susan Roman, ALSC Executive Director

Subject: Boy Scouts Advisory Committee

At the January Board meeting, the recommendation was made from the floor that the Boy Scouts of America Advisory Committee (BSAC) be incorporated into the Committee of Liason with National Organizations Serving the Child (LNOSC).

This merging would not be beneficial to either the Boy Scouts or ALA. The LNOSC "explores, recommends, implements ways of working with other organizations. The BSAC has a greater function than to act as liason between the organizations (see mission statements, p 42-3, ALA Handbook of Organization). The BSAC advises the Boy Scouts on library service, compiles bibliographies for the Merit Badge Pamphlet series, assists the Boy Scouts in creating awareness of the Scouting program among librarians, assists in advising librarians of the uses for the merit badge pamphlets with scouts and non-scouts interested in the subjects covered. In the mid-70's the BSAC recommended expansion to include Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls, both of which rejected the suggestion, although the Girl Scouts made use of an ad hoc committee to create a bibliography. These groups are not organizations serving children, but are organizations of children. I recommend that these organizations be approached again, that the Y Indian Guides be included also, and that the current BSAC be enlarged to assist the four organizations.

One of the **best outreach programs** ALA now has is the exposure at the quadrennial Boy Scout National Jamborees, in which we have participated since 1973. In 10 days, staff at the booth have the opportunity to advertise books and libraries to an audience of 50,000 or more Scouts, plus the thousands of visitors who come daily to participate in, and watch, the activities. Would you like to have a library display at Disneyland? This is the closest we will probably

come to reaching such an audience. Staff talked with parents and sisters as well as with the Boy Scouts, although by the nature of the event, there was considerably more contact with the boys and scoutmasters. In 1985, the three full time librarians in the booth worked with approximately 40 boys who earned their entire Reading merit badge at the site. Over a hundred more did part of their requirements with us, including one who only wished to do his four hours of service because he had completed all the other requirements but the library in his hometown could not use his time.

At the Jamboree, other organizations similar to ALA are also operating booths in the Merit Badge Midway. In addition to informing the Scouts of the organization, the booths assist them in obtaining the materials and information needed to earn a merit badge pertaining to the subject. The American Dental Association had an elaborate program at the most recent Jamboree. The National Rifle Association, Army, Navy, Philatelists and Numismatists were represented.

cc Carol DeJardin, ALSC BSAC Chair

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