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Random patches from the Corn Belt, Creve Coeur, Starved Rock, and W. D. Boyce Councils intermingled... as is our history.
(Photo credit: Russ Glass.)

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On my honor...

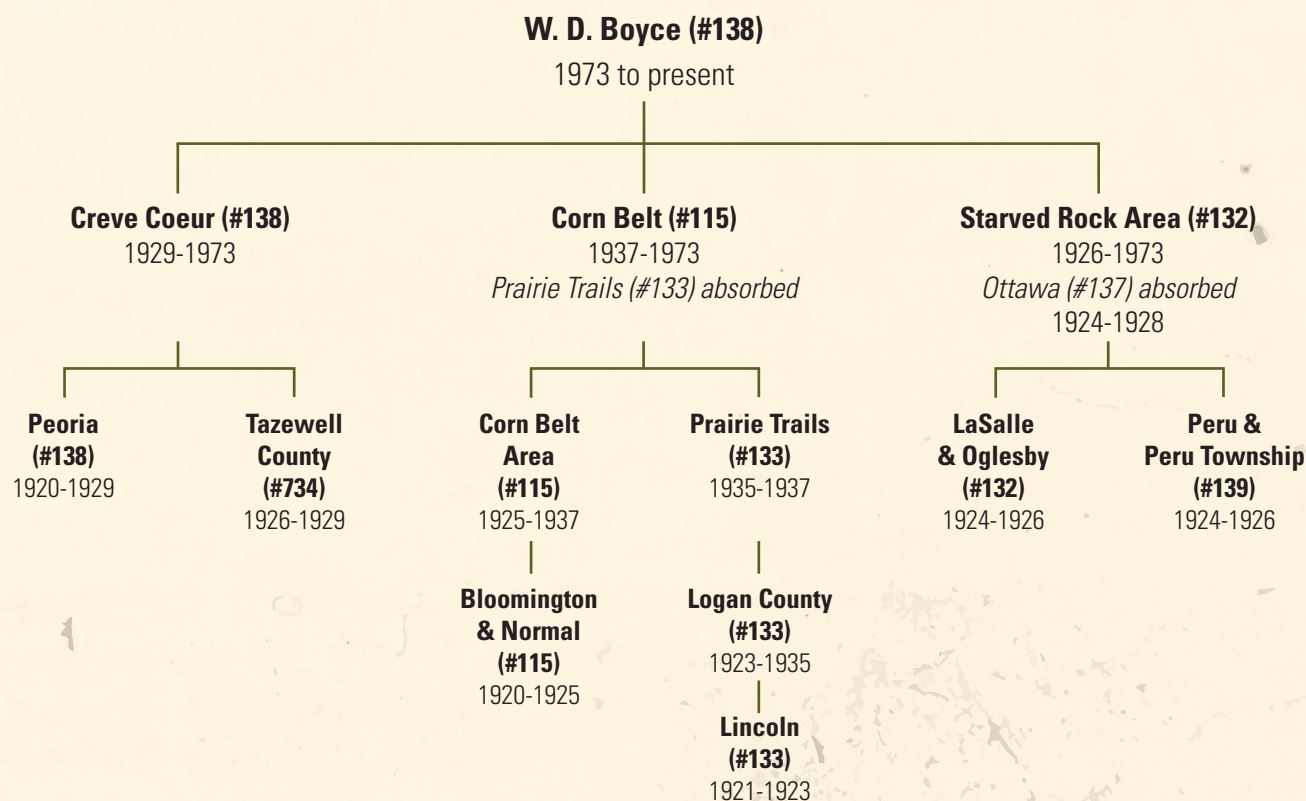
Overview...

Very shortly after Scouting began in the United States, it took root in Central Illinois. Our councils have gone by many names—and have seen several mergers in their time—**until the formation of the W. D. Boyce Council in 1973.**

This book has been created to celebrate the first 50 years of the W. D. Boyce Council, the man after whom it is named, and the immediate past three councils that merged to form it. Our goal is to celebrate our past and rekindle a few memories for those who have loved Scouting here.

We know this is not a comprehensive record of all that has come before. But we hope you will find in these pages a sense of the camaraderie—the **Scouting Spirit**—so many thousands have found in the Central Illinois version of the greatest youth leadership organization the world has ever known.

Merger of councils leading to W. D. Boyce Council (#138)





▲ The first known photo of Scouting in what is now the W. D. Boyce Council. Visit <http://shsci.blogspot.com/> to see a larger image, or if you can help identify people, see Contact Us on that site.

This book was made possible by the encyclopedic knowledge, the records, and the generous contributions of the Scouting Historical Society of Central Illinois.

W. D. Boyce 50th Anniversary Book Committee

Eric Hoadley, Chairman
Cathy Lane, Senior Editor
Ben Blumenberg, Scout Executive
Scott Fishel
Dan Mathews
Mike Stobaugh
Charlie Zimmerman

I will do my best...

Starved Rock Council

Scouting in what was to become the Starved Rock Council (*alternatively called Starved Rock Area Council throughout its history*) began relatively early in the Scouting movement and went through many changes over the course of the council's 50-year existence. The decades were marked by growth and expansion covering most of what is now the Lowaneu District of the W. D. Boyce Council.

The first seeds were planted in 1924 when the towns of LaSalle and Oglesby organized a small local council. Not to be left out, nearby Ottawa and Peru organized separate councils. In 1926, the LaSalle-Oglesby Council and Peru Council combined to form Starved Rock Council (SRC) #132. The new organization was incorporated as a nonprofit in July 1933. A bequest to the Boy Scouts of America by Fred B. Jones created a council trust fund in 1938.

In 1927, the SRC's area was extended to include all of the western half of LaSalle County, the eastern townships of Bureau County, all of Putnam County, and Evans Township in Marshall County. The Ottawa Council joined SRC on September 24, 1928. The Streator area joined in 1934, and the council was given jurisdiction over all of LaSalle County.

Expansion continued into the late 1930s. On March 28, 1938, a part of Bureau County that had been connected to the Indian Creek Council was now affiliated with the SRC. The Council now included LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam Counties, and Evans Township in Marshall County.



The Starved Rock Council's name drew on a regional Native American legend. It was said that in the 1760s, Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa tribe was stabbed by an Illinois-Peoria brave at a tribal council of the Illinois and Potawatomi. A great battle ensued between the Pontiac and Illinois.

The Illinois took refuge on a great rock high above the Illinois River. After a long siege, the Illinois warriors died of starvation, giving a name to the geological feature and the park near Oglesby.



STARVED ROCK COUNCIL

to do my duty...

Fast forward to 1959, when Reading and Newton Townships in Livingston County were absorbed into SRC.

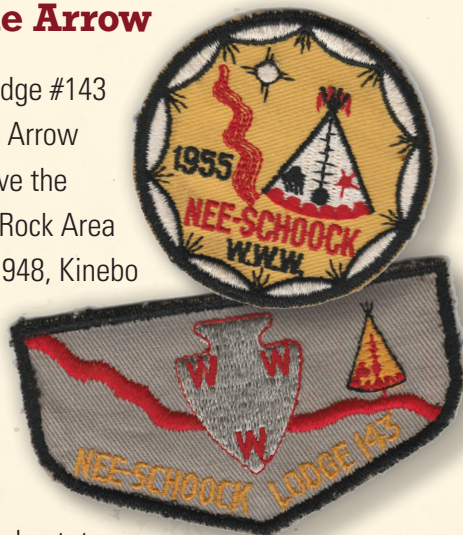
Like most councils, SRC was divided into districts: Kinebo (Bureau and Putnam Counties), Shaubona (western half of LaSalle County along with Evans Township in Marshall County), and Waubuncie (eastern half of LaSalle County, Reading and Newton Townships in Livingston County).

There are three known addresses of the Council offices in LaSalle:

- 225 Gooding Street
(through the 1950s and early 1960s)
- 206 Marquette Street
(the mid-1960s until early 1970s)
- 153 Marquette Street (at the time of the merger)

Kinebo and Nee-Schoock Lodges, Order of the Arrow

In 1939, Kinebo Lodge #143 of the Order of the Arrow was formed to serve the Scouts of Starved Rock Area Council. In about 1948, Kinebo was renamed Nee-Schoock Lodge, but the new lodge kept the #143 numeral designation. The lodge totem on patches was an arrowhead with a red river running through it, representing the Vermillion River, which runs through the middle of the council. Nee-Schoock Lodge existed until late 1973 when it merged



with Lodge #63 (Potawatomie) from Bloomington and Lodge #191 (Kashapiwigamak) from Peoria to form Wenasa Quenhotan Lodge #23, the current lodge of the W. D. Boyce Council.

Summer camps: Camp Pontiac and Camp Ki-Shau-Wau

The growth of Scouting in the Starved Rock area led to demand for a summer camp. A fundraising campaign in the LaSalle-Oglesby Council was supported by 505 citizens and brought in a total of \$6,840.67 to help fund a new camp. Funds were used to purchase 10 acres of land along the Vermillion River near Lowell, Ill., and Camp Pontiac was opened in August 1924.

Starved Rock Area Council had one camp within its council borders. The 87 acres of Camp Ki-Shau-Wau were located 2.5 miles southeast of Lowell, Ill., on the shores of the Big Vermillion River. It was built on a bluff, 90 feet above the river, in heavy timber growth. The camp derived its name from three ruling Chieftains in the region when white settlers arrived. "Ki-" is from Kinebo, the last Chief of the Illini, and "Sha-" from Chief Shaubona, and "Wau" from Chief Waubonsie, both from the Potawatomi tribe.

Camp Ki-Shau-Wau would welcome its first troop of Scouts on July 5, 1926. The camp featured more than a dozen individual campsites, a chapel and an Order of the Arrow council ring, along with several cabins that were accessible year-round. The original dining hall was opened for the 1928 season and refurbished in the 1950s. The Rotary Cabin and Kiwanis Cabin were both built in 1952 by club members and opened for the 1953 camping season.



Dining Hall Ki-Sha-Wau

The Lions Cabin was constructed by club members in 1955. Other structures on the camp's grounds included the pool (opened in July 1949), ranger's house, camp office, trading post, cook's cabin, canteen, and Little Locust Cabin.



◀ *Rotary Cabin Ki-Sha-Wau*



Lions Cabin Ki-Sha-Wau ▲



◀ *Kiwanis Cabin
Ki-Sha-Wau*