## **Madison County Journal Article**

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MADISON - The city will play host to thousands of Boy Scouts this spring as a massive "Camporee" is planned near Liberty Park and Grandview Boulevard.

The event will be held April 23-25 and is being held in conjunction with Boy Scouts of America's 100th Anniversary Celebration.

The Andrew Jackson Council of central Mississippi will sponsor the camporee which will feature a variety of events and competitions for all ages.

Scouts from all over the state and southeast will camp on the grounds north of Madison Avenue and between Grandview Boulevard and Liberty Park.

Local scoutmasters are helping plan the event and getting ready for something they say is always a highlight of the year for every Scout.

Chris Gibbs, Scoutmaster for Troop 164 at Parkway Hills United Methodist Church, said he remembers going to camporees and the lasting friendships he developed.

"I don't remember half of the people I went to high school with, but I do remember the people I met scouting," Gibbs said.

"I'm very proud to see that we brought something like this to Madison," Gibbs added. "It's a very community-oriented thing. I think it will bring a lot of interest to scouting."

David Smith, Scoutmaster for Troop 15 at St. Matthew's Methodist Church in Madison said it's not normal for such a large event to be held in an almost public location.

He said many of the leaders thought it was a great way to put scouting on display for the public, especially during the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

"We're encouraging families to come by and see what it's all about," Smith said. "Normally we're out on someone's farm or at a park, but we wanted this in a more public setting."

Events scheduled at the camporee include;

- A Pinewood Derby competition
- Flag retirement ceremonies
- Tree planting service projects
- A Wood Badge reunion
- A fun run