

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Boy Scouts of America Announces New “Honor Guard Patch”**

*Ellicott City Boy Scout Proposes Patch after Troop 944’s Contribution to Preakness® Celebration Hot Air Balloon Festival*

Ellicott City, MD (March 26, 2015) – The Boy Scouts of America announced that a new Honor Guard Uniform Patch will be made available this spring for those who form Color Guards for community service.

The idea for an Honor Guard Patch was suggested by Troop 944 Senior Patrol Leader Dennis Howser-Doty, 16, of Ellicott City after the Scouts volunteered at Turf Valley’s Preakness® Celebration Hot Air Balloon Festival last May. The Scouts participated in Saturday’s Armed Forces Day Ceremony in 2014, serving in the Color Guard Flag Presentation and escorting the Wounded Veterans to hot air balloons to thank them for their service.

Soon after the festival, Howser-Doty worked with Scoutmaster Chip Galloway to propose a patch be created to wear in formal procedures by Scout Units. After a six-month review by BSA Headquarters, Troop 944 was informed in November that the Honor Guard Patch was approved for Scouts taking part in community ceremonies.

The Honor Guard Patch is the first of its kind to ever be recommended by a troop member, and the first patch approved in over 50 years. The Honor Guard Patch is to be worn on the right sleeve of the uniform, and is only to be worn by Scouts trained and actively serving in Color Guards.

“Scouts in Troop 944 really understand the culture of service to others, not just ‘Doing a good turn daily’ as the Scout Motto says. I couldn’t be more pleased when they wanted to provide a formal method, including recognition, for Scouts to help the community. Assisting Wounded Warriors into hot air balloons at Turf Valley in 2014 was a great way to start the concept,” said Scoutmaster Chip Galloway.

Troop 944 was established 51 years ago, and consists of 72 boys between the ages of 11-17 in Howard County. Along with the Armed Forces Day Ceremony, the Scouts also help out around the Turf Valley’s Hot Air Balloon Festival by picking up trash, looking after children, helping guests enter a walk-in balloon, and assisting vendors with crowd control and promoting event activities. The Scouts will once again participate in this year’s Preakness® Celebration Hot Air Balloon Festival, scheduled for May 14-16th, sporting their new Honor Guard Patches.

#### **About Preakness® Celebration Hot Air Balloon Festival**

Turf Valley has hosted the Preakness® Celebration Hot Air Balloon Festival for six years. Guests are invited to enjoy festivities geared towards young children and those young at heart. Turf Valley will host 25 beautiful hot air balloons, with pilots from all over the East Coast. The festival portion of the event will be held on Thursday and Friday, May 14 and 15, 2015, from 4:00 until 9:00pm. The Armed Forces Day Ceremony and Balloon Launch will take place on Saturday, May 16th at 6:00am. Please call 410-465-1500 extension 2874 for more details, or visit [www.ballooningusa.com/preakness](http://www.ballooningusa.com/preakness).

#### **About Turf Valley**

Turf Valley is a family-owned-and-operated golf and spa resort located in the Baltimore/Washington Corridor. The resort features 40,000 square feet of event space, on-site Alexandra’s Restaurant, Spa and 36 holes of championship golf. The newest addition to the Turf Valley community, Turf Valley Towne Square, allows guests, visitors, and the community to enjoy shopping, dining and entertainment.