

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of Scouting in the Miami Valley through the founding of the Dayton Council, which later became the Miami Valley Council. In honor of this occasion, we are expanding the brick plaza at the Schiewetz Training Center and dedicating it as the Miami Valley Council Centennial Brick Plaza.

Late in 1916, and again in 1917, the national office of the Boys Scouts of America sent 2 men to Dayton to try to set up a local council. Both times, the men left without success. In February 1918, they decided to try again. By this time, a gentleman named Fred Rike had become interested in organizing the council, and at his suggestion the national office sent a representative to Dayton for the third time.

For the job, they chose Arthur E. Roberts. Although already enlisted in the Army and shortly to be shipped overseas, Roberts went to work in earnest. He contacted Fred Rike and outlined his plans for getting the council started. Roberts suggested that Rike ask 15 friends to meet him for lunch, and at the meeting he would show them the good that the Scouting movement was accomplishing. He hoped this would show why it was so important that a Dayton Council be organized.

Late in February 1918, the men gathered in Fred Rike's office. Of the 15 Mr. Rike invited, 13 attended. Roberts had a deep interest in helping young boys and he sincerely felt that his mission was of real importance. He presented his case simply and earnestly and asked for their support. When he finished speaking, a vote was taken. 12 of the 13 men voted against the council. Rike's was the only vote in favor.

Roberts stood up from the table and began to put on his coat when he happened to remember a \$100 Liberty Bond in his pocket, which he had received only that morning. He started to talk again and for five minutes he told them how important he thought it was that a council be organized in Dayton and of the great value of Scouting. He ended by saying "I don't know a single boy in Dayton, and this Liberty Bond represents 25 percent of all I have in the world, but I'd like to start the council with this." He laid the \$100 bond on the table and turned to leave.

There was a moment of silence as the men stared at the mahogany table top. Then Ralph DeWeese of Winters Bank, moved by what Roberts had done, jumped up and said, "Wait a minute. We can't let you leave like that." He turned to the others and went on: "We should be ashamed of ourselves. If a stranger in our city has so much faith in this movement that he will donate a large part of his worldly goods to see it work, there must be something to it. I move we reconsider." A new vote was taken and this time it was unanimously agreed that the Dayton Council should be formed.

That \$100 Liberty Bond is worth \$1,762 in today's economy. The bricks for this plaza are being sold to help ensure a bright future for Scouting in the Miami Valley. You have an opportunity to match the commitment of Arthur Roberts. **Will you consider making an investment in the next 100 years of Scouting?**

[Miami Valley Council](#)
Boy Scouts of America

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Miami Valley Council
Centennial Brick Plaza

Our Next
Century of Scouting
Begins Today

