

Edmond Police Chief to Lead Boy Scouts



Edmond Police Chief Bob Ricks will lead local Boy Scouts as chair of the Eagle District including Edmond, Guthrie and surrounding communities.

Edmond Police Chief Bob Ricks was recently elected to serve as chairman of the Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) Eagle District in the Last Frontier Council. His one-year term will put him in direct contact with 1,600 youth and 1,000 adult scouts in Edmond, Guthrie and the surrounding area.

Ricks said leading the local BSA district fits well with his role in the Edmond Police Department because both organizations share the same core values. He observed that in a law enforcement career spanning 41 years he has rarely seen a youth involved in Boy Scouts end up in trouble with the law.

"My role is to make Scouting more visible. I want to get the message out about why it's important to our future and show kids they can succeed," Ricks said.

He credits much of his own success to role models like a coach he remembers fondly as "a gentleman and a person of high character who had high expectations." Stressing that his own leadership style is flexible and focused on improving the organization, he views himself as a servant leader who will be a good listener and be accessible.

Ricks was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout in Del Rio, TX. He also joined an Explorer Scout post and participated in an exchange visit to Mexico. After completing his undergraduate degree he considered becoming a professional scout before deciding to go to law school.

His career with the FBI and service in state government as the Oklahoma Commissioner of Public Safety under Gov. Frank Keating gave him broad exposure to tough issues faced by law enforcement professionals. Ricks continues to be concerned about youth as Edmond's Chief of Police. He urges parents to invest time in their children and get involved in their activities.

“Scouting is more relevant than ever before,” Ricks said. “There are more kids with no roots. Scouting is an opportunity for adults to show unconditional love, teach skills and give kids a sense of accomplishment.”