

# Boy Scouts are cooking up their own connection to Germany

STAFF REPORT

Ooltewah and Harrison Boy Scouts are cooking up their own connection to Wolfsburg, Germany, in the wake of recent Volkswagen ties.

Scouts from Chattanooga and Wolfsburg will visit the other throughout the year in an exchange-style program.

Participating scouts are from Pack 82 and Troop 82 from Harrison United Methodist Church and Pack 147 and Troop 147 from Ooltewah United Methodist Church.

"Volkswagen is going to define much of our city for years to come," said Kevin Martin, international representative for the Cherokee Area Council. "As a result it is important that our youth understand the company's cultural background. Scouting provides the common ground that will allow them to comfortably explore the differences and have a lot of fun in the process."

The program was launched during a meeting with Frank Fischer, plant manager for Volkswagen's new manufacturing facility in Chattanooga.

Scouts presented Fischer with a jacket bearing the German flag, American flag and Scout Crest. Fischer talked with the Scouts and presented each with gifts from Volkswagen to recognize their contribution to the relationship between the two cities.

The program will bring Stefan Nardelli, a Wolfsburg Scout, to CAC's Skymont Scout Reservation near Altamont this summer to serve as a counselor.

During his seven weeks at camp he will introduce area Scouts to German culture while teaching outdoor skills.

Nardelli will also help prepare a group from Chattanooga for a trip to Germany late this summer.

Wolfsburg Scout units will host the group for four days before they all travel to the German National Scout Jamboree.

In 2010, the program will bring a group of Wolfsburg Scouts to visit Chattanooga. The group will spend a week at Skymont and then stay with Chattanooga families and tour the city.

While the exchanges will be the most visible aspect of the relationship, the Scout



Ooltewah and Harrison Boy Scouts are participating in an exchange program with Scouts from Wolfsburg, Germany, Volkswagen's headquarters. The program was launched at the end of February during a meeting with Frank Fischer, plant manager for Volkswa-

gen's new manufacturing facility in Chattanooga. Front row from left are Kevin Martin, Blake Ragsdale, Jacob Keltch, Hayden Council, Jet Smith and Scott Fosse. Back row from left are Frank Fischer, Will Council, Zach Letbetter, Alex Ferro and Trevor Hamilton.

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troops plan to use video conferencing as well as more traditional forms of communication to allow everyone to meet and share their cultures throughout the year.