

Cornelia Kiwanis Club and Boy Scout Troop 24

Troop 24 of the Boy Scouts of America has had a storied history in Cornelia thanks to the Cornelia Kiwanis Club. The records for the Northeast Georgia Council are sketchy prior to World War II. The troop was deactivated during the war for a period of time and reactivated around 1949. As of this writing the troop number prior to the war cannot be verified. Troop 24 has been used since the troop was reactivated after the war.

The Cornelia Kiwanis Club was chartered on April 14, 1925. Charter member Cliff Kimsey wrote a history of the club in 1980. In his essay Mr. Kimsey wrote “One of the first things we did was to sponsor and organize Boy Scout Troop No. 24, which is still sponsored by us and is going strong under the excellent leadership of Kiwanian Max Miller.” Based on this information it appears the original troop was chartered in 1926 or 1927. The Cornelia Kiwanis Club has been the charter organization for the troop continuously since that time. Taking the role of charter partner seriously, the club provided land for a scout hut to be built in the mid 1950’s adjacent to the Cornelia Community House and continues to pay all utilities for the facility.

The late Calvin Stovall, a long time member of the Cornelia Kiwanis Club, was a member of the first troop chartered by the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Stovall recalled being invited to a meeting and having dinner upstairs in the old Ivey Building in Cornelia. The Ivey Building now houses the Habersham County historical society. According to Mr. Stovall, the first scoutmaster was a Mr. Harris. The other members of that first troop were Jack Boatwright, Johnny Waters, George Stoffragen, D.A. Henderson and John Miller.

Two of the greatest measures of success in any scouting program are membership and advancement. If the program is going well you will have plenty of youth who want to join, as evidenced by the number of boys that have been through both the Boy Scout and Cub Scout programs sponsored by the Cornelia Kiwanis Club. As far as the other measure of success - advancement, there have been countless boys that have moved up through the ranks as Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts in Cornelia. Nationally, around 2% of all boys that begin the scouting program reach scouting’s highest rank – Eagle Scout. Below is a list provided by the Northeast Georgia

Council of all the boys from Troop 24 that have achieved Eagle Scout and their Scoutmasters.

Cornelia Troop 24
Eagle Scouts

1953	Tim Craven	Bob Turpen
1954	Mac Crow	Bob Turpen
1954	Johnny Davis	Bob Turpen
1954	Oscar B. Forrester	Bob Turpen
1954	Clifford Loudermilk	Bob Turpen
1954	Mack Scharp	Bob Turpen
1954	Milton Stewart	Bob Turpen
1955	Martin Christian	Bob Turpen
1955	John Lowe, Jr.	Bob Turpen
1955	Donald Purcell	Bob Turpen
1956	Billy Cathy	Bob Turpen
1962	John Renfroe	Bill Hunnicutt
1963	Donald E. Adams	Bob Turpen
1963	Lynn W. Bahnsen	Bob Turpen
1963	John P. Ballard, Jr.	Bob Turpen
1963	James T. Bramlett	Bob Turpen
1963	Joe McGahee	Bob Turpen
1963	Sydney W. Shortt	Bob Turpen
1963	James A. Stapleton, Jr.	Bob Turpen
1963	Fred W. Wright	Bob Turpen
1971	Vic A. Grogan	Rex Grogan
1971	James R. McGahee	Rex Grogan
1971	Thomas H. Walker	Rex Grogan
1973	Jack F. Dalrymple	Leon Gibbs
1973	Randy Holton	Leon Gibbs
1973	Steve M. Ritchie	Leon Gibbs
1974	J. Anthony Blair	Dale Blair
1974	Albert T. Holton	Dale Blair
1976	Charles M. Miller, III	Charles Palmer
1976	Andy Penick	Charles Palmer
1978	W. Victor Martin	Max Miller
1979	Chuck Martin	Max Miller
1979	C. Mark Miller	Max Miller
1979	Jeffrey Shirley	Max Miller
1981	Wesley A. Dodd, Jr.	Max Miller

1983	Charles Lewis Wilbanks	Max Miller
1984	Jeb M. Stewart	Max Miller
1985	David R. Ausburn	Tim Craven
1985	Nicholas A. Fouts	Tim Craven
1985	Richard J. McMullan	Tim Craven
1986	Matthew M. Sikes	Tim Craven
1986	James A. Stapleton, III	Tim Craven
1987	Matthew T. Craven	Tim Craven
1987	Kevin P. Hughes	Tim Craven
1987	Jackson H. McMullan	Tim Craven
1987	Dan A. Welborn	Tim Craven
1988	Brandon D. Adams	Tim Craven
1988	Brent R. Cody	Ken Wright
1988	Charles M. Gibbs, III	Tim Craven
1988	James D. Irvin	Tim Craven
1988	Bryan T. Martin	Tim Craven
1988	Christopher B. Walter	Tim Craven
1989	James B. Welborn	Ken Wright
1990	Jonathan D. Dean	Ken Wright
1990	Martin D. Westbrook	Tim Craven
1991	Donald Aubrey Higgins	Ken Wright
1992	David Crawford	James Edwards
1992	Patrick Dean	James Edwards
1992	Keith Stapleton	James Edwards
1993	Michael Burton	Jimmy Stapleton, Jr.
1993	Andrew Collier	Jimmy Stapleton, Jr.
1993	Hal Higgins	Jimmy Stapleton, Jr.
1993	William Lewis	James Edwards
1995	John Philip Ballard III	Jimmy Stapleton, Jr.
1995	Derek S. Stapleton	Jimmy Stapleton, Jr.
1996	Joel William Ayers	Jarvis McFarlin
1996	Joshua Kennon Davis	Jarvis McFarlin
1996	William D. Dillard, Jr.	Jimmy Stapleton, Jr.
1996	Bradley Trotter	Jimmy Stapleton, Jr.
1996	Matthew Paul Weaver	Jarvis McFarlin
1996	Richard Westbrook	Jarvis McFarlin
1997	Joseph Nathaniel Fouts	Jarvis McFarlin
1997	James Kevin Hudgins	Jarvis McFarlin
1997	Andrew Alexander Mclean	Jarvis McFarlin
1998	Matthew Ballard	Jarvis McFarlin

1999	Joshua Tate McFarlin	Jarvis McFarlin
1999	William Terrell Rogers	Jarvis McFarlin
2000	Philip Wellington Brooks	Jarvis McFarlin
2001	Justin Dan Irvin	Jarvis McFarlin
2002	Jeremy Ben Brooks	Jarvis McFarlin
2002	Bradley Douglas Rogers	Jarvis McFarlin
2002	Thomas Hamilton Verdery	Jarvis McFarlin
2002	Kristopher Rhett Weaver	Jarvis McFarlin
2003	Britton Lee Grier	Jarvis McFarlin
2003	James Robert McGahee	Jarvis McFarlin
2003	William Kenneth Quillen	Jarvis McFarlin
2003	Andrew Jason Ryals	Jarvis McFarlin
2004	Brett Matthew Barden	Jarvis McFarlin
2004	Drew Alexander Barden	Jarvis McFarlin
2005	Cecil Walton Brooks	Jarvis McFarlin
2005	Christopher Lee Collier	Jarvis McFarlin
2005	Jonathan Neil Herrin	Jarvis McFarlin
2005	Joshua Lee Jones	Jarvis McFarlin
2005	John Thomas McGahee	Jarvis McFarlin
2005	Nicholas Emanuel Sterghos	Jarvis McFarlin
2008	Jared Grady McFarlin	Wes Dodd
2009	Tyler Jack Prescott Harmon	Wes Dodd
2009	Ryan Gleber	Jarvis McFarlin

An organization is only as strong as its leadership. Over the years, the scouting program in Cornelia has had excellent leadership. Boy Scouts of America recognizes its outstanding leaders at various levels. One such recognition is the Silver Antelope Award. The BSA is divided into four regions nationally. The Silver Antelope recognizes outstanding service to young people within one of these four regions. H. Milton Stewart, Jr., an Eagle Scout from Troop 24 and a former Kiwanian from Cornelia, has been recognized by the southern region as a Silver Antelope recipient.

Another area of recognition for outstanding leadership is the Silver Beaver Award. The Silver Beaver Award is a council-level distinguished service award. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to a council. The Silver Beaver is an

award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self sacrifice, dedication and many years of service. It is given to those who do not actively seek it. The Northeast Georgia Council has seen fit to bestow this honor on the following individuals who at one time or another have been associated with either Troop and/or Pack 24, the Cornelia Kiwanis Club or both.

J.P. Ballard
Philip Ballard
Michael J. Barden
John H. Barnette
Lane Bridges
Linda Brooks
Michael H. Crawford
Winslow H. Verdery

Wesley A. Dodd, Jr.
Jarvis McFarlin
Charles Max Miller II
Richard Pletsch
James A. Stapleton
H. Milton Stewart, Jr.
Bob Turpen