



American Welding Society®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boy Scouts of America Collaborates with American Welding Society to Launch Welding Merit Badge

MIAMI, Fla., February 27, 2012 – The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has collaborated with the American Welding Society (AWS), BSA Health and Safety Committee, and the national Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to create the Welding merit badge, which is now available to Boy Scouts nationwide. The badge will enable Scouts to learn hands-on how to join metals using welding techniques.

A current BSA youth interest survey identified the need for adding a Welding merit badge to the more than 120 merit badges currently in the series.

"By the end of the decade, it is estimated there will be a critical need for over 200,000 new and replacement welders in the United States," said David Landon, vice president, American Welding Society. "The future of the welding industry depends upon preparing the next generation and that's why AWS is really excited to work with the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts of America possess the leadership and values necessary to advance the productivity of the welding industry."

Scouts earning their Welding merit badges not only will explore the fundamentals of welding, but also will learn about the different career paths within the industry.

"Welding is such an important part of our nation's growth and stability," said Janice Downey, senior innovation manager, Boy Scouts of America. "The Welding merit badge is a good fit with preparing Scouts for their future and offers them a fun way to explore skills that can grow into a hobby or career. Their new skill may even be helpful for making or repairing items for their troop."

Welding is the latest in a new group of career-oriented merit badges offered by the BSA. Scouts interested in learning more about the Welding merit badge and those in the welding industry who are interested in serving as merit badge counselors can learn more by visiting www.aws.org/weldingbadge.

About AWS

The American Welding Society (AWS) was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves more than 69,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 Districts with 250 Sections and student chapters. For more information, visit the society's website at <http://www.aws.org> and click on "Pressroom."

About the Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be "Prepared. For Life.™" The Scouting organization comprises 2.7 million youth members between the ages of 7 and 21 and more than a million volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories. For more information on the Boy Scouts of America, please visit www.scouting.org.

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