



# NEWS

## **QWEST FOUNDATION AND TELECOM PIONEERS SPONSOR COMMUNICATIONS EAGLE SCOUT MERIT BADGE**

### ***Helping to Cultivate Arizona's Next Eagle Scouts***

**PHOENIX, October 29, 2007** — The Qwest Foundation and the Telecom Pioneers, Arizona Chapter 66, recently presented a \$5,000 check to the Boy Scouts of America, Grand Canyon Council, becoming the official corporate sponsor of the Communications merit badge. This is one of 119 mandatory merit badges needed to reach the top level of Eagle Scout. The Grand Canyon Council is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation, overseeing the scouting experience for more than 56,000 Arizona youth throughout 10 Arizona counties.

"Young people today have more needs than ever before," said Pat Quinn, Qwest president in Arizona. "Qwest is delighted as a company to assist Scouting with its mission to help young people make good, sound decisions in their lives."

"The Communications merit badge is a wonderful way for the Qwest Pioneers, many of whom were Eagle Scouts themselves, to give something back to the young people of Arizona," said Pat DeBusk, president of Telecom Pioneers, Arizona Chapter 66.

Arizona youth on the path to Eagle Scout hope to join the ranks of such notable Eagle Scouts as Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton, former U.S. President Gerald Ford, director Steven Spielberg, and journalist Walter Cronkite, to name a few.

"We have clearly been able to document with third-party studies that young people who participate in Scouting are better prepared youth, helping to form healthier communities and stronger families," said Scout executive and CEO, Larry Abbott.

The Telecom Pioneers will be working closely with the Grand Canyon Council throughout the coming year to provide educational telephone and telecommunications experiences for Scouts working to attain the level of Eagle Scout.

### **About the Qwest Foundation**

The Qwest Foundation's core principle is that investing in people and communities provides lasting value for the future. The Qwest Foundation awards donations to community-based programs that generate high-impact and measurable results, focusing on pre-K through grade 12 education.

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