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ABRAHAM LINCOLN COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

(Participating Member Springfield Council of Social Agencies)

Headquarters:

317 1/2 SOUTH FIFTH STREET

Phone, Capitol 1879

February 10, 1931

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Officers and

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Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
 New York,
 New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I know that you are a great lover of Lincoln, because you have written such wonderful books about him, and your "Boy Scout Life of Lincoln" has been accepted by our local Hike Committee as one of the best books for Scout-age boys that has been written on the life of Lincoln.

As one Executive said, "Miss Tarbell must have acquainted herself pretty thoroughly with the Boy Scout Movement in order to write so accurately the life of Lincoln in the terms of the Boy Scout.

We have developed in Springfield what is known as the Boy Scout Lincoln Trail Hike -- walking in the steps of Lincoln from Old Salem to Springfield over approximately the same road that Lincoln traveled as he went back and forth from Springfield to Old Salem, borrowing books and studying law.

This hike was established November 1926, and since that time 550 book reviews have been made of the "Boy Scout Life of Lincoln" written by yourself, and 520 medals have been given out to Scouts representing all parts of the United States, and to one Scout from Hawaii.

In many places we found that the local library had not kept your book, but because of the demands from the Scouts, they have purchased copies. Our own local library put in six extra copies because of the heavy demand.

This hike has been lauded by Executives whose Scouts have taken it, and the boys prize these medals almost as much as they do their Eagle badges.

"Do A Good Turn Daily"

"Be Prepared"

It is the business of every man in this world to reach out and help every boy with whom he comes in contact into the biggest, finest manhood possible.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell

February 10, 1931

It costs our local Council about a hundred dollars a year to give away these medals, and we thought perhaps you would like to establish a trust fund and be the donor of the same which will give boys of any part of the United States the privilege of taking this hike and receiving the medal for time to come.

The sixty-four Scouts from the Champaign Area, the home city of our State University, took the hike this past year, and the Executive, Mr. Robinson, at Olney is making it an annual affair as an award trip for his Scouts and Camp Leaders.

I am sure that you could not invest two to three thousand dollars where it would net finer results than in this education of youth along the ideals of Lincoln, as you portrayed them in your book, the "Boy Scout Life of Lincoln".

Sincerely,



Benjamin S. DeBoice, Chairman,
Court of Honor Committee.

D:T