• Special to the Daily Leader

The Santa Fe Trail Council: Boy Scouts of America would like to invite everyone to help kickoff a year-long celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in Southwest Kansas beginning Jan. 27.

On Jan. 27 and 28, the Century of Values Nationwide Road Tour is coming to Liberal, Garden City and Dodge City. The tour is driving a uniquely decorated RV on a 45,000 mile journey to visit all 300 BSA Councils in the United States to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of Scouting. The tour involves more than 125 adults who staff the 14 road teams.

A mural depicting Scouting's history will be presented by the tour to the Santa Fe Trail Council of Southwest Kansas. The mural was created by Eagle Scout Bill Morrison a professional illustrator who is part of the team that creates and markets "The Simpsons."

Everyone is invited to greet and meet the Century of Values Tour at the following locations:

Liberal: 5 p.m. Jan.27 at the Liberal Memorial Library by the Statue of Liberty. The statue in front of the library commemorates the 40th Anniversary of Scouting. There will be a ceremony welcoming the Century of Values tour to Liberal area in the Community Room of the library.

Garden City: 7 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Finney County Courthouse by the Statue of Liberty that commemorates the 40th Anniversary of Scouting. There will be a ceremony welcoming the Century of Values tour to Garden City area at the American Legion Hall across the street from the Courthouse.

Dodge City: Noon Jan. 28 at the Casey's Cow Town Club. The community is invited to lunch to welcome the Century of Values tour to Dodge City area.

The arrival of the Century of Values Tour kick offs a year-long celebration of events that will be conducted by the Santa Fe Trail Council throughout 2010. The SFTC serves more than 2,500 youth and more than 600 adult leaders in 19 counties in Southwest Kansas. Events include Scout Sunday on Feb. 7, BSA Centennial Tree Planting events, a 19-county-wide food drive to stock local food relief agencies, a Centennial Scout Show that will honor all area Eagle Scouts in Southwest Kansas, and many other local events by the Packs, Troops, and Crews of the SFTC.

John Hogg, Executive Director for the Santa Fe Trail Boy Scouts of Southwest Kansas states, "For 100 years the Boy Scouts of America have helped youth learn good values like integrity and honesty, a duty to God and their country, and to be physically fit. The BSA accepts the challenge to help the young people of today learn those same values now and for the next 100 years."

For more information on the Century of Values Tour and the Santa Fe Trail Council 100th Anniversary Celebration contact the Scout Service Center of Garden City at (620) 275-5162 or sftcbsa@sbsglobal.com