

September 4, 2019

Los Alamos County Council  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

SUBJECT: LOS ALAMOS BOY SCOUT LODGE

**HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
ADVISORY BOARD**

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The Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) supports and encourages all County activities related to the acquisition and movement of the Boy Scout Lodge on Canyon Road to another area, for possible use as the Los Alamos Visitor Center or other community asset. It is exquisite on the inside; it would be a real shame to lose it. As you know, the property has been sold to a developer who does not plan to keep the Lodge.

Scouting has been a significant component of Los Alamos history for over a century. The Los Alamos Ranch School (LARS), founded in 1917, first brought scouting to the Pajarito Plateau. All students at the Ranch School were members of Troop 22, chartered in October 1918, which was the first mounted troop in the United States. The Manhattan Project probably would never have been located on the Pajarito Plateau if it hadn't been for the LARS.

The impact of scouting in Los Alamos is unmeasurable. Participants became responsible and capable adults, contributing service to others, and serving in leadership roles throughout the rest of their lives because of lessons learned in scouting. Scouting still plays an important role for boys and girls in Los Alamos.

Built in 1948, the Boy Scout Lodge replaced three facilities previously used by the Boy Scouts through the first few years after WWII as they quickly outgrew each space. The Boy Scout Lodge on Canyon Road was the heart and soul of scouting activities until the 1960s; it was also used by the community for meetings, wedding receptions, and private parties (much like Fuller Lodge is used today). It was eventually purchased and used as a personal residence in the late 1960s. Since 2012, it has been used as offices for Visiting Nurses.

The Boy Scout Lodge represents the legacy and continuing tradition of scouting in Los Alamos. This legacy is an important part of our history that must be preserved for future generations. Saving the Lodge from destruction, and using it as a community asset, particularly as a Visitor Center close to our Historic District, would become an integral part of our community. It would also provide a beautiful and unique way to interpret the legacy of scouting in Los Alamos for visitors and residents.

The Historic Preservation Advisory Board strongly encourages the County Council to take whatever actions are necessary to save the Boy Scout Lodge.

Sincerely,

Leslie Linke  
Chairman, Historic Preservation Advisory Board

Distribution: HPAB Members