



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

~ A 2017 JAMBOREE *FOOD TEAM* COMMUNIQUE ~  
~ DECEMBER 2015 ~

As the holidays are upon us, I am thankful in many regards concerning the Jamboree Food Team. Let me share with our readers the one thing that, just perhaps above all, is the constant guiding our work in the year ahead. The true gift this holiday season (at least in this author's mind) is that the same 'Key 3' of Jamboree Food Team has been reassembled for 2017.

For those new our Team, let me share who we are and our respective roles in developing the plan for the upcoming Jamboree(s). As in many Scouting levels there is a concert in Jamboree Food of three individuals, one volunteer, one BSA professional and one Food Contractor professional who together will assemble the resources to deliver all the staff and visitor food to the second largest city in West Virginia for those two weeks in July 2017. Let me put names and titles to the players, so you will know who we are. This author and the volunteer 2017 Food Team Chairman is known to most simply as Squire Lang. The 2017 Food Team Director, and a seasoned employee of the BSA, is Rick Diles. Rounding out the key leadership is Patrick Tarr, the 2017 Food Team Contractor's Project Manager. We each bring something a bit different to the table and the one thing I can say without reservation is that we work well together. Let me share a bit more so you know our backgrounds.

Starting with Patrick, last month the Jamboree leadership awarded the food contract for the upcoming Jamboree to the Compass Group. That organization was selected through a competitive bidding process that involved five major food purveyors. Admittedly experience was a bit on the side of Compass Group in the preparation of their proposal for Patrick and his managers have worked with the BSA since before the 2010 (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) Jamboree and through the successful first Jamboree at the Summit in 2013. Now when you meet Patrick, don't be fooled by the casual dress or the fact you see him hands-on helping to unload a truck or move leftovers out for the food bank. He is a Compass Group businessman not to mention the fact he's a trained and experienced Executive Chef. The few times the white chef's coat is donned you'll understand and maybe even catch a glimpse of the fact that the Jamboree Staff Dining Kitchen is his own rendition of *Satan's Summit* (if you pardon the play on the TV show *Hell's Kitchen*).



Patrick and his management will oversee the purchase, delivery and preparation of all food to feed the staff and to feed everyone who wishes to purchase a meal or snack at one of the many retail food establishments that will be constructed under canvas throughout the Jamboree venue.

Turning to the second part of our troika, let me introduce a BSA professional who for most needs no introduction. Rick has worked his 30-year career with the Scouts at various levels both on the council side and for the supply side. He currently serves at the Director of Business Development for the Supply Group and yet in the years ahead will be substantially engaged in Jamboree Food Team logistics. As the lead professional, Rick is the one who has to bring in our work in compliance with internal regulations and, I dare say most importantly to many in the organization, in budget. After all, with millions of dollars of food provision being planned someone (other than a volunteer) has to be charged to fiscally manage that. Rick is certainly up to the task and more with his wealth of Jamboree experience. Rick is the social presence of the Food Team and in closing about him let me share that 2017 will be his 10th Jamboree and certainly not his last.

Then finally I'll turn to self and offer this as the final player in Key 3. Squire is the volunteer who has the task of being the ringleader for the hundreds of pay to play staff. Jamboree Food will welcome over 400 volunteers to our team and someone has to organize the management of the major food service areas (Food Distribution, Staff Dining and Retail Food) to recruit and even more importantly to make the Jamboree experience for our staff meaningful and fun. Squire is the pen behind the articles and the experienced chair at the decision table to watch out for what the volunteers can or can't or shouldn't be asked to deliver as the food plan for the entire Jamboree is developed. The perspective on what is a workable plan of action for staff comes from years of doing this, for 2017 will be Squire's 10<sup>th</sup> Jamboree and his 6<sup>th</sup> on the Jamboree Food Team.

Now with that background you know the leadership, but personally I must say that without each of you on the Food Team staff we couldn't do this right. The volunteers who give of their time, paying to work at the Jamboree, are the ones who make it possible for the participants to have a Jamboree to attend. Thank you and best wishes to you and yours for a peaceful holiday and Happy New Year.



Patrick Tarr (Compass Project Manager), Charles “Squire” Lang (Jamboree Food Chair), and Rick Diles (Jamboree Food Director) pause for a quick photo at the 2012 Shakedown event at the Summit.