



**Maryland State Conference**  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People  
Post Office Box 9702 Arnold, MD 21012

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Tubi Retta

(Office)  
4301 Garden City Drive  
Suite 400  
Landover, MD 20785  
(Phone) 301-459-9070  
(Fax) 301-459-9070

Historic New Partnership will take Baltimore City Metropolitan Area Male Youth from Streets to Scouts

The Maryland State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Boys Scouts of America will hold a joint press conference on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 to sign a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

This Memorandum of Understanding is a collaboration between the NAACP and the Boy Scouts of America, and it is the first of its kind in the State of Maryland. The MOU will be signed by Maryland State Conference NAACP President Gerald Stansbury and Ethan Draddy Boy Scouts of America.

On hand to witness and comment on this historic agreement will be Congressman Elijah Cummings, Carl O. Snowden, Director of Civil Rights, representing Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler and Anne Arundel County Councilman Daryl Jones.

The MOU will create a new program called "The First Class Camp" for school aged males throughout Maryland. The program will work with at-risk male youth from economically challenged neighborhoods throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area. The pilot program will be tested in the State of Maryland and if successful will be emulated throughout the nation.

The lack of positive male role models and mentoring opportunities is putting some Baltimore City male youth in a poor position to learn the essential life skills which will lead to fulfilling futures. The NAACP and the Boy Scouts of America's collaboration will drastically increase the availability of mentors and counselors to work with Inner City youth.

Youth matriculating through the First Class Camp will earn Boy Scout merit badges. In addition, the Boy Scouts of America will work with the Maryland Attorney General Office to create Law merit badges for participating youth.

This new initiative comes on the heels of the Baltimore City Public School officials and African American leaders calling for more volunteers in the public schools and the community. An immediate benefit of the program will be to have youth joining the NAACP and the Boy Scouts rather than gangs. The "colors" these youth will be wearing will be the uniforms of the Boy Scouts.

The press conference is on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, 701 Wyman Park Drive, Baltimore, Maryland. For more information....