

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1621

By Senator Brungardt

2-15

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9 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing the establishment of  
10 the first Boy Scout troop in America at Salina and supporting the es-  
11 tablishment of the Museum of Scouting at Salina.

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13 WHEREAS, Fund raising efforts are underway to construct a Mu-  
14 seum of Scouting at Salina to commemorate Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.  
15 The 6,000 square foot building will be constructed on the Yesteryear  
16 Museum grounds on the north edge of town; and

17 WHEREAS, Although not widely known, the first Boy Scout troop in  
18 America was established in Salina in 1910. F. John Romanes, an English-  
19 man, brought scouting to Salina and America. Romanes had served in the  
20 English army and was acquainted with Lord Baden Powell, the originator  
21 of scouting. He had been involved in scouting in Beaulieu, Scotland, before  
22 coming to America on a visit with family members. While visiting a former  
23 classmate in Salina, he was persuaded to join the staff at St. John's Military  
24 School; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Romanes started promoting scouting shortly after  
26 joining the school staff in 1909. The first troop was formally organized on  
27 January 21, 1910, and was composed of the 10 boys in the church choir  
28 at Christ Cathedral church. A second troop was organized consisting of  
29 boys from Salina, and shortly thereafter a troop was established in Min-  
30 neapolis. As today the scout troops existed to develop scouts physically,  
31 mentally and spiritually. Early activities consisted of camping organized  
32 in a military manner. Cooking was over an open fire, and a daily schedule  
33 was followed which included instruction in crafts and first-aid plus ample  
34 opportunity for singing, swimming and physical training; and

35 WHEREAS, With a large donation from Stewart and Ellen Horejsi,  
36 the project has generated \$300,000 in donations and pledges, enough to  
37 assure its completion but with further funds being required. The museum  
38 will have equal space for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts but is not affiliated  
39 or sponsored by the scouting organizations: Now, therefore,

40 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*  
41 *resentatives concurring therein:* That the Kansas legislature recognizes  
42 the establishment of the first Boy Scout troop in America at Salina and  
43 indicates its support for the establishment of the Museum of Scouting at

- 1 Salina which will preserve memorabilia of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- 2 and promote Salina and north-central Kansas as a tourist destination.