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*Date:* Thursday, 13 October 2005

## **Scouts Go for Gold, A Golden Event, A Golden Occasion**

Fifty young people from across Lancashire will be honoured later this week as each is presented with the Chief Scout's Gold award at a show-biz style awards bash at Ribby Hall Holiday Village in Wrea Green.

The award is the highest a Scout (boys and girls aged 10 ½ to 14 years old) can achieve; each is the equivalent to a GCSE and Peter Duncan, the Chief Scout of the United Kingdom, signs each certificate.

Between them, these remarkable individuals have accumulated a staggering 500 Scouting years experience and completed an amazing total of 1100 nights camping in both the UK and abroad.

To earn the award, the Scouts have had to take on a whole host of challenges and new experiences, gaining qualifications in mountaineering, sailing, caving, flying and diving to name but a few.

Those who have earned their award have also demonstrated that they have put back as much as they have taken by providing service and help to local rest homes, hospices and Cub and Beaver Scout Sections.

Bill Roberts, Assistant County Commissioner for Scouts, across West Lancashire is understandably very proud of what the young people have achieved. He said

"The awards night is an excellent way of honouring these youngsters who have worked incredibly hard to earn this top award. It is absolutely fantastic to see so many young people tackling these challenges with amazing drive and enthusiasm"

***END***

**To follow-up this press release, call Pete Sturgess on 01995 61336**

## Editor's Notes:

- Scouting is the largest co-educational youth movement in the UK with a total of 476,992 members (March 2002 figures)
- Worldwide, there are well over 28 million members in over 216 Countries. Two thirds of the membership lives in developing Countries.
- The Aim of the Association is "To promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.
- Scouting in West Lancashire has a membership of just under 10,000 members in the following 8 Districts: Chorley, Blackpool, Preston, Ormskirk, South Ribble, Fylde, Wyre and Lonsdale.
- The presentation will take place at Ribby Hall at 7pm on the evening of Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> October and photo opportunities will be available for the press on the evening. Please contact the address below to reserve a place and press pack.

For further information, please contact the County Scout Office below:

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