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**Illinois State Rep. La Shawn Ford Joins Local Boy Scout Council Board**

(April 9, 2015) Chicago, IL - The Boy Scouts of America's (BSA) new Pathway to Adventure Council is proud to announce Illinois State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (8<sup>th</sup> District) has joined its board of directors.

As vice president of membership, Ford will promote the positive impact and range of opportunities the BSA provides young people no matter their financial situation, including many programs that are open to both young women and young men.

Ford has a significant history with the BSA beginning with his time as a Boy Scout in the Austin neighborhood on Chicago's West Side.

"Boy Scouts introduced me to a positive culture, which is often foreign to youth growing up on the West and South sides of Chicago," Ford said. "Never knowing my father, the Boy Scouts helped to fill a void for me. I am forever grateful for what the Boy Scouts contributed to my life."

Ford's involvement with the BSA has carried into his adult life. Last year, Ford played an integral role in establishing Illinois State Boy Scout Troop 606 near his boyhood home. He also helped plan and carry out events with the troop.

Ford said he would use his position with the BSA to help prevent youth violence in the city and surrounding areas.

"Chicago continues to struggle to find solutions to end youth violence and the ongoing problem of murders in one of the nation's most promising cities, and I believe that the Boy Scouts can be an important part of the solution," Ford said. "The history, rich mission, and success of the Boy Scouts can make meaningful contributions to help improve our neighborhoods across the state of Illinois."

Pathway to Adventure Council CEO Fred Wallace said he was honored to have La Shawn, a lifelong advocate of the community's youth, on the council board. "The BSA echoes La Shawn's call for youth safety and development and will work in tandem with him to achieve it."

*Pathway to Adventure Council is based in Chicago, IL and serves youth throughout Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana. Its mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. For more information, visit [PathwayToAdventure.org](http://PathwayToAdventure.org).*

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