



**American Welding Society®**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AWS Careers in Welding Trailer Kicks Off 2013 Tour at Boy Scouts of America Jamboree**

**MIAMI, Fla., July 22, 2013** – Boy Scouts from across the country are exploring careers in welding as the *AWS Careers in Welding Trailer* kicks off its 2013 tour at the Boy Scout Jamboree in West Virginia through July 24, 2013.

Over 40,000 Scouts, volunteers and visitors are getting a chance to try their hand at welding at America's biggest celebration in Scouting. Held once every three years, this will be the first jamboree at its new permanent home – The Summit, in West Virginia.

The national jamboree allows Scouts to camp out with friends, meet new ones, take part in exciting adventures, explore different exhibits, and work on earning merit badges, including the welding merit badge. Under an AWS Special Committee chaired by Dave Landon, current vice president of AWS, the welding merit badge was developed and approved by BSA. Introduced in February 2012, the welding merit badge program allows Boy Scouts to learn hands-on how to join metals using welding techniques.

“The American Welding Society is excited to continue strengthening our relationship with the Boy Scouts and is thrilled that we were invited to take part in the jamboree,” said Landon, while attending the Jamboree. “Being part of such an amazing event allows us to connect with Scouts from across

the country and we can't wait for them to come onboard the *Careers in Welding Trailer* so we can show them how fun and rewarding a career in the welding industry can be."

The 53-foot, expandable *Careers in Welding Trailer* features 650 square feet of exhibit space, including five Lincoln VRTEX 360 welding simulator stations. The VRTEX 360 feeds computer-generated data with a virtual welding gun and helmet equipped with internal monitors. Participants practice welding in virtual environments which include both simulated welding-booth training environments and field-welding applications. The simulator also has a video gaming component that awards each "welder" with a score for his or her virtual weld.

Following the virtual welding experience the Scouts have an opportunity to try their hand on actual welding equipment thanks to the adjacent tent where the Lincoln Electric Company offers an actual welding experience. A Scout working with a welding professional can perform a portion of the requirement for the welding merit badge.

In addition to the simulators, the trailer provides other interactive educational exhibits, including a display wall featuring 11 industry segments with trivia questions, fun facts, and industry artifacts; a "Day in the Life of a Welder" exhibit with videos depicting real-life environments in which welders work; a life-size welder highlighting welding as a safe profession; a social media kiosk allowing visitors to take their photo and post to Facebook or email to a friend; welding scholarship information; and more.

The Boy Scout Jamboree is the first stop of 2013 for the trailer which will then be on the road for about 20 weeks. For more information on where the trailer will be this year, please visit [www.explorewelding.com](http://www.explorewelding.com).

#### About AWS

*The American Welding Society (AWS) was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes worldwide, including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves nearly 68,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 Districts with 250 Sections and student chapters. For more information, visit the society's website at <http://www.aws.org> and click on "Pressroom."*

About AWS Foundation

*The AWS Foundation was established by the American Welding Society on September 13, 1989, to support programs that ensure the growth and development of the welding industry through strengthening research and educational opportunities in welding and related industries. Led by a volunteer Board of Trustees, the Foundation is organized as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Administration, including program development, fundraising, public relations, marketing and financial management, is provided by a small development staff of the American Welding Society. Its operations are conducted from the Society's offices in Miami, Florida. For more information, visit <http://www.aws.org/foundation> .*

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