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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scouts & US Forest Service Partner to Improve Superior National Forest

Imagine nearly 200 volunteers teaming up with the US Forest Service to construct the very first mountain biking trails, and to improve existing sections of hiking trails, in the Superior National Forest. That's exactly what's happened June 21-26 in northeast Minnesota, with a project called ArrowPower2011: Service on the Superior.

The Boy Scouts of America's honor society, the Order of the Arrow, brought just under 200 Scouts and adult Scouters to Grand Marais. Working in partnership with the Forest Service, eight crews constructed two new mountain biking trail loops at Pincushion, near Grand Marais, and Sugarbush, near Tofte. They also improved existing sections of the Superior Hiking Trail.

Scouts and leaders were based at Cook County High School in Grand Marais. They camped in tents on the school's soccer field and spent 8 hours a day working on the trails. In the evenings, they were at the high school participating in educational and recreational events, seeing the sights in Grand Marais, or kayaking through a local outfitter. The event wrapped up with a closing dinner and Scout-led show Saturday night. Everyone departed for home on Sunday.

There is a long history of partnership between the US Forest Service and Boy Scouts of America. National forests provide a venue for adventure and learning, and Scouts provide valuable volunteer service. The Boy Scouts of America is one of the largest and oldest youth organizations in the country. Its mission is to instill in its members: skills, values and experiences for a lifetime. For more information about the Boy Scouts, please go to the national website www.scouting.org or the Central Minnesota Council, BSA website at www.bsacmc.org.

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