



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

THE SECRETARY

June 5, 2002

Mr. Roy L. Williams
Chief Scout Executive
National Office, Boy Scouts of America
P. O. Box 152079
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, TX 75015-2079

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development congratulates the Boy Scouts of America. The collaboration between housing authorities and Boy Scouts of America fosters essential community partnerships that are vital for youth in communities throughout the country. Scouting creates a healthy climate and exceptional opportunity for leadership and encourages the exchange of positive ideas to address issues faced by young people of various ages today.

Cultural diversity, educational opportunity, and life skills programs provide a wealth of information to shape the lives of youth in public and assisted housing in urban and rural communities. Through programs such as yours, cultural barriers are eliminated and all youth are afforded the same opportunities. The Boy Scouts of America Scoutreach Program's cultural enrichment activities provide safe havens as well as vital alternatives to gangs, drugs, and violence.

The Department knows that it is through organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America that the face of America's communities has changed. This Administration commends the fine work of Boy Scouts of America and the adults who are committed to work with youth. HUD applauds your fine efforts that promote strong family ties, safe housing, and openness to the needs of the communities.

Thank you for your continued support of residents in public and assisted housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mel Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mel Martinez