Funds for scouts unequal

Boys get more than girls

By BARBARA FRICKE ecial to The Bat

There are more girls than boys in scouting in the Brazos County area. Yet the Boy Scouts get \$3,600 more than the Girl Scouts from the Bryan-Brazos County United Way and College Station United Fund.

Marilyn Randall, Girl Scout district adviser, said there are nearly 1,100 registered Girl Scouts in Brazos County alone.

The Boy Scout enrollment in Brazos County and in parts of Burleson, Robertson, Grimes and Madison counties reaches about 1,000, said Omar Smith, Boy Scout district chairman.

Marianna Bond, executive secretary of the United Way, says the Boy Scouts of America will receive \$18,300 this year from the Bryan-Brazos County Fund and \$5,000 from the College Station Fund. The Bluebonnet Girl Scout Council will get \$13,700 from Bryan-Brazos County and \$6,000 from

College Station.
Randall voiced a concern saying the Girl Scouts are dependent on the United Fund money for their programming. She added that the amount appropri-ated is only about half of what

was requested.

The Boy Scouts also will get less than they requested. Smith said the difference is about \$6,000 or \$7,000 between the amounts requested and appropriated. To balance the totals as in past years, the Boy Scouts will nduct their "Friends of Scout-

"We go back to past scouters and others interested in scouting to raise what we're short," Smith said. He added the drive is usu-

Both Randall and Smith explained that the money, funded and raised, goes directly to their district councils. The councils provide the majority of programming and training for the scouts in the county and pay for any professional personnel. Individual scout units usually have

small dues that pay for their specific unit activities.

Judy Rychlik, president of the Bryan-Brazos County United Way, said the fact that the Boy Scouts receive money than the Girl Scouts has always been a controversy.

'I don't know, but I think way back they decided the little boys needed more money for their programs than the little girls," she said. Whatever the reason, the practice has continued ever

Rychlik explained that the 10-12 member Budget and Admissions Committee appropriating the fund has been working in recent years to balance the dif-ference. The Girl Scout appropriation has increased from 1977-78 to 1978-79 by 9.6 percent, while the Boy Scouts will receive only 5.7 percent more money,

"Our thinking is that it will even itself out," Rychlik said. She said it would not be fair to the young people already involved in the Boy Scouts to cut their funding and give the extra money to the girls. Such a cut would decrease the boys' programming drastically, making it impossible to have activities for even the present membership.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as other agencies, do not get the requested funding for several reasons, Rychlik said. These groups are like any other organizations or people — they probably ask for more than needed, she said.

Rychlik explained that each requesting agency must the contract of the contract o

requesting agency must fill out financial forms explaining budget requirements and program forms explaining service in the com-munity when applying for funds. Then a representative from each agency appears before the board for an interview.

The committee members' decisions are based on three criteria, Rychlik said.

First, they consider the service the agency renders to the Brazos County community.

There is no real concern about

what the group does elsewhere.

Then the organization's responsibility is studied. Each agency must show prudence in its management of financing and

programming.
"We don't want them going hog-wild," Rychlik said.

Finally the committee determines appropriations according to money availability. Rychlik said the committee makes a realistic guess of how much money can be raised in the area based on how much was collected in previous years.

When considering these aspects, Rychlik said committee members often discover programming problems that could be improved within the agencies themselves. She explained that the members would like to point out these problem areas, but they want the agencies to request the information.

To increase the efficiency of the United Fund, Rychlik ex-pressed her desire for a single, county-wide drive. As it is now, one community waits to see how much the other is going to give before pledging an amount, she said. This causes delay and con-

She added that a country-wide drive and fund would eliminate one community carrying the ball for the other.

According to figures from the agencies, Rychlik said 59 percent of the Brazos County Girl Scouts are from the Bryan area and the other 41 percent live in College Station. Yet Bryan gives 69.4 percent of the funding, while College Station gives 30.6 percent, she said.

The funding and membership percentages for the Boy Scouts are closer, Rychlik said. While 79.4 percent of the Boy Scouts live in Bryan, 20.6 percent live in College Station. She said 77 percent of the funds come from the Bryan area. The remaining 23 percent is supplied by College

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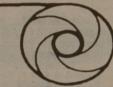
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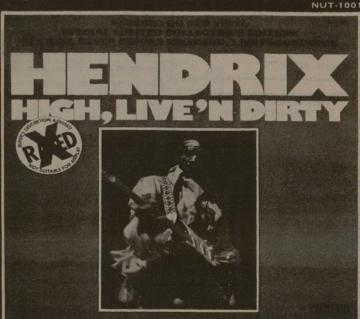
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