

## **Community Activist and Leader to Receive Award for Service to Youth**

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has recognized R. Ray Wood, president of Rockford Products, and awarded him the Silver Buffalo at the BSA's National Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., on May 26. The Silver Buffalo Award is Scouting's highest commendation for service to youth.

The award recognizes Wood's admirable service in Scouting and a lifelong commitment to his community and nation. Wood has served as a National Executive Board member and as a member of the High Adventure, Scoutreach and Human Resources Administration/Professional Development committees. Wood is also a recipient of the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope awards.

Mr. Wood has served at the highest levels of Scouting as a National Executive Board member and member of the High Adventure, Scoutreach, and Human Resources Administration/Professional Development committees. He has most recently nationally served as President of the thirteen state Central Region of the BSA. But he has always maintained grassroots involvement, completing Wood Badge training in 1980, serving on visitation teams for Philmont Scout Ranch and the Northern Tier High Adventure Bases, and chairing a troop committee in Rockford for twenty three consecutive years. He has served as a member of the Executive Board of the Blackhawk Area Council, including two years as President. Blackhawk Area Council serves 20,000 youth in a twelve county, two state area of Illinois and Wisconsin.

A recipient of the Silver Beaver and silver Antelope awards, Mr. Wood is also a James E. West Fellow, Founders Circle Award recipient, and a 1910 Society and Heritage Society member.

Mr. Wood is chairman and president of Rockford Products Corp., an international leader in the manufacture and distribution of cold-formed components, fasteners, and other related products. Under Mr. Wood's leadership, the company supports Junior Achievement classes and encourages employee volunteerism.

Mr. Wood has long been active in his adopted hometown, where he has worked with (and frequently led) such diverse organizations as the Burpee Museum, Rockford College community Education Task Force, La Voz Latina, the Rockford Community Foundation, the Rockford Day Nursery, the YMCA of Rock River Valley, the United Way of Rock River Valley, and the Youth Services Network. He is an active member of Christ United Methodist Church, where he has chaired several key committees.

Mr. Wood and his wife, Nola, have two Eagle Scout sons.