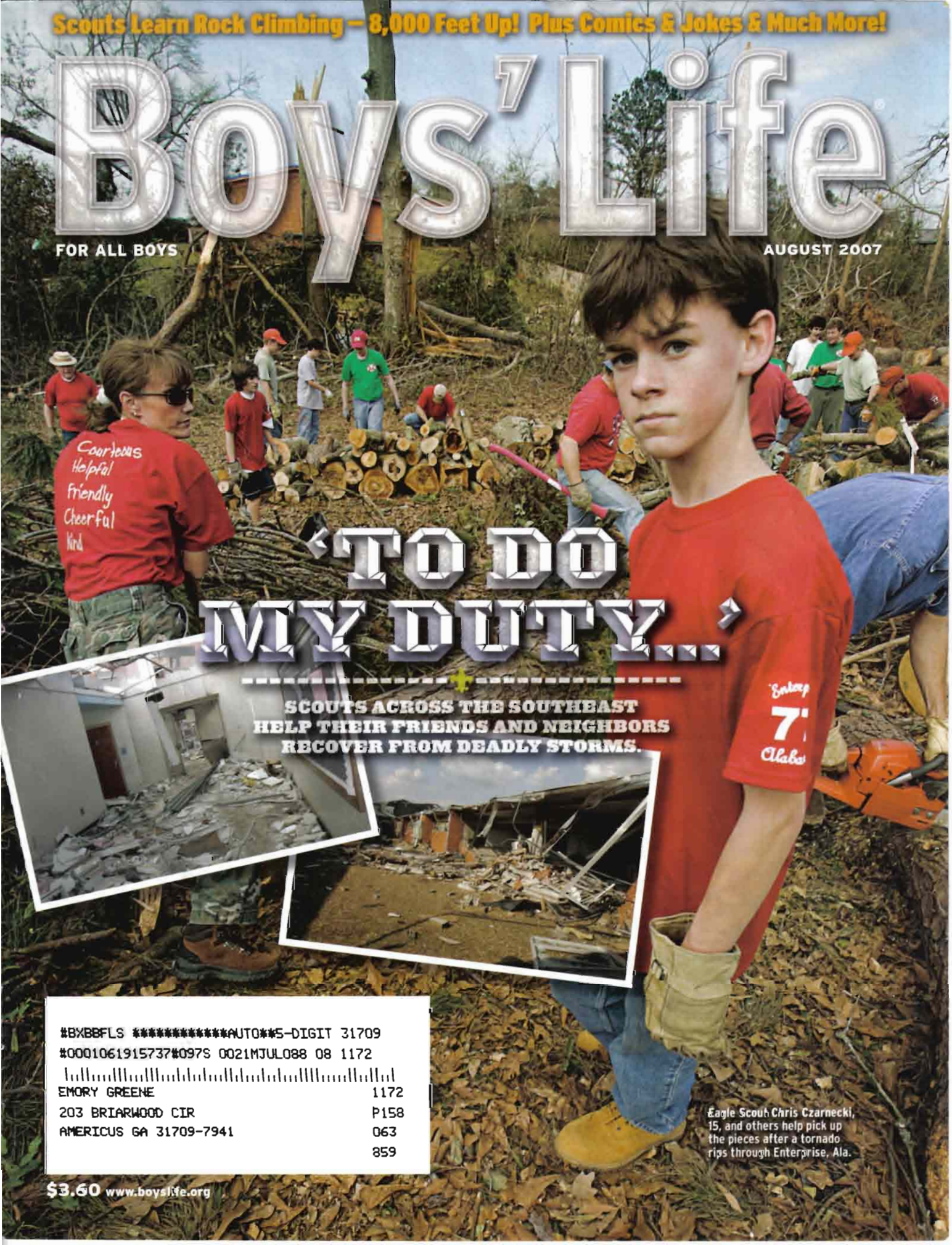


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Boys' Life

FOR ALL BOYS

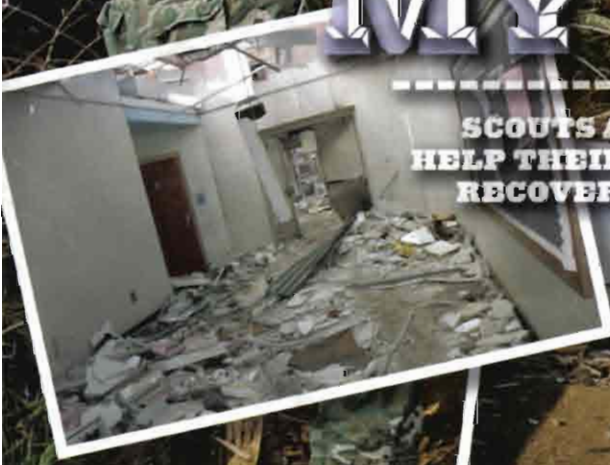
AUGUST 2007



Courteous
Helpful
Friendly
Cheerful
Kind

TO DO MY DUTY...

SCOUTS ACROSS THE SOUTHEAST
HELP THEIR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
RECOVER FROM DEADLY STORMS.



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Eagle Scout Chris Czarnecki, 15, and others help pick up the pieces after a tornado rips through Enterprise, Ala.

\$3.60 www.boyslife.org



Tim Patterson from Troop 77 in Enterprise, Ala., surveys the damage at his high school after it was hit by a tornado that killed eight students.

TOMMY GILCS (6)



Scouts clear debris while looking for anything still in one piece at a building hit by the tornado.



'our friends needed us'

personally affected by deadly tornado outbreaks, scouts head out in force to help with recovery efforts.

by paula murphey

bad weather was on the way.

the students of enterprise high school in enterprise, ala., just didn't know how bad it would be.

the students, including scouts remington mollett and donald moody, troop 77, had taken cover in the school's interior hallways and had been there all morning.

"we were told we could leave school at 11 o'clock because of the weather," donald, 16, says. "we were all sitting in the hallway, planning to go to sonic [restaurant] when we were let out. the storm seemed like just a normal thunderstorm."

but the storm was anything but normal.

CONTINUED >>



Caleb Richey from Troop 77 (center photo, with log) clears debris from a residence near Enterprise. Many homes, and much of the high school (above and left), were badly damaged by the storms.



The remains of Enterprise High will have to be demolished to build a new school.

» "Around 1 o'clock it got calm outside and really dark," Remington, 16, says. "Then the power went out, students started screaming and the vice principal ran down the hall shouting, 'Get down!'"

Suddenly "it sounded like a jet went through the school," Donald says.

"It was really loud and there was a really fast, cold wind," Remington adds. "It took only 10 to 15 seconds, and the school was gone."

A tornado had demolished most of the school, including much of the hall where Remington had taken cover.

He was only a few feet from a collapsed section where eight students died.

doing anything possible

The Enterprise tornado was part of a storm system that barreled through the Midwest and South on March 1, spawning tornadoes that left 20 people dead in three states. Among the victims were friends and a family member of the Scouts in Enterprise.

"You never think something like this is going to happen to you, but you never know," Donald says. "And I was better prepared to help others

after the storm because of Scouting."

Troop 77 and six other troops rallied together to help the community recover. The local school system closed for an early spring break the week following the storm, and many Scouts worked for nine consecutive days during that time.

They canvassed neighborhoods throughout town, clearing debris, removing trees from roofs, picking up shingles, doing whatever needed to be done.

Among the devastation was Eagle Scout Jonathan Quisenberry's grandparents' house, which was totaled. Scouts worked on their property and surrounding properties, which, Jonathan says, "looked like a war zone."

Eagle Scout Chris Czarnecki, 15, of Troop 60, Arab, Ala., lived near Enterprise two years previously. When he and his family heard about the tornado, they drove four hours to join the cleanup efforts.

"Our friends needed us," Chris says. "We felt we should do anything possible to help."

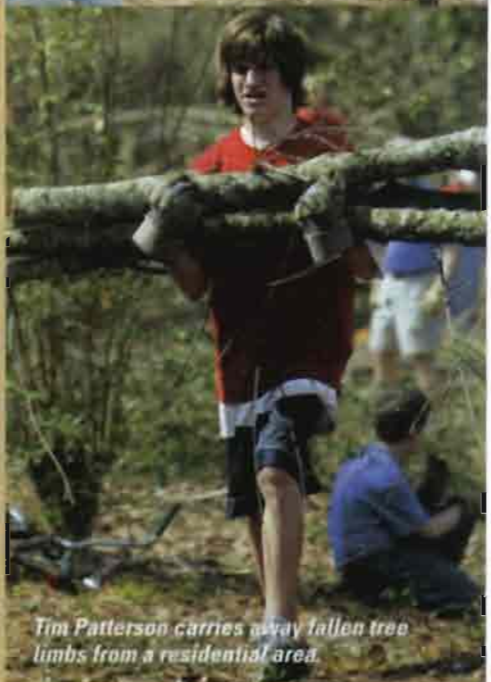
Life Scout Conner Richey, 14, was near the high school when the tornado passed about 30 yards in front of his family's car, nearly picking it up. He watched the twister hit the school, where one of his best friends was killed. "Through all of this, I've learned how people can come together," he says.

"I was shell-shocked from what happened," Remington Mollett says. "But after a week of funerals, I really wanted to keep doing all I could to help."

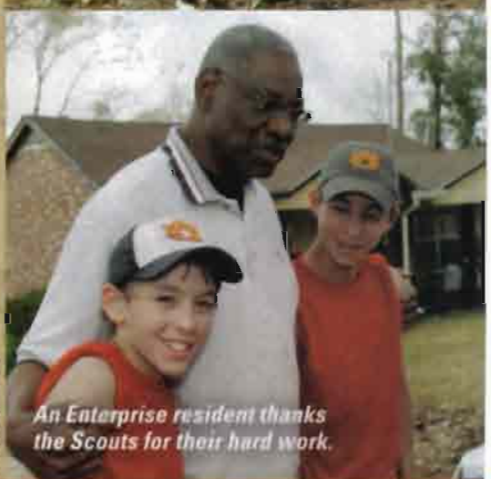
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Luke Hughes (left) and Dalton Stacks, along with the rest of Troop 38, Dothan, Ala., drove about 30 miles to help in Enterprise.



Tim Patterson carries away fallen tree limbs from a residential area.



An Enterprise resident thanks the Scouts for their hard work.

BOB GILES

birth of a storm

When cool dry air is layered over warm moist air and the sun warms the ground or a cold front arrives, the warm air is forced up into the layer of cool air.



The warm air rises quickly, causing instability and a large rotating mass called a **mesocyclone**.



As rain falls, pushing cool air downward, the mass turns into a **supercell**.



Falling cool moist air cycles back up and the air condenses at a lower height to create a rotating wall cloud, from which a **tornado** forms.



measuring tornadoes

The Fujita Scale or F-scale measures the intensity of a tornado. The tornadoes these Scouts dealt with were classified as F3 and F4. Here's how the ratings stack up:

F-SCALE RATING	WIND SPEED (MPH)	POSSIBLE DAMAGE
F0	40-72	LIGHT: Some damage to chimneys and signs, broken tree branches, shallow rooted trees pushed over
F1	73-112	MODERATE: Damage to roof surfaces, mobile homes overturned, moving cars pushed off roads
F2	113-157	CONSIDERABLE: Roofs torn off frame houses, mobile homes destroyed, large trees snapped/uprooted
F3	158-207	SEVERE: Roofs and some walls torn off solidly constructed houses, trains overturned, most trees in forests uprooted
F4	208-260	DEVASTATING: Houses leveled, structures with weak foundations blown distances, cars thrown
F5	261-318	INCREDIBLE: Strong frame houses lifted off foundations and carried distances to disintegrate, trees debarked, steel-reinforced concrete structures badly damaged, car-sized missiles thrown more than 100 yards



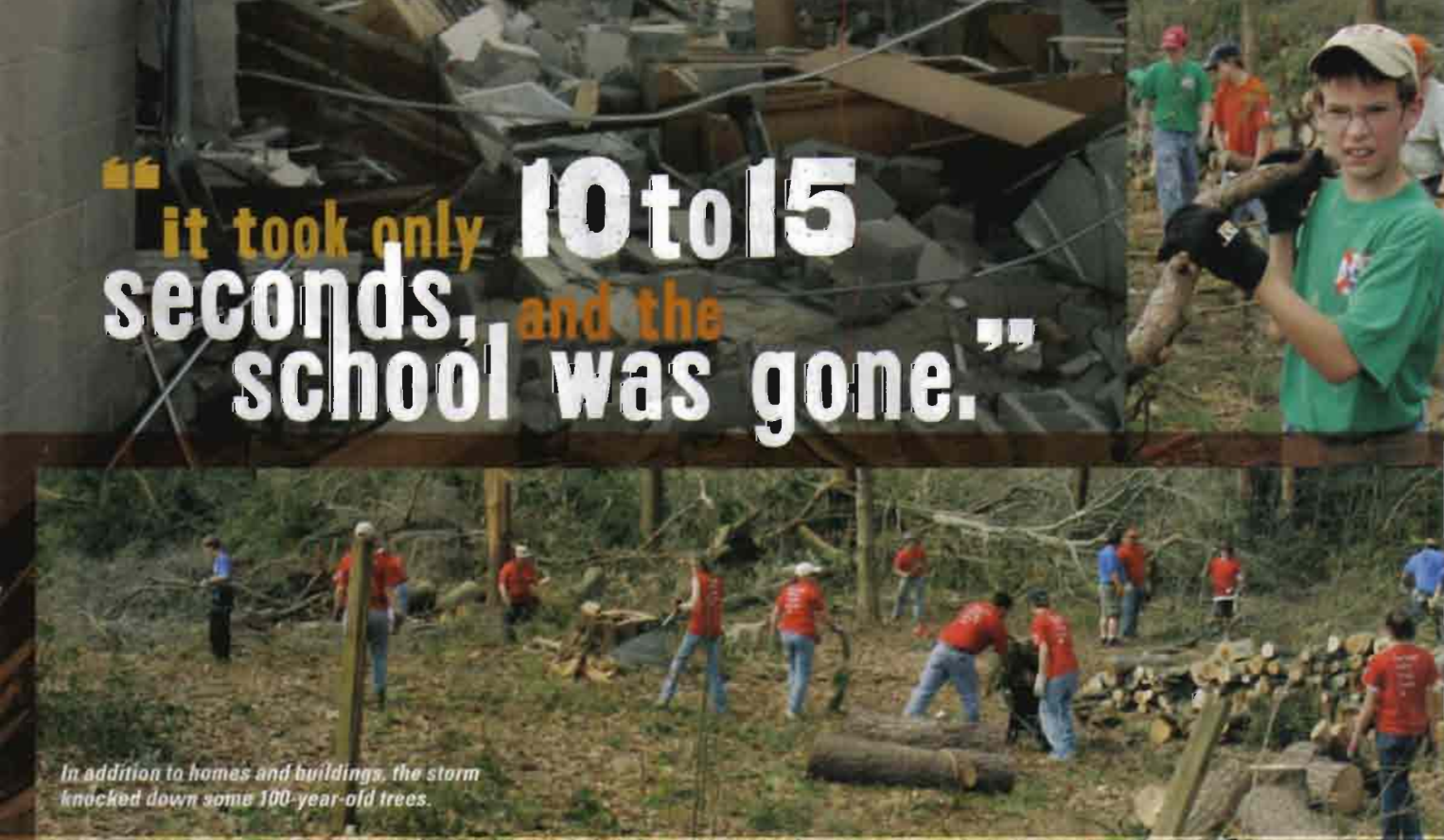
Lahrs Kulsrud from Troop 77 rakes away debris outside a rural home.

Three months after the tornado, the Enterprise seniors graduated. "We gather here today in the ruins of our school, but we are not ruined," one of the valedictorians said.

“it took only **10 to 15** seconds, and the school was gone.”



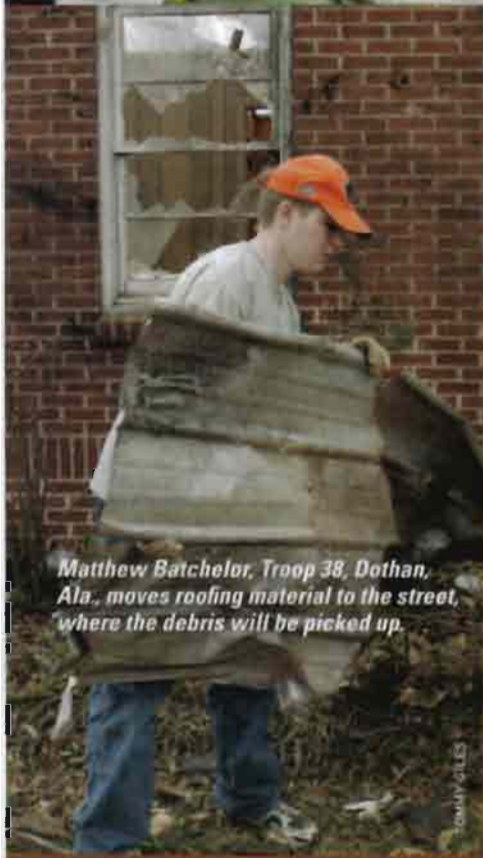
Lahrs Kulsrud and Justin Grubb from Troop 77, and Angus Scott from Troop 38 (bottom) clear a yard.



In addition to homes and buildings, the storm knocked down some 100-year-old trees.



*Above: John Barrett, Troop 26, Americus, Ga., hauls debris from a yard.
Below: Franklin Hudgins helps unload relief supplies at the local Red Cross.*



Matthew Batchelor, Troop 38, Dothan, Ala., moves roofing material to the street, where the debris will be picked up.

» path of destruction

After the storms ripped through Alabama, they moved into Georgia, where tornadoes wreaked more havoc.

The damage included the meeting building for Troop 21, Americus, Ga., where a fallen tree took off part of its roof and knocked down a wall. Destruction was everywhere in town.

"The tornado went right through my dad's business, destroying it," says Life Scout Theo Baldwin, 17. All around there were "trees through brick walls, collapsed ceilings, big steel I-beams bent."

"A tornado hit my friends' houses about 200 yards from my house," says Life Scout Will Meadows, 14. "They had to move out and are having to rebuild."

Here, as in Alabama, local Scouts rose to the occasion. In Americus, troops cleared rubble around town and pitched in at the Red Cross headquarters, helping unload, inventory and organize relief supplies and equipment.

"We also distributed water to needy people [affected] by the tornado," Will says. "It was scary hearing their stories of how they barely escaped."

Troop 210 of Leesburg, Ga., moved limbs, logs and debris from property in Plains, Ga., where downed trees blocked access to a damaged home. They also helped the homeowner recover valuable paperwork.

The extent of destruction surprised many of the Scouts. Will says, "Now I know what it really means to 'expect the unexpected.'"



Beau Carroll and Douglas Roseth, Troop 21, Americus, Ga., organize drinks for victims of storms that roared through that area.

path of destruction



Dumas, Ark.



Enterprise, Ala.



Americus, Ga.

there were
**"trees through brick walls,
 collapsed ceilings,
 big steel i-beams bent."**

a change in plans

Less than a week before the Alabama and Georgia storms, tornadoes tore through Arkansas, hitting the town of Dumas. Tenderfoot Scout Blake Downen, 13, Troop 253, was outside playing basketball when the warning sirens went off. Blake, his parents and their dog, Chloe, took cover in a bathtub.

"There was a big roaring sound," Blake says. "It was so fast, we hardly knew what had happened. It knocked our whole place down."

Only the chimney and two walls were left of their home, but the family was unharmed.

Soon after the storm, 10 local troops joined forces to help with cleanup efforts that included the Downen property.

Originally, the troops had planned to spend the weekend at a camporee, "in cooking competitions, orienteering courses, fun stuff like pancake relay races," says Life Scout Matt Peace, 15, of Troop 32, Magnolia, Ark.

But plans changed. The camporee turned into a disaster-relief service project.

The Scouts were disappointed their event was canceled, but as First Class Scout Paul Weatherford, 13, Troop 253, says, "If you can help someone, you should."

And help they did.

The troops cleaned residential lots, picking up debris and trying to "salvage as many personal belongings for the homeowners as possible," says Eagle Scout Cameron Stewart, 16, Troop 253.

The Scouts found photographs, a family Bible, videos, personal checks, "everything imaginable," Matt says. During the cleanup, Blake found his BSA popcorn patch. "It's all I have left of my Scout stuff."

"The rest of us were so grateful the tornado didn't hit us," says Tenderfoot Scout Joshua Zeigler, 10, of Troop 120, Smackover, Ark. "We learned to never take what you've got for granted. It can always go away."✦

Colby Williamson, Troop 32, Magnolia, Ark. (below), and Aaron Brock, Troop 120, Smackover, Ark. (right), work to remove fallen trees and damaged structures in Dumas, Ark.



what to do...

...before a tornado

Know the signs of a tornado and stay alert. Some tornadoes occur without a warning. Here are some things to look and listen for:

- > Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base.
- > Whirling dust or debris on the ground.
- > Hail or heavy rain followed by either dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift.
- > A loud, continuous roar or rumble.

...during a tornado

- > Avoid windows.
- > Go to the lowest floor of the house or building.
- > Go into a small center room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell or into an interior hallway with no windows.
- > Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down, and cover your head with your hands.
- > Cover yourself with some sort of thick padding (mattress, blankets, etc.), to protect against falling debris in case the roof and ceiling fail.
- > If you are at school, follow the drill! Go to the interior hall or room in an orderly way as you are told. Crouch low, head down, and protect the back of your head with your arms.

...after a tornado

- > Keep your family or group together and wait for emergency personnel to arrive.
- > Carefully render aid to those who are injured.
- > Stay away from power lines and puddles with wires in them; they may still be carrying electricity.
- > Watch your step to avoid broken glass, nails and other sharp objects.
- > Stay out of any heavily damaged houses or buildings; they could collapse at any time.
- > Do not use matches or lighters, in case of leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby.
- > Remain calm and alert, and listen for information and instructions from emergency crews or local officials.

Source: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Storm Prediction Center, Norman, Okla.

In Dumas, Ark., and across the Southeast, the efforts of the volunteers were much appreciated.

