



**J.T.
Dabbs III**

Dabbs to lead local Boy Scouts council

By Jeremy Gray
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A new top executive has been named to lead the Greater Alabama Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the council announced Thursday.

J.T. Dabbs III, who has served as Scout Executive for a council in Austin, Texas, since 2007, will begin work in Birmingham on Dec. 5.

The announcement of the Dabbs appointment comes two months after the resignation of Tim Cooper, who served as the top executive of the Greater Alabama Council for five years.

"We are excited to announce the selection of J.T. as the Scout Executive of the Greater Alabama Council," said Bill Terry, chairman of the board of the Greater Alabama Council. "He's a product of the scouting program. And after a rigorous search process he was the unanimous selection as Scout Executive by our selection committee."

The Greater Alabama Council, chartered in 1913, is the 10th largest in the nation. It serves more than 40,000 young people in 22 counties, including Jefferson and Shelby, according to the council's website.

Dabbs, an Eagle Scout, is a native of Birmingham and holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from Birmingham-Southern College.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve the youth and volunteers of the Greater Alabama Council," Dabbs said. "This council has a rich history and tradition."

Dabbs also previously served as the Scout executive for a council in Portland, Maine, and began his professional scouting career in the Birmingham Area Council in 1987.

During his time with the Birmingham council, Dabbs taught Scouts about edible wild plants, a subject he wrote a book on, and helped the council reach out to Hispanics. During that time, Dabbs also promoted programs that sought to keep young people from getting in trouble with the law.