

A museum visit

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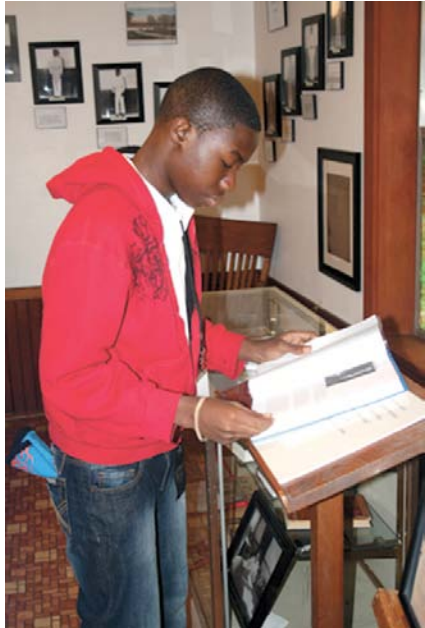


Photo by Dewayne Patterson
Brance Berry of Troop 65 in Monroe, La., looks at historic documents at the Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center Tuesday. Berry and the troop visited Scottsboro as part of their history tour across the southeast.

The Scottsboro Boys Museum and Cultural Center had some special guests Tuesday.

Scout Troop and Crew 65 of Monroe, La., as part of their summer tour of the southeast, visited Scottsboro.

Nicknamed the "Time Travelers," the scouts take a tour each summer to learn about history, the troop's Scoutmaster, Rev. Roosevelt Wright said.

"We've covered all 50 states through the years," said Wright.

This year's trip is nine days long, a little shorter than most years, Wright said.

It was while reading the book, "The Children of Panther Burn," a historic fiction book written by Wright, the scouts learned about the Scottsboro Boys.

"They've watched movies and read stories on the Internet about the Scottsboro Boys," said Wright. "We feel like we know Scottsboro now."

Wright said when it was discovered there was a museum dedicated to the Scottsboro Boys, plans were made to visit.

"We're just so pleased to be here," said Wright.

To earn money each year for the history tour, the troop hosts an African-American historical drama. The scouts conceive the subject, write the script, choose the music and produce the play.

Wright said scouts sell \$15 tickets to the event. The scouts keep the proceeds to help fund the trip.

Brance Berry, 13, said the troop was also visiting Unclaimed Baggage while in Scottsboro.

"We're having fun and learning at the same time," said Berry. "We learn a lot."

After leaving Scottsboro Tuesday, the troop was heading to Chattanooga, then Atlanta and finally to Jacksonville, Fla.