



## REPORT TO THE NATION

### WHO WE ARE

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development, outdoor adventure, and values-based leadership training to its more than 2.3 million youth participants. With nearly 1 million adult volunteers in approximately 270 local councils throughout the United States and its territories, Scouting teaches real-life skills and qualities that help young people become **“Prepared. For Life.®”**

### WHO WE SERVE

- 1,245,882 boys ages 5 to 10 in Cub Scouting
- 834,124 boys ages 11 to 17 in Boy Scouting and Varsity Scouting
- 87,827 young men and women ages 14 to 20 in Venturing and Sea Scouting
- 114,751 young men and women ages 10 to 20 in Exploring career-based programs
- 99,814 units, representing partnerships and collaborations with businesses, community and religious organizations, and agencies that support BSA programs
- In addition to our traditional programs, we serve 376,837 boys and girls in elementary through high school in Learning for Life character education programs.

### WHAT WE DO

For 107 years, Scouting has stood for adventure, excitement, and leadership. The following provides an overview of the impact of Scouting during the past year.

#### Build Leaders

From the time they enter the program as Cub Scouts until they become adults, boys learn what it takes to be a leader. Starting in 2018, girls, too, will be able to benefit from these early lessons, thanks to the BSA's historic decision to begin admitting girls into the Cub Scout ranks in 2018. A program for older girls, launching in 2019, will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

In 2017, 55,494 young men earned the Eagle Scout rank. Reaching this pinnacle requires Scouts to conceive of, plan for, and complete a project that takes into account everything they've learned about leadership, service, outdoor skills, and values.

Jeffrey “Blake” Deaton from Morehead City, North Carolina, built a sensory room for children with autism—including special lighting, padded floors, and educational toys—earning him the 2017 Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award. But leadership doesn't begin, or end, with the awarding of Eagle Scout. Daniel Konzelman, a 24-year-old Eagle Scout, was among the first on the scene after an Amtrak train derailed in DuPont, Washington, in December. Demonstrating the skills he learned in Scouting, he helped dozens of passengers to safety before emergency workers arrived. From our younger ranks, 12-year-old STEM Scout Gitanjali “Anjali” was named the winner of the 2017 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge thanks to her invention of a device that enables users to test for lead levels in water, proving that leaders come in all shapes and sizes.

## Strengthen Communities

In communities throughout the nation, Scouting is administered through civic, faith-based, and educational organizations that deliver our programs to their youth members and adult volunteers.

During 2017, our members recorded more than 15.6 million hours of service to their communities, at a value of more than \$376 million (based on a national volunteer-hour value of \$24.14). Eagle Scout projects alone accounted for more than \$205 million (representing 8.5 million hours) in service to the nation.

At the 2017 National Scout Jamboree, held at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia, Scouts and Scouters contributed more than 100,000 hours of service as part of the Messengers of Peace Days of Service initiative, making a meaningful impact on the lives of residents across the state.

While you often see Scouts working in your community, you also run across them online, where the BSA's growing social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram reached more than 132 million people in 2017 with stories of service and leadership.

## Grow Interests and Understanding

Scouts earned more than 1.8 million merit badges during the year, introducing them to a spectrum of life skills topics. Among these badges was Exploration, which became the 137th available merit badge in February.

In the coed Exploring career exploration program, a Career Interest Survey given to more than 150,000 students in sixth through 12th grades generated a list of favored careers that ranged from in-demand medical positions to more aspirational pursuits such as athletes, singers, and actors. Nearly half of respondents, or 45 percent, expressed the most interest in the medical and engineering fields, as well as programming and marine biology.

Launched the previous year, the Lions pilot program grew in 2017 as it focused on teaching new skills and building character in kindergarten-age boys. Likewise, the coed STEM Scouts pilot program—which offers hands-on STEM exploration for students in third through 12th grades—continued to expand.

## Build Adventure

Scouting prepares our youth for active lives full of adventure. More than 1 million Scouts attended our day camps and summer camps across the country. At our high-adventure bases in New Mexico, Minnesota, Florida, and West Virginia, they camped, hiked, climbed, paddled, and sailed. In all, this added up to more than 5.6 million nights under the stars.

During the course of 10 days in July, attendees at the national Scout jamboree combined adventure and leadership development, made lasting friendships, and experienced the best of Scouting, all in one place. As it does every four years, this landmark event showcased our mission by giving youth life-changing experiences they can't get anywhere else.

## PREPARED. FOR LIFE.®

Today's participants in Scouting's many programs are following in the footsteps of millions of boys and girls who set off on great adventures. In doing so, they are serving their families, their communities, and their nation while learning skills and building friendships that will guide them throughout the course of their lives. They are becoming **“Prepared. For Life.®”**



Michael B. Surbaugh  
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