



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 280 local councils throughout the United States and its territories, Scouting is an ongoing adventure that teaches a powerful set of real-life skills and develops fundamental qualities that help young people become **“Prepared. For Life.”**

WHO WE SERVE

- 1,261,340 boys ages 6 to 10 in Cub Scouts
- 840,654 boys ages 11 to 17 in Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts
- 142,892 young men and women ages 14 to 20 in Venturing and Sea Scouts
- 385,535 boys and girls in elementary through high school in Learning for Life character education programs
- 110,445 young men and women ages 14 to 20 in Exploring career-based programs
- 103,158 units, representing partnerships and collaborations with businesses, community and religious organizations, and agencies that support BSA programs

WHAT WE DO

For more than 100 years, Scouting has stood for adventure, excitement, and achievement. It's serious business, providing once-in-a-lifetime experiences that prepare the next generation for a world of opportunity, but at the same time it couldn't be more fun. The following provides an overview of the impact of Scouting in 2015.

BUILDING INTERESTS

As Scouts plan activities and progress toward goals, they expand their horizons and find new interests in the world around them. The BSA broadened its life skills offerings in 2015 by introducing two new merit badges: Animation and Signs, Signals, and Codes. Interactive digital guides on 20 other topics were launched, too, to serve up information the way today's Scouts want to receive it: via video, animation, web links, and other creative tools. During 2015, Scouts earned more than 2.5 million merit badges in 138 different subjects.

The STEM Scouts pilot program offers innovative, hands-on ways for students in grades 3–12 to learn about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The program, which began in 2014, was expanded last year to more regions of the country. And yet, helping our youth members develop skills that may inspire lifelong professions is nothing new in Scouting. For decades, the BSA's Exploring program has been connecting businesses and organizations with young men and women seeking work experiences in a dozen career fields.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

The BSA helps young people make a difference in their communities by providing opportunities for them to serve others. During 2015, Scouts and Explorers across America logged nearly 15.3 million hours of service at an estimated value of more than \$352 million (based on a national volunteer-hour value of \$23.07).

In July, the BSA acknowledged the sacrifices of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces with the inaugural Veterans' Appreciation Day, held at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve. The event was presented in partnership with Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Wounded Warrior Project, and the West Virginia National Guard. Veterans, active duty service members, and Scouts enjoyed a day of activities that ranged from archery, basketball, and fishing to rock climbing, tomahawk throwing, and zip lining—including a para-zip, one of only a few in the country to accommodate wheelchairs.

BUILDING LEADERS

Scouting builds leaders. Former Scouts serve on the boards of global corporations, walk the halls of Washington, D.C., and have even been known to walk on the moon. Scouting prepares America's young people to live with character and integrity, whether at work or play.

A study completed by Tufts University in 2015 found that youth who participate in Scouting develop strong moral values and learn to embrace new opportunities and overcome obstacles, all part of becoming better prepared for future success. Nowhere is this more evident than with Eagle Scouts — those who reach the highest attainable rank in Boy Scouting. As adults, they are more likely to volunteer, donate money to charities, vote, and work with others to improve their neighborhoods than those who were never in Scouting.

In 2015, 54,366 young men earned the rank of Eagle Scout. More than \$196 million in service was provided to communities across the nation as a result of the extensive projects these Scouts planned, organized, and led on their trail to Eagle.

BUILDING ADVENTURE

Scouts go places, test themselves, and have adventures that can't be found anywhere else. More often than not these adventures happen outdoors in "classrooms" with no walls to confine or ceilings to protect.

Health living and overall wellness have always had a place in Scouting, with multiple exercise and fitness requirements at every level, but Scouts really hit the ground running in 2015. In all, they earned 377,399 fitness-related badges. Nearly 1.1 million Scouts attended our thousands of day and summer camps, as well as our high-adventure camps in New Mexico, Minnesota, Florida, and West Virginia. This translated to a total of 6.5 million nights spent camping during the year.

Approximately 1,750 BSA youth member delegates, adult leaders, and volunteers participated in the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan, where they met Scouts from 161 countries and formed lasting friendships based on the values of Scouting.

ADVENTURES IN SCOUTING

Since its founding, the Boy Scouts of America has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun and adventure. Scouting provides opportunities for families and communities to join together to create the next generation of conscientious, responsible, and productive citizens—ensuring our youth are **Prepared. For Life.**[®]



Michael B. Surbaugh
Chief Scout Executive



Tico Perez
National Commissioner



Dr. Robert M. Gates
President