



REPORT TO THE NATION

WHO WE ARE

The Boy Scouts of America helps 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.

With more than 2.3 million youth participants and nearly 1 million adult volunteers in approximately 270 local service centers throughout the United States and its territories, Scouting is an ongoing adventure that teaches a powerful set of real-life skills and fundamental qualities that help young people become **“Prepared. For Life.”**

WHO WE SERVE

- 1,262,311 boys ages 6 to 10 in Cub Scouts
- 822,999 boys ages 11 to 17 in Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts
- 119,268 young men and women ages 10 to 20 in Exploring career-based programs (including the STEM Scouts pilot program)
- 136,629 young men and women ages 14 to 20 in Venturing and Sea Scouts
- 372,891 boys and girls in elementary through high school in Learning for Life character education programs
- 102,888 units, representing partnerships and collaborations with businesses and community and religious organizations that support BSA programs

BUILDING LEADERS

From their first days in Scouting, young people learn the importance of character and integrity. Whether our alumni are walking the halls of Washington, D.C., leading their teams onto the field of play, or even blasting into space, they take with them the knowledge, confidence, and skills gained through participation in our country’s premier character and leadership development program. In fact, a recent study revealed the significant impact Scouting can have on young boys in just three years of participation. Youth involved in Scouting are more likely to have positive character attributes and choose helping others over being the best. This positive impact grows even more when Scouts continue with the program.

In 2016, a total of 55,186 young men earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the program’s highest honor. Earning the badge requires Scouts to create a vision of future success and develop a plan to make it a reality, taking into account everything they’ve learned about leadership, service, outdoor skills, and values.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Scouting builds strong communities by providing opportunities to serve others. During 2016, Scouts and Explorers across America recorded more than 15.4 million hours of service to their communities, at a value of more than \$363.5 million (based on a national volunteer-hour value of \$23.56). This is the equivalent of \$1.12 for every man, woman, and child in the U.S. — all 323 million of us. Eagle Scout projects, which are planned, developed, and led by Scouts, accounted for more than \$196 million in service to the nation alone.

BUILDING INTERESTS AND UNDERSTANDING

Scouting helps young people expand their horizons and build interests in the world around them. Whether they want to learn more about the outdoors, career and life skills, or technology, the BSA facilitates this through hands-on learning and opportunities for exploration that can't be found anywhere else.

Inspiring career aspirations in the next generation is priceless. In fact, approximately 70 percent of companies say that young people who participate in mentorship programs are likely to eventually land a college internship with that organization. In 2016, a renewed emphasis was placed on expanding the Exploring co-ed career exploration program, which grew by 7 percent in 2016. The program's 116,000 participants — including nearly 40,000 Law Enforcement Explorers, and thousands more in a dozen different career fields, including health care and skilled trades — cultivated crucial skills and benefited from partnerships with local professionals who can help guide them on the path to success.

The BSA's STEM Scouts pilot program, which re-imagines creative, hands-on ways for students in grades 3–12 to learn about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), more than doubled its membership from its launch in 2015. This surge demonstrates how we are meeting a need among young people and parents for a values-based learning experience that can grow a child's understanding of concepts they learn in the classroom.

Additionally, the BSA launched our largest-ever pilot program — Lions — in response to parents' increasing desire for more after-school programs that help kindergarten-age boys learn new skills and build character while having fun. The new Lion program introduces families to the adventures available through Scouting. Designed as an introduction to Cub Scouting for 5-year-old boys, the Lion badge serves as a precursor to the Tiger rank.

In all, Boy Scouts earned nearly 2.4 million merit badges in 2016 while exploring a range of offerings in 138 fields that reflect both their interests and our rapidly evolving culture.

BUILDING ADVENTURE

Scouting prepares our youth for active lives full of adventure. As the Scout grows, so does the level of adventure, allowing our members to go places, test themselves, and have one-of-a-kind experiences.

Physical fitness and healthy living have been a vital part of the Scouting program since the beginning. In all, our youth members earned 362,813 fitness-related badges. Just over 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, adding up to 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.

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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