



## REPORT TO THE NATION

### Who We Are

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training to more than 2.6 million youth members. With more than 1 million adult volunteers in more than 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

1,417,034 boys ages 6 to 10 in Cub Scouts

888,947 boys ages 11 to 17 in Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts

192,080 young men and women ages 14 to 20 in Venturing and Sea Scouts

418,484 boys and girls in elementary through high school in Learning for Life character education programs

114,894 young men and women ages 14 to 20 in Exploring career-based programs

### What We Do

For over a century, 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. The following provides an overview of the impact of Scouting in 2013.

#### **Prepared. For Adventure.**

The BSA prepares young people for a life of adventure by encouraging them to abandon sedentary lifestyles, live healthier, and enjoy the great outdoors. Our fourth national high-adventure base opened in July 2013. Situated in the wilds of West Virginia, the Summit sits on 10,600 acres of forested mountains and features a diverse range of outdoor activities, including BMX, skateboarding, mountain biking, zip lines, canopy tours, challenge courses, climbing, and shooting sports.

More than 26,000 youth and 3,200 adult leaders gathered at the Summit during the 2013 National Scout Jamboree. An additional 1.1 million Scouts attended our high-adventure camps in New Mexico, Minnesota, and Florida, as well as thousands of our day and summer camps. In all, Scouts camped a total of 6,093,410 nights during 2013.

Scouting goes beyond teaching outdoor skills. The Boy Scouts of America sees youth as the key driver to changing behavior when it comes to sustainability. The hope is that by teaching our 2.6 million youth members how to live sustainably, they will share what they've learned and set an example for their families, their neighborhoods, and their communities. Although there are already more than 15 merit badges related to sustainability, the BSA launched a new Sustainability merit badge during 2013 as a way to teach youth—and adults—about what it means to live sustainably on a more in-depth scale.

#### **Prepared. For Service.**

The BSA prepares young people for a life of service by teaching youth to help their communities through service to others. During 2013, Scouts across America recorded 17,042,938 hours of service to their communities at a value of more than \$377 million (based on a national volunteer-hour value of \$22.14).

During the national Scout jamboree, Scouts and Venturers left the Summit property to give back to West Virginia communities by painting fences, building trails, constructing wheelchair ramps, and more. Scouts provided 180,342 hours of volunteer service in just 10 days.

Each year, Scouts collect canned goods for local food banks through the Scouting for Food program. Councils collected millions of pounds of food for needy families in 2013.

Scouting also provides service to military families. With the support of more than 7,900 volunteers, we serve more than 19,750 youth annually on military bases around the world. Service projects include clothing drives for children in Afghanistan, painting military facilities, basewide cleanups, and book drives for military libraries.

In 2013, the Boy Scouts of America joined the Messengers of Peace, a global initiative designed to inspire millions of young men and women in more than 220 countries and territories to work toward peace by recognizing and sharing their stories of service to their communities. Since the program's beginning, Scouts worldwide have contributed more than 21 million hours of service.

### **Prepared. For Learning.**

The BSA prepares young people for a life of learning by mentoring youth to set goals and work to reach them one step at a time. The Boy Scouts of America has built relationships with ExxonMobil, NASA, and other key organizations to develop curriculum in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math and to engage young people in considering careers in these fields.

By showing Scouts that STEM is fun, we can encourage them to enter STEM-related career fields. In 2013, the Boy Scouts of America launched new merit badges for Game Design and Programming, expanding the number of STEM-related merit badges to 61. In addition, the BSA developed the Nova Awards program to recognize Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers for their achievements in STEM-related fields. More than 9,000 Scouts received Nova awards in the first year of the program.

Promoting physical health and well-being has always been at the foundation of Scouting. Through the SCOUTStrong initiative, which seeks to ensure Scouts and all young people are healthy in mind, body, and spirit, the Boy Scouts of America has awarded more than 100,000 Presidential Active Lifestyle Awards to Scouts completing a 60-day fitness challenge. In 2013, the BSA established partnerships with USA Triathlon and the U.S. Swimming Foundation to promote physical activity among Scouts.

### **Prepared. For Leadership.**

The BSA prepares young people for lifelong leadership by giving them the skills to take responsibility and teach by example. For example, the Eagle Scout Award is the highest attainable rank in Boy Scouting, and Scouts must demonstrate proficiency in leadership, service, and outdoor skills at multiple levels before achieving the Eagle rank.

In 2013, 56,841 Scouts earned the rank of Eagle Scout. In addition to the 21 life-skills merit badges required to earn the Eagle Scout rank, each Scout must complete an extensive service project that he plans, organizes, leads, and manages before his 18th birthday. In 2013, Eagle Scout projects provided more than \$206 million in service to communities across the nation.

### **Continuing the Adventure in Scouting**

America's youth need Scouting, and by focusing on the goals that unite us, we can continue to accomplish incredible things for young people and the communities we serve.

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.**<sup>®</sup>



Wayne Brock  
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