



REPORT TO THE STATE

Who We Are

The Councils of Missouri, Boy Scouts of America provides the states foremost youth program of character development, outdoor adventure, and values-based leadership training to its more than 33,000 youth participants. With more than 7000 adult volunteers in 5 local councils throughout the state of Missouri, Scouting teaches real-life skills and qualities that help young people become **“Prepared. For Life.®”**

Who We Serve

- 19,529 boys and girls ages 5 to 10 in Cub Scouting
- 11,892 boys and girls ages 11 to 17 in Scouts BSA
- 611 young men and women ages 14 to 20 in Venturing and Sea Scouting
- 1288 young men and women ages 10 to 20 in Exploring career-based programs
- 1,021 units representing partnerships and collaborations with businesses, community and religious organizations, and agencies that support BSA programs
- Diversity in Missouri Scouting is growing. Current youth membership is represented by 85.2% male, 14.8% female, 72.6% Caucasian, and 27% Minority.

What We Do

For 110 years, Scouting has stood for adventure, excitement, and leadership. The following provides an overview of the impact of Scouting during the past year.

Building Leaders

Nationally, the Boy Scouts of America made history in 2018 by welcoming girls into Cub Scouting and in 2019 by welcoming young women into Scouts BSA. History was made again in 2020, when nearly 1,000 young women made a landmark accomplishment by achieving Scouting’s highest rank – Eagle Scout. At the close of 2020, the BSA was serving more than 108,000 young women in Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA.

In 2020, 47,573 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.

Eagle Scouts have been leading positive change for more than a century. That tradition continued with the historic Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts. On February 21, 2021, the BSA celebrated their accomplishments with an event called “Be The Change,” which was streamed online. With tributes and congratulations from female leaders including CBS Evening News anchor Norah O’Donnell, BSA National Executive Board Member Tonya Acker, and many others, “Be the Change” highlighted the impact that Scouts make every day. The event was viewed more than 343,000 times. The first class of female Eagle Scouts also generated unprecedented positive news coverage with more than 2.5 billion impressions across local and national news outlets.



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Growing Interests and Understanding

Scouts earned more than 1.1 million merit badges in 2020, predominantly in a virtual setting. With many camps unable to welcome Scouts, typical outdoor subjects shifted to badges compatible with online instruction. Family Life, the Citizenship series, and Personal Management were the most-earned badges.

For over seven decades, the Exploring program has been helping young people discover their potential in diverse career fields, including Arts and Humanities, Aviation, Business, Communications, Engineering, Fire and EMS, Health Care, Law and Government, Law Enforcement, Science, Skilled Trades, and Social Services. Exploring enables young adults to sample a career and learn from frontline professionals. In 2020, more than 52,000 students were enrolled in over 3,000 unique Exploring programs.

2020: A Unique Adventure

Despite a pandemic that gripped the nation, the Scouting spirit never wavered. Scouts and leaders quickly shifted, using technology to meet virtually. While packs, troops, crews, posts, and ships used a blend of virtual and in-person meetings, many councils offered virtual day- and overnight-camp experiences. For the first time, Scouts across the country gathered virtually for a National Camp In, enjoying celebrity interviews and shout-outs, games, adventures, activities, and even a closing virtual campfire. More than 475,000 people participated in this historic event.

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.®"

The next few pages contain Scouting stories from around the state.

Great Rivers Council

Great Rivers Council starts construction on Midwest's Scouting Adventure Center.

A 'transformative' gift of a 13,000 square foot building by Larry and Brenda Potterfield, cofounders of MidwayUSA, is the highlight of 2022 for the Great Rivers Council. The Council moved from its office occupied since the 1970s to open office operations and a retail store in the new building located off Interstate 70 near Columbia. That is just the beginning of the building plans.

Now all Scouts have a home to utilize throughout the year to master new skills, make connections and move toward their future. Construction is near completion on a 26-foot-high indoor climbing wall as the only permanent program feature in the building. Materials and equipment are being donated by a variety of supporters for multiple arenas. Health and Safety, Audio/Visual/Design, Science and Nature, Engineering and Computers are themes for planned modular arenas to introduce and educate Scouts within the building.

The young men and women who visit the Scouting Adventure Center will have opportunities to learn, build friendships and become the leaders we need for a brighter future. Scouting prepares future employees with the skills they need to help build a sustainable workforce. The Scouting Adventure Center will provide a platform for learning and innovation to flourish for the next generation of Scouts in Missouri.

Headquartered in Columbia, Missouri, Great Rivers Council, BSA serves the youth and adult volunteers in 33 counties in central and northern Missouri.

Greater St. Louis Area Council

A Greater St. Louis Area Council Eagle Scout earns all 139 Merit Badges and visits all 4 National High Adventure Bases.

Niko Brennan earned his last merit badge backpacking after completing a trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimmaron, New Mexico this summer. Niko has also visited Florida Sea Base, Summitt Bechtel Reserve, and Northern Tier High Adventure Base.

Niko had two goals as a Scout to become the youngest Eagle Scout in Troop 496 and to earn all the merit badges. Niko became an Eagle Scout in 2020 at only 12 years old and earned all 139 merits badges in 2022 at 14 years old.

Niko plans to become an architectural engineer, a career he discovered while working on the engineering merit badge.

Niko credits Scouting with introducing him to some of his closest friends and teaching him valuable leadership skills.

The Greater St. Louis Area Council, provides youth with character development programs and values-based leadership training. The Council, one of the largest in the nation, has more than 25,000 youth members and nearly 12,600 adult volunteers. They come from 63 counties in southeast Missouri, southern and central Illinois, and the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

Heart of America Council

BILLY'S HEROES:

A brother-sister Scouting duo put their pack on the map nationally all while giving back to those they look up to most. Billy and Lucy Lee from Pack 3348 in Overland Park, Kansas were not only the top popcorn sellers in the Heart of America Council in 2022, but among the top in the entire country,.

But more than just selling popcorn, the idea to give back all started during the pandemic as a way to honor local heroes. For every sale, the duo delivered popcorn to first responders across the KC metro. If that wasn't enough, they also donated a percentage of their sales to Harvesters Food Bank.

Billy's Heroes began when Billy was just a Bear Scout in 2020. The idea picked up media attention through a simple act of kindness and this year Billy's Sister Lucy, a Wolf Scout, joined in to help.

In total, Billy and Lucy sold nearly \$48,000 in popcorn in 2022 and honored more than 100 heroes.

The Heart of America Council is authorized by the National Council, BSA, to make Scouting available, and then to service, through chartered organizations and their units, in the following nineteen counties in eastern-Kansas and western-Missouri: Kansas-Anderson, Douglas, Franklin, Johnson, Leavenworth, Linn, Miami, and Wyandotte; and in Missouri-Bates, Cass, Carroll, Clay, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte, Ray and St. Clair.

Ozark Trails Council, Springfield, MO

The passionate Scouts and Scouters make participating in this program in the Ozarks so special. We are genuinely a Scouting family. An exceptional Eagle Scout from the Class of 2022 is Cameron Childers. He has found his passion in Scouts while suffering through potentially debilitating medical issues, yet you never see him without a smile on his face. He began his Scouting journey in Cub Scouts, a Scoutreach Pack in our Council. Here Cameron went camping, fishing, played games, and made new friends. After loving his time as a Cub Scout, Cameron was ready for more adventures. He joined Scouts BSA and began his journey to attain the rank of Eagle Scout.

Together with his mother, Melanie, they helped pioneer Troop 2, a Troop specifically formed to serve the youth with disabilities in the Springfield, MO area. After some time in this troop, Cameron was ready to expand his Scouting career. He joined a traditional unit and began to soar.

Cameron earned his Eagle Scout award on January 9th, 2022. For his project he built an outdoor worship area for his church, New Life Church of Springfield. His vision was to impact the community in these ways: to allow his church and those in the area, a place to worship outside. He made this area near a large tree with a sunset view over a field.

But for Cameron, Scouting was so much more than just rank advancement. He enjoyed all aspects of our Scouting family from serving as Youth Leadership Training Camp Staff, Summer Camp Staff, and has held multiple leadership roles in the BSA's service focused honor society: The Order of the Arrow.

Cameron has now begun his next journey in college, seeking to obtain a degree in Journalism and Communication. Scouting has played a significant role in the confidence and tenacity it takes to be successful in college. In the Ozark Trails Council, nearly 100 Scouts joined Cameron in attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in 2022.

Pony Express Council

This year, The Noyes home for children, a local non-profit youth shelter, partnered with the Pony Express Council to form Cub Scout Pack 801 to serve the youth in their care. Pack 801 attended the Camp Geiger Halloween Spooktacular in October, and is planning to host their own Pinewood Derby race as well as have their members participate in the Council Pinewood Derby in February! It is headed by leaders who have been involved both in Scouting, and with the Noyes Home for years and have a passion for serving youth, and equipping them with the skills and values of Scouting to help them take on life's challenges!"

A third-grade boy who attends Lindbergh elementary school in St. Joseph joined Cub Scouts for the first time in the fall of 2022. This young man is from a single parent home, and his mom works hard to make sure he has a chance to attend all of the meetings and outings of his pack and den. Their family comes from a neighborhood with a challenging socio-economic dynamic, and they don't have much extra money. Immediately upon joining, the Scout became involved in everything his den and pack had to offer, which included learning how to safely carve basswood with his pocketknife, constructing a bench and a birdhouse and learning how to use wood tools, and making and racing a pinewood derby car. This Scout immediately took advantage of the popcorn booth sales opportunity at the local Sam's Club that were provided by his pack, on 2 different Saturdays, and he achieved over \$1,250 in popcorn sales in the fall of 2022. As a result of this effort, this Scout was able to have all of his pack and BSA fees covered for 2023 as well as earn enough to attend Webelos Camp this July.

The Pony Express Council is a leading premier youth development organization encompassing the 18 counties of northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.