



Scouting Facts

Vision

All youth have the character, confidence, and experience to improve the world.

Mission

Northern Star Scouting prepares youth in a safe and inclusive environment to be leaders and individuals of strong character.

Goals, Objectives, and Impact

Northern Star Scouting's strategic planning process has historically been leading-edge, and proactive with regard to market-driven change. The plan is centered on (1) strengthening core programs, (2) broadening our impact beyond core programs, and (3) ensuring strong foundational elements that provide a base for serving as many young people as possible. Several major projects underway are expected to become models for other Scout councils around the country in coming years and contribute to our longstanding record of stronger than average youth market share and retention.

Partnerships

Joining in partnership with Northern Star Scouting, 718 Scouting units are chartered by 433 community organizations representing educational, religious, non-profit, civic, and business organizations (266 Cub Scout packs, 365 Scouts BSA troops, 32 Venturing crews, 1 Sea Scout ships, and 54 Explorer posts).

Service Area

Northern Star Scouting serves 25 counties across central Minnesota (Anoka, Carver, Chippewa, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, McLeod, Meeker, Ramsey, Renville, Rice, Scott, Washington, Wright, and Yellow Medicine, and portions of Stearns and Swift) and Wisconsin (Pierce, St. Croix, Polk, and Burnett).

Camps/Properties

Northern Star Scouting operates eight camps in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Young people can choose from multiple programs at various camps, including day, introductory, high adventure, summer and winter weekend, and resident camps for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, and families.

Leadership and Staff

Northern Star Scouting is led by a volunteer board of directors with 73 members who come from education, business, other non-profits, and community organizations. Youth and volunteers are supported by 78 full-time paid staff and 38 part-time paid staff. Additionally, more than 500 seasonal employees deliver camping programs and outdoor adventure in the summer and winter months.

Budget

Northern Star Scouting operates its programs and properties on a 2023 budget of \$14,274,927.

Populations Served

Northern Star Scouting supported more than 7,436 volunteers in BSA Scouting who developed and enriched the lives of 15,423 boys and girls, ages 5 through 20, in the program year ending August 31, 2022. Northern Star Scouting provided volunteers a wide range of youth and adult training opportunities, including online courses, training videos, and district and council events.

Northern Star's Community Scouting programs reached 18,091 youth at Base Camp and other camps, for a total youth served of 33,514.

Scouting invites all people to get involved, mindful of the importance of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, religion, physical ability and political belief. We create a positive and welcoming environment for all, valuing backgrounds and experiences that will grow and strengthen our movement and continue to make us a valued contributor to the communities we serve.

BSA Programs

In our BSA Scouting programs, we served 5,939 Cub Scouts, 6,773 Scouts BSA, 114 Venturers/Sea Scouts, and 611 Explorers.

Juvenile Diversion: The Juvenile Diversion program targets first-time non-violent youth offenders. In 2022, 447 youth were referred by its program partners (8 police departments and one charter school). The team piloted a program for referrals direct from the school without police citation. The goal is to keep kids in school and in the classroom when school consequences have not changed the behavior. This program may be a future option for school that do not have a School Resource Officer.

Exploring: A work site-based program that provides young men and women ages 14-20 regular hands-on opportunities to learn about careers and trades from adult mentors who are professionals in the student's area of career interest. In 2022, 600+ youth were served through 50 posts across the council, all sponsored by community/workplace partners, representing a 20% increase in youth participants over the previous year.

Polaris: The Polaris program brings both traditional Scouting and Exploring programs to physically and developmentally challenged boys, girls, and adults (with cognitive challenges). In 2022, 405 individuals were served through 28 traditional and Exploring sites/classroom partnered with educational and community partners. The team also formalized a pilot program with English Language Learner High School students to provide a hybrid Scouting/Career Exploration program in Minneapolis Public Schools.

For More Information

www.northernstar.org or call 612-261-2300.





YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

- We served, within two percentage points (max), equal percentages of youth across four major ethnic groups.
- 862 Webelos earned the Arrow of Light.
- Five youth earned the Venturing Summit Award.
- 29 Scouts earned a Super Nova award in 2022.
- 29% of newly joining Scouts BSA youth were girls.

VOLUNTEERS

- 669 Scouts and adult leaders participated in our two University of Scouting events taking classes ranging from leadership training, unit program planning, to outdoor cooking.
- 66 Scouting volunteers attended Wood Badge, multiple weekend advanced leadership training course for volunteers.
- 1,494 unit visits were logged into the commissioner tools.

RESOURCES

- \$700,520 was spent on camp maintenance including facility improvements, utility repairs and equipment replacement at our eight properties.
- Awarded \$149,975 in academic scholarships, and \$95,506 in camperships to youth.
- Support through the Annual Fundraising Campaign exceeded the budgeted goal of \$2,550,000.
- Northern Star Scouting had the number two popcorn sale in the United States, at just over \$2.48 million dollars. Over \$1.72 million dollars went back to support Scouting units and Northern Star Scouting.

PROGRAMS

- 321 youth participated in one of four sessions of Grey Wolf: a week-long council-facilitated National Youth Leadership Training course.
- Attendance at our summer community day camps (serving all kids) grew 44%.
- The Totanhan Nakaha Lodge of the Order of the Arrow inducted 477 new members in 2022, serving a total of 2,104 Scouts and adults. The Lodge also contributed \$8,601 in campership and annual campaign support, and 10,601.5 hours of service to camps and the community. The lodge achieved the *Thriving* metric, our top national rating.
- Over 1,300 Cub youth and their families attended an introductory Fall Campout to mark the beginning of the Scouting year
- 1,527 Cub Scouts & their families attended Polar Cubs Day Camp!

- 1,248 Scouts successfully spent a day or night outside in negative or near zero-degree conditions (and enjoyed it!) due to the expert training and equipment at our Snow Base camps.
- Over 600 female Scouts BSA youth attended Many Point and Tomahawk, this is 21% increase over 2021!!
- In August over 150 volunteer youth and adults helped attempt to break the Guinness world record for longest Hot Wheels Track at Houlton, WI and Stillwater, MN (we didn't make it).
- 2022 saw the highest Webelos to Scouts BSA crossover rate in recent memory with 81% of eligible 5th graders joining a Scouts BSA troop.
- Northern Star Scouting saw membership growth, meeting both the August 31 program year (24% growth!) and the December 31 calendar year benchmarks.

- **\$1,630,000 was spent on capital improvements at our camps to better serve all genders, families and community users. (This includes \$1,350,000 on the Camp Kiwanis Shower Building.)**
- **1,935 Cubs or 30% of our Cub membership attended overnight summer camp, a five-year percentage high.**
- **18,091 Community Scouting Youth had a character-building experience at one of our 8 camp properties.**
- **After our 2019 expansion to include girls in all programs, we ended 2022 with 16% of our Cubs in girl dens. Girls made up 11% of our Scouts BSA youth, 40% of Venturing, and 21% of Exploring membership.**
- **In 2022 we had a total of 574 Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Rank with 32 of them being girls.**
- **Across all programs, we served more youth of color than Caucasian youth as a percentage of population.**
- **Over 5,700 Scouts BSA youth attended a weeklong summer camp, which means 8 of every 10 Scouts attended camp.**

- Our Archery Ranges at the MN State Fair had more than 5,700 youth participants.
- Two Scouts BSA service projects made national news and were featured on KARE 11's Boyd Huppert's "Land of 10,000 Stories".
- Membership advertising on Facebook, Instagram and Google Search resulted in over one million impressions, 5,353 clicks to the campaign landing page, E-Blast to 323,000 eligible households resulted in 92,000 opens and 11,000 clicks to our joining website.
- Media coverage of positive Scouting stories in print and online resulted in 5.92 million

impressions.

- Facebook and Instagram posting resulted in a reach of 161,000 and 11,700 with growth in our two active Facebook Groups: Scouts BSA (1.7K members) and Cub Scouts (950 members).
- Exploring highlights for 2022-23 include a return to Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the MN State Fair for our Fire/Rescue Posts. There was also a return of the MN Law Enforcement Explorers, while our Aviation Explorers traveled to the Oshkosh Airshow.
- In 2022, the Totanhan Nakaha Lodge of the Order of the Arrow coordinated two service projects for Fort Snelling National Cemetery, with over 1,200 volunteers.
- 72 of our Polaris adult program participants came out to Base Camp in mid-September for a day of fun including climbing the outdoor tower for the first time!
- The Polaris/Huron team formalized a pilot project for High School English Language Learner classrooms. 50 students, with five different spoken languages, from Minneapolis Public Schools ventured out to Rum River Scout Camp.