



WELCOME TO SCOUTS BSA!

NORTHERN STAR SCOUTING | WWW.NORTHERNSTAR.ORG

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A "SCOUT"?

Great question! You may be surprised with some of the facts:

- Scouting is the world's largest youth organization, having over 2.4 MILLION members each year!
- Scouting is open to all young men and women age 11 through 18.
- Scouting is a safe place, where everyone is treated with respect.
- Scouts serve as leaders in the Scout group, and are very involved in deciding what activities to do, which trips to take, and who their youth leadership team will be.

Most importantly, Scouting is all about new opportunities: meeting new people, making friends,

Today's Scouts have a lot more interests and a lot more to choose from than Scouts did back in 1910.

Scouts can learn to ride horseback, operate ATVs and personal watercraft, or be pulled by a team of sled dogs!

STEM is a huge part of Scouting. Learn about robotics, aviation, computer science, even video game design. For those who like to create things, there is woodworking, metal working, blacksmithing and even welding!

Many enjoy all that the outdoors offers: camping, hiking, biking, backpacking—some even choose to test themselves in Wilderness Survival courses or by participating in winter camping programs. Scouts who seek High Adventure are climbing, rappelling and hiking mountain trails at elevations above 10,000 feet. They are sailing boats from the Florida Keys to the Bahamas. They are whitewater rafting through a canyon, and more.

There are more than 150 different skills to try out, and for every skill a Scout masters, there is a form of recognition.

The ultimate form of recognition is the rank of Eagle Scout. The pride an Eagle Scout feels will last a lifetime, and the accomplishment is so respected it can be used on applications to gain acceptance to colleges and universities, military academies, and for scholarships. Every branch of the United States military will promote an Eagle Scout one rank just for achieving this recognition.

Join the **FUN**, join the **ADVENTURE**, join us in **SCOUTING**!



NORTHERN STAR SCOUTING

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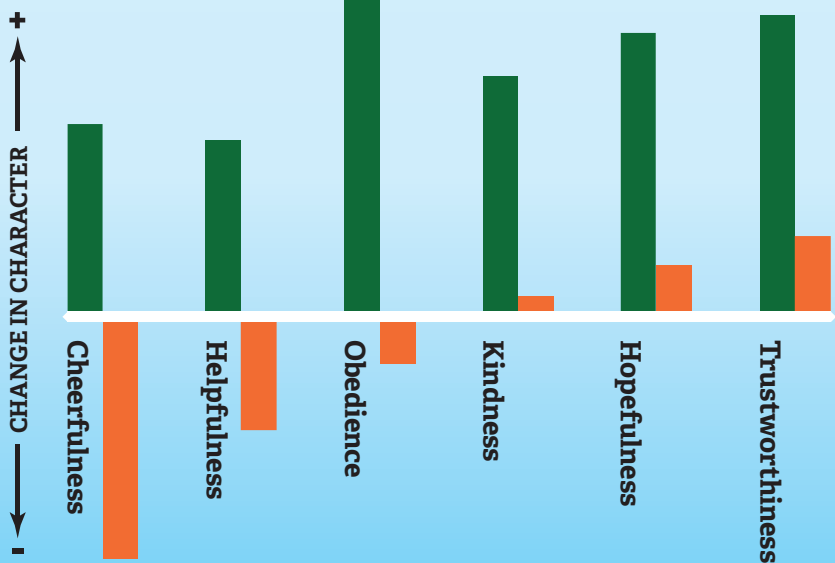
DOES SCOUTING WORK?

Scouting was put to the test over the course of three years, when a research team from Tufts University worked with the Boy Scouts of America to measure the character attributes of both Scouts and non-Scouts. The project, which was funded by the John Templeton Foundation and led by Dr. Richard M. Lerner, surveyed over 2,000 youth in and out of Scouting under age 12 using both interviews and survey data. In the beginning, there were no significant differences in character attributes between the two groups. By the end, however, the differences were striking in six key areas:

CHANGE IN CHARACTER

during the course
of the 3-year study:

■ SCOUTS
■ NON-SCOUTS



KEY FINDINGS:

- ✿ The more time kids spend in Scouting, the better the outcomes in character development.
- ✿ Those who attend meetings regularly report higher outcomes virtually across the board when compared to Scouts with lower attendance.
- ✿ Scouts are more likely to embrace positive social values than non-Scouts.
- ✿ Scouts who are more engaged in the program report higher outcomes in nearly every category.

With fun and discovery at every turn, Scouting makes the most of right now. But what's more, it builds positive character and provides young people a foundation they can stand on to embrace opportunity, overcome obstacles, and make new discoveries.



SCOUTING WORKS.



START HERE!

WHAT IS SCOUTS BSA?

Scouting focuses on six core areas: **Outdoor, Fitness, Citizenship, Leadership, Service, and Social.** Youth who have completed Cub Scouts **or** are at least 10 years old and have completed the 5th grade can join Scouts BSA.

The activities involved are age appropriate and reinforced with recognition and ceremonies. Most importantly, youth have fun while gaining these character-building assets.

Each Scout rank is signified by it's own unique patch.



Scout



Tenderfoot



1st Class



2nd Class



Star



Life



Eagle

WHAT IS A TROOP?



A Scouts BSA troop is comprised of several patrols. The adult leader of the troop is called a Scoutmaster. A Scouts BSA troop is either all male youth or all female youth.

WHAT IS A PATROL??



A patrol is a group of 6-10 youth who are often from the same neighborhood. Patrol meetings or activities usually take place 2-3 times each month. A patrol may have a rank advancement, activity badge, or merit badge that they are working on as a group.

THE HANDBOOK

Every Scouts BSA Handbook is full of activities for rank advancement, working with tools, learning and playing sports, academics, science, nature, outdoor skills, and more. As you complete the requirements in your handbook, the Scoutmaster will "sign off" that the skill was completed.

SCOUTS | LOOKING AHEAD



Scouting is a progression of activities and challenges. Youth will have the opportunity to enjoy robotics, SCUBA diving, rifle and shotgun shooting sports, computer science, and welding. Scout camps even feature ATVs and personal watercraft.



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PROGRAM LEVELS



WHAT DOES A TROOP DO?

Your Scouts BSA troop will have several patrols in it. Troops are typically 25 – 50 Scouts in size.

The real troop leadership comes from the Scouts. Youth members in leadership positions have the responsibility to come up with ideas for activities and events, and even plan the trips and the campouts. There are several youth leadership positions in the troop, and training and support from adults is always available.

Your troop has several adult leaders to help ensure that your plans are a success. The Scoutmaster is the adult leader who also works with Scouts as they learn new skills, and earn their recognitions. This is a big job, and the Scoutmaster is assisted by other adults: A Committee Chair, Committee members, and Assistant Scoutmasters.

The troop is responsible for creating a calendar, and a typical Scout calendar is 3-4 troop meetings a month, and an activity once a month. An activity could be a day outing, or a weekend of camping. It is what the troop plans for.

The troop also ensures that the equipment and funds are available for all of your outings, whether it's a hike along the Superior Hiking Trail, or a whitewater rafting trip in Idaho. The troop works together to make sure that dreams of fun and adventure become reality!

COURT OF HONOR

The purpose of the Court of Honor is to recognize those Scouts who have advanced in rank, or earned merit badges and activity patches. Troops often hold Courts of Honor several times a year to recognize Scouts by formally presenting awards and badges earned at different stages in the year, such as following a troop's visit to summer camp.

YOU DON'T NEED A TITLE TO HELP OUT!

Scouting is a volunteer organization. There are places and ways for every adult to help out. You will feel the pride in seeing your Scout earn their recognition, and you will feel the same pride when helping out with their patrol and troop. Together, you are building memories that will last a lifetime.

EASY WAYS TO HELP OUT, BUT NOT BE IN CHARGE:

- Provide transportation
- Pick up items at the Scout Shop
- Manage money
- Set up for a ceremony
- Drop off stuff at the council office
- Bring snacks
- Bring a grill
- Make phone calls
- Make spreadsheets
- Track rosters



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SCOUTS BSA MEMBERS 

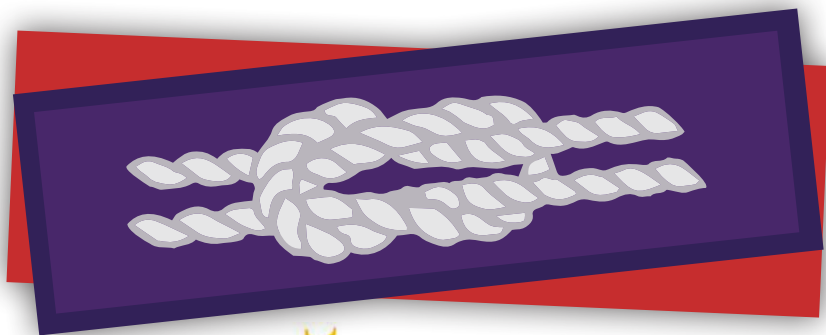
WHAT DOES A PATROL DO?

OTHER INTERESTS? THAT'S OKAY!

If your child has a penchant for sports, science, or other extracurricular activities, they can also do Scouts BSA! Just keep your Scoutmaster informed as to the days of conflict with other activities, and they will understand. What takes place in a patrol or troop meeting can often be made up at another time.

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS PROGRAMS

For Scouts and families who wish to participate, the Boy Scouts of America offers Religious Emblems Programs for nearly every faith. These programs are administered by various religious organizations and are approved by the Boy Scouts of America. Once the programs are completed, the Scout or adult leader who has completed the program are allowed to wear the recognition of their accomplishment on the official uniform.



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STUFF TO DO



TESTIMONIALS

Hundreds of Scouts travelled to Puerto Rico after a devastating hurricane on September 20, 2017. Without hundreds of volunteers to put in thousands of man hours, the Guajataka Scout Reservation wouldn't have been able to open for summer camp. Charlie N. was one of those Scouts who volunteered to help. "I thought, I grew up in Boy Scouts and I always wanted to give back. Scouts helped me grow up and I knew I had to give back so I applied and was glad to be selected to assist."

-Charlie N. of Troop 345

"In addition to learning a bunch of new skills, I have had some of the greatest experiences, such as whitewater kayaking, high ropes courses, and many other activities," Neri said. "I have also met some really good friends that I'll have for a lifetime."

-Brandon N. of Troop 316 Shakopee

"Scouting has given me great experiences, especially high adventure and international opportunities. I went to the World Jamboree in Japan, was part of a troop in Holland for three months and have been sailing on a 52' Schooner on Lake Superior."

-Matthew V. of Troop 368 and Ship 248

THE DISTRICT

HERE TO SERVE!

A Scouting District is a geographic area which has volunteers and at least one Scouting Executive to support the Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops and Venturing crews in the district. Each district has its own name, and may have as many as 60 Scouting units and activities to support.

ROUNDTABLE

A gathering of volunteer leaders and parents once a month, where those who attend will receive important information, find out about upcoming events and activities, and socialize with their peers. This is a great opportunity for adults to share ideas, challenges, and learn from one another.

CAMPOREES

A camporee is many things—camping fun for youth, the thumping of hundreds of feet on the way to an evening campfire, and the blue smoke from fires cooking stew or ham and eggs. It's the patter of rain on many tents at night. It's the ripple of wind-blown flags in the morning sun. It's catching the idea of team work in a patrol. It's learning to carry out an order to help the team succeed. A camporee can be a perfect showplace for the Scouting program and, therefore, go far beyond just being a gathering of youth. Camporees are held on a council or district basis. They may be held at any time of the year. Camporee programs may include contests and demonstrations of outdoor Scouting skills as well as campfires, games, and field events. These activities can show Scouting at its best.

TRAINING

Districts will also conduct a variety of trainings for those who are parents or volunteer leaders. Trainings could include: working through advancement, staging recognitions and ceremonies, outdoor skills, working with youth, etc.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

The Northern Star Council provides year-round programs and opportunities to nearly 50,000 young people annually. In order to accomplish that, we rely on over 15,000 volunteers!

To provide quality program, service and support to our youth and to our volunteers, we have 83 full time paid staff and 40 part time staff members. These staff members may have a specialty in camping and program, unit support, training or fundraising, etc., but all stand ready to help when asked.

We also have nearly 600 seasonal employees to help us run camping programs – year round! If you need help, visit our web site for contact information. Help is only a phone call or an e-mail away!



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DISTRICT SUPPORT



THE COUNCIL

WHAT DOES NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL DO?

Northern Star Council is the name we use to describe the geographic area which we are a part of. The area covers four counties in western Wisconsin to the South Dakota border. Within these boundaries we serve over 50,000 youth each year.

Northern Star Council has a professional staff and a support staff who work together to support all of our Scouting programs, which includes: operating 9 different camps, offering a council wide fundraiser for our Scouts and Scouting units, large scale activities at our camps, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs and a variety of training opportunities and partnerships with other organizations.

STEM IN SCOUTING | NOVA AND SUPERNOVA

The NOVA Awards program incorporates learning with activities and exposure to science, technology, engineering and mathematics for Scouts. The requirements and activities for earning these awards stimulate interest in STEM-related fields and shows how STEM topics apply to the world around them. Mentors help bring this engaging, contemporary, and fun program to life for youth members.

Nova

Each Nova award covers one component of STEM—science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. Each field yields recognition

Supernova

A more rigorous achievement, requirements and activities for Supernova are designed to motivate youth and recognize more in-depth, advanced achievement in STEM-related activities.

PARTNERSHIPS

Northern Star Council works with other organizations and businesses to offer specially discounted Scout events!



ENDEAVORS



BUCK HILL



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STUFF TO DO



THE COUNCIL

FUNDRAISING

Camping, pins, and badges cost money.

The council-sponsored popcorn sales, held each fall, will teach salesmanship, goal setting, adult interaction, public speaking, budgeting, and more. Youth can "earn their own way" when it comes to going to camp or other Scouting activities.

Fundraisers give your unit more money to spend on programming while reducing out of pocket expenses for parents.

No child is ever turned away due to lack of money. All youth can participate in Scouting no matter what their family's financial situation may be.

GET THE SKILLS TO LEAD

Common sense tells us training is important, and research shows the importance of trained leaders. A trained leader is knowledgeable and more confident in the role being performed, and those traits will be picked up by the people around them. Trained leaders exhibit a knowledge and confidence that is picked up by the people around them. Trained leaders impact the quality of programs, leader tenure, youth tenure, safety and a whole lot more. A trained leader is better prepared to make the Scouting program - serving our youth - all that it can be!



UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING

The University of Scouting events are an opportunity to network and learn with over 800 other parents and leaders - regardless of experience. It takes place twice a year in April and October. You will find over 100 courses with an emphasis on how to deliver high quality opportunities to youth.

"Through Scouting, I've been able to meet new people, make new friends and gain valuable leadership skills that are hard to learn anywhere else. I've also gained important life skills such as first aid and a commitment to service."

-Sam G. of Troop 582 and Crew 188



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STUFF TO DO



CAMPING



The Northern Star Council is fortunate to have 8 different camp properties where we can offer quality program for youth in the Scouts BSA. You can expect a consistent, high caliber approach in our service to you, your troop, and your family.

From our camp staff to our volunteers, we are committed to discovering the principles of Scouting by delivering fun experiences that build character, citizenship, fitness, and family.

At Camp Northern Star, your safety is our top priority. Each of our camps undergo an annual safety and quality analysis as part of a national camp accreditation program. From there we strive to ensure that quality, service and innovation are seen in all of your program, facilities and staff interactions.

You can even continue the camping adventure in the winter! Join us for program filled adventures like North Wind and Snow Base, which offer three levels of challenges providing exciting winter experiences that build character, citizenship, fitness, and family. Activities such as ice climbing, snow shoeing, tubing and ice fishing are among those you will find at these fun winter camps!



CAMPING



Honoring the generous support of the Andersen Windows family, Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp sits directly on the banks of the scenic St. Croix River, near Stillwater. Opened in 1928, this camp is a perfect spot to launch a canoe trip or plan an overnight campout. Bluffs of solid rock divide the property into two levels with 260 acres of dense forest, open fields, and unique rock formations to explore. If you're planning a trip here, you'll want to make sure to check out Friendship Rock and historic Good Medicine Lodge. **UNIQUE FEATURES:** St. Croix River, rock bluffs, President's Hiking Trail, remote backpacking area, Friendship Rock, Devil's Basin, and Good Medicine Lodge



Only four miles north of Anoka on the banks of the beautiful Rum River, Rum River Scout Camp is a fantastic wilderness option for camping opportunities within the metro area. Purchased with penny stock donated by Harlan Thurston in November, 1957, Rum River Scout Camp is a 167 acre facility covered with stands of pine and oak groves. Whether you like disc golf, canoeing, or orienteering, Rum River has something for everyone to enjoy. **UNIQUE FEATURES:** Rum River, Raccoon Vista Nature Trail, challenge course, disc golf course, canoe rental.



About 10 miles north of Stillwater on the banks of the beautiful St. Croix River, this 104 acre property is an idyllic setting. With a mix of woods, open fields, and access to the river, Kiwanis Scout Camp is the perfect place to relax and have fun. Offering plenty of indoor housing, a condensed layout, complete wifi coverage and multiple conference spaces, Kiwanis is a popular choice for both training events and outings for young participants. **UNIQUE FEATURES:** St. Croix River, conference spaces (Gordon Hall & Randall Hall), commercial kitchen, sport court, personal fitness course, climbing tower and wifi across the entire property!



Base Camp is Northern Star Scouting's new home! This 6 acre campus includes the 35,000 square foot TeamBuilding Center and the 42,000 square foot Leadership Center. Base Camp is located at historic Fort Snelling and adjacent to 14,000 acres of wild lands, the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, and parks and trails. Base Camp offers indoor and outdoor programs for Scouting and community groups. **UNIQUE FEATURES:** Home to our council headquarters, year-round indoor climbing, archery and ropes course, and leadership lab. Visit: www.ExploreBaseCamp.org



CAMPING



This resident summer camp is located in a beautiful wilderness setting in northwest Minnesota near the town of Park Rapids. With 1,669 acres of wooded land in the White Earth State Forest, 9 miles of shoreline on Many Point and Round Lake, and located near the 143,000 acres of the Tamarack National Wildlife Refuge, it's the perfect place for your Scout troop's or Venture crew's summer camp experience. Each camp has its own style of food service (dining hall or patrol catering). **UNIQUE FEATURES:** ATVs, tree houses, five stand shotgun outpost, water trampoline, SCUBA, jet skis, climbing, and resort style family camp. Visit www.ManyPoint.org.



Tomahawk Scout Reservation is located on Long Lake in northwestern Wisconsin, 20 miles north of Rice Lake. There are nearly 3,100 acres of woodland area and over 13 miles of shoreline. Tomahawk offers an Arrow of Light camp for transitioning Webelos and three independent Boy Scout camps. Each camp has its own style of food service. **UNIQUE FEATURES:** ATVs, horse back riding, whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, giant blob, logging camp outpost, Bison Ranch, big boat sailing, resort style family camp, and the Snow Base winter camping program. Visit www.CampTomahawk.org



With 1200 acres of open fields, rolling hills and thick forest, Camp Stearns is an ideal spot for a small overnight campout or a major event of several thousand people. Bordering several lakes and bisected by the meandering Clearwater River, it's also a great area to launch a canoe. If you're planning a trip here, you'll want to keep your eyes peeled for wildlife including Sand Hill Cranes, Whitetail Deer, beavers and wild turkeys. Also keep your ears open for nightly hoots of the owl! **UNIQUE FEATURES:** Clearwater River, High Ropes Course, Event Fields, Lake Caroline, Little Otter Lake, Inspiration Point, Tonkawa Lodge, Foust Pavillion, Family Camp, and North Wind



Only five miles west of Cannon Falls, Phillippo Scout Reservation and its 498 acres of rolling fields, wooded campsites and hills overlook the beautiful Cannon River Valley. With easy access to both the Cannon River and Cannon Valley Bike Trail the site is an ideal launching point for a long distance trip. Since its opening in 1964, the site has proved an ideal host for events of all sizes. The property is even conveniently divided into an upper and lower level so that two large events can occur simultaneously without issue. **UNIQUE FEATURES:** Lake Byllesby Reservoir, Cannon River, Friendship Point Bluff Overlook, 6 Shooting Sports Ranges.



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CAMPING



CONNECT WITH US

WE'RE ON THE INTERNET!

Share your photos! Share your ideas! Watch our videos! Show the world!



WE HAVE A DIGITAL AND PRINT NEWSPAPER!



Get the latest information eight times per year sent directly to your email address, with full content on our website. All leaders and members automatically receive this at the email address provided on your application. You can subscribe or update your email address and preferences at any time. eNavigator is customized for you!

The print Navigator is a quarterly newspaper-sized publication mailed to all leaders in February, May, August, and November. The February special Family Edition is sent to all Scouting households.

MONTHLY SCOUTING MAGAZINE

The Scouts BSA publishes a monthly Scouting magazine to entertain and educate America's youth and to open their eyes to the joyous world of reading. This is accomplished through a proven mix of news, nature, sports, history, fiction, science, comics, and Scouting activities from around the world. The annual subscription is only \$12, and is priceless to those Cub Scouts who get something just for them in the mailbox once a month!



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CONNECT



SCOUT SHOP

Your Complete
One-Stop Scout Shops

CUB SCOUTING • SCOUTS, BSA • VENTURING

UNIFORMS • INSIGNIA • LITERATURE • TROPHIES & AWARDS
CAMPING EQUIPMENT • GIFT CARDS • CRAFTS • AND MORE

BURNSVILLE

14250 Plymouth Ave S
Burnsville, MN 55337

952-892-0206

HOURS: M-F 9:30 am - 6:30 pm
Sat. 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

TWIN CITIES SCOUT SHOP

2218 County Hwy 10
Mounds View, MN 55122

763-786-3090

HOURS: M-F 9:30 am - 6:30 pm
Sat. 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

PETER J. KING FAMILY FOUNDATION

LEADERSHIP CENTER
6202 BLOOMINGTON RD
FORT SNELLING, MN 55111

612-261-2490

HOURS: M-F 9:30 am - 6:30 pm
SAT: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

PLYMOUTH

10100 6TH AVE N
PLYMOUTH, MN 55441

763-417-9066

HOURS: M-F 9:30 am - 6:30 pm
SAT 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

UNIFORM EXCHANGE

When?

The 2nd and 3rd Thursday of each month from
4:30-6:30pm

Where?

Peter J. King Family Foundation Leadership Center
6202 Bloomington Rd
Fort Snelling, MN 55111

The Uniform Exchange allows Scouts access to used uniforms at a low cost. It's also a great way to donate your uniform to Scouts in need of one. Shirts, pants, shorts, neckerchiefs, socks, and hats are welcome!