



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
CAPITOL AREA COUNCIL



**2019  
YEAR IN REVIEW**



# Key 3 Message

“

Scouting's legacy is leadership. We teach it best when we allow young people to try, make mistakes, and then learn what to do differently the next time. All youth have the opportunity through Scouting to become a leader while gaining the skills necessary to solve problems as a team, together. Our nation's future depends on this generation and its ability to learn these lessons.

”

Marietta Scott, President  
Jack Gindler, Commissioner  
Jon C. Yates, Scout Executive

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
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Total youth membership*	22,314
Cub Scouts.....	10,239
Scouts BSA.....	6,146
Venturing.....	287
Exploring/STEM Scouts/Learning for Life...	5,642

Youth membership retention\* 78%

Unit retention\* 94%

Total nights camped (youth)\*\* 28,728

Scouts BSA camping\*\* 61%

Scouts attending any in-council or out-of-council long-term camp, specialty camp, high adventure experience, jamboree, or serving on camp staff

Cub Scouts camping\*\* 61%

Scouts attending any in-council or out-of-council day camp, family camp, and/or resident camp

Cub Scouts advancing in rank\* 67%

Scouts BSA advancing in rank\* 45%

Merit badges earned\* 15,311

Top 5 earned:



Swimming  
656



First Aid  
622



Citizenship  
in the World  
485



Environmental  
Science  
464



Citizenship  
in the Nation  
434

\*As of December 6, 2019

\*\*As per October 31, 2019, Journey to Excellence report and December 1, 2019, council camping report



# Camps

Scout participation broken out by some of our most popular and well-attended programs:

Cub Scout Day Camp	1,126
TechLab STEAM Day Camp	272
Cub Scout Pack Family Camping	3,141
Webelos Extreme/Cub Resident Camp	190
Scouts BSA Summer Camp*	2,815
Scouts BSA Winter Camp**	700
NYLT	192
High Adventure Camping***	1,270
World Scout Jamboree	61

\* Includes summer camp attendance in-council and out-of-council by CAC units

\*\* Registered participants for 2019 Winter Camp at Lost Pines Scout Reservation

\*\*\* Includes Scouts BSA/Venturing/Sea Scouting attendance at BSA High Adventure Bases

Scouts BSA Troop 109, chartered by Lockhart First United Methodist Church, and Scouts BSA Troop 1993, chartered by The Masters School of San Marcos, mark a successful visit to the Boy Scouts of America's Florida Sea Base. Scouts and their crew sailed the Key West area, enjoying one of Scouting's most unique high adventure experiences. Scout units often plan one or more years in advance for high adventure trips, and utilize our fall popcorn sale and other fundraisers to cover the cost of activities, transportation, meals, and equipment.



Lost Pines Scout Reservation in Bastrop is our council's premiere camping facility and home to (among other things) our Scouts BSA Summer and Winter Camps. Our programs have proven so successful that they can no longer accommodate additional growth without new and/or expanded facilities. This year, our council's Executive Board approved a plan to build a new Welcome Center, Dining Hall, and Staff Building, plus renovate the existing Dining Hall into a Technology (STEM) Center. Volunteers and staff are now working to raise the funds necessary to build these exciting new additions.



February 1, 2019, marked the launch of girls joining the Scouts BSA program. Nearly 20 all-girl troops were chartered this year in Central Texas with an average of more than a dozen girls in each unit (marks that were among the best in the nation). A primary attraction for girls joining Scouts BSA is the opportunity to take part in the exact same program as has been offered to boys for decades. In March, these new girl troops attended a special camp out at Lost Pines Scout Reservation to learn basic outdoor skills like First Aid, fire building, safe usage of axes and knives, orienteering, and more.





Earl Proeger

October 20

I spent the day sick and disengaged, but so grateful for the good leaders, volunteers, den leaders, etc of pack 162! My children had an awesome day of growing, connecting and participating in something bigger than themselves. Thanks, scouting! — at Cub World at Camp Tom Wooten.

# New Opportunities

2019 marked the introduction of girls joining the Scouts BSA program and the completion of membership changes by the Boy Scouts of America to better serve the entire family.

For decades, parents with sons and daughters asked for a way to involve all of their children in the same proven program of leadership and character development. In response, the Boy Scouts of America implemented a new national membership policy in September 2018 that allowed girls in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade to join Cub Scouting as members of co-ed or girl-only Cub Scout Packs. In February of 2019, the Scouts BSA program welcomed girl-only troops for girls ages 11 through 18, taking part in the same program as boy-only troops have since 1910. With these changes, our organization can now offer an entire family a seamless program teaching leadership and values through fun and adventure throughout all of childhood.



The Newby family celebrated Scouting's new opportunities, saying, "We are officially a 3-Scout family! We are so proud that our daughter can finally be recognized for all of the campouts and activities she has been doing alongside her brothers for the past six years!" Henry Newby (left) is a member of Cub Scout Pack 310, chartered by Trinity Episcopal School. Caroline Newby (center) is a member of Scouts BSA Troop 72, chartered by Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church. William Newby (right) is a member of Scouts BSA Troop 310, chartered by Trinity Episcopal School.

KVUE News featured our council's first Scouts BSA Troop for girls in Elgin during one of the station's February newscasts. Madison Woehl, Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 473, told the reporter covering the story that she had waited a long time for this moment. "I actually started crying in my car knowing that me and my mom were going to drop off paperwork at the BSA building, and I started crying and I was just bawling my eyes out," Woehl said. "I've been waiting for this for the longest time, and it just brought so much joy to me because I finally get to do what I love." Scouts BSA Troop 473 is chartered by First United Methodist Church of Elgin.



More Videos

Girls in the Scouts BSA program wear the same uniform, earn the same awards, and follow the same program as boys - but belong to separate girl-only troops. They take part in activities like summer camp, high adventure treks, and the annual Report to State and Scout Parade in downtown Austin (Scouts from Troop 4050, chartered by Christ Lutheran Church in Georgetown, are seen here waiting for the 2019 parade to start). Girls joining in 2019 are among the first in the 109-year history of the Boy Scouts of America with the opportunity to earn the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.





# Scout



Our council recognized the largest class of Eagle Scouts in its 107-year history during the annual On My Honor: Eagle Scout Class Reception at the Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center (seen above). 497 members of Scouts BSA Troops earned the prestigious award in 2018. In order to earn the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges (13 of which must be from a required list), serve in a leadership position within a troop, and conduct a significant service project benefitting the community.



Zachary Aronson of Sea Scout Ship 911 and Matthew Sabuda of Ship Sea Scout 441 (pictured right) finished second at the Sea Scouts International Koch Cup qualifying race. The placement earned them a spot in the prestigious 2020 sailing event, where they will engage in friendly competition with Sea Scouts from around the world over several days. Ship 911 is chartered by San Gabriel Presbyterian Church of Georgetown. Ship 441 is chartered by Lake Travis United Methodist Church of Lakeway.



Volunteer leader Juan Alba talks with a film crew during a commercial production shoot at Austin's Zilker Park. Alba, other leaders, and Scouts in Scouts BSA Troop 489 were chosen to take part in the Boy Scouts of America's new series of recruiting videos titled, "Scouting in the City." The videos, to be released in early 2020, will be available to councils nationwide to help promote Scouting as an activity for youth anywhere - including urban areas.



Volunteer Jay Kruemcke (left) and other adult members of the Tonkawa Lodge's "AVK" or "All Vigil Kitchen" take part in the annual "Meat-a-Thon" at Lost Pines Scout Reservation near Bastrop. Members work for three days to smoke, trim, slice, and vacuum pack more than 3,000 pounds of brisket for our Scouts and leaders each year at summer camp. Tonkawa Lodge is our council's chapter of the Order of the Arrow, the camping honor society of the Boy Scouts of America.



Scouts took part in the annual fall popcorn sale to raise money for their local Scouting unit and all BSA programs across our council. Participating in the sale helps Scouts develop sales skills, self-confidence, and resilience. This year's sale raised more than \$2.1 million to help fund Scouting across the 15 counties we serve in Central Texas.



2019 recipients of the Venturing Leadership Award (L to R): Curtis Heldstab, Endulas Sturms. The award recognizes youth and adults who have made exceptional contributions to the Venturing program and who exemplify the Scout Oath and Law.





These 10 Scouters received the Silver Beaver Award in our council in 2019. The award is the highest honor presented at the local council level for service to youth through Scouting.



Ellen Ault



Dan Beckett



Gary Boyd



Kelly Brent



Ron Garland



Keith Graf



James "Tink" Hill



Kuruvila Mani



Peter Sargent



Ellyn Yacktman



Presented to adult volunteers and/or organizations providing exceptional service to rural and/or urban at-risk youth

Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award

- James R. Graham
- Paul Hilt
- Bobby Kent, Jr.
- Kevin Knesek
- Greg Patek



Presented to adult volunteers providing exceptional service to Hispanic youth

Scouting... Vale la Pena! Service Award

- Michael Holmes
- Carolina Resendiz



Presented to adult volunteers and organizations providing exceptional service to youth through the Exploring program

William H. Spurgeon III Award

- Ben Davis
- Kirby Baird

# Salute



Scouting's leadership opportunities extend beyond a Scout's local unit. These Scouts served as leaders of our council's Venturing Officers Association in 2019. Thanks to (L to R) Lynna Benhamou, VP-Program; Meg Hunnicke-Smith, President; and Dylan White, VP-Communications. Venturing is a co-ed Scouting program for youth ages 14 to 20 offering challenging high-adventure activities, sports, and hobbies that teach leadership skills, provide opportunities to teach others, and give teenagers the opportunity to learn and grow in a supporting, caring, and fun environment.



2019 recipients of the Exploring Leadership Award (L to R): Dr. Hector Aguilar, Alice Yi, Jordan Malone, Allyson Hall, Amanda Baker. The award recognizes youth and adults who have given exceptional leadership in Exploring or Learning for Life programs.

2019 recipient of the Torch of Gold Award: Archer Hadley. The award recognizes adults for exceptional service and leadership in working with differently-abled Scouts.



The Rotary Club of Pflugerville honored Scouting volunteer Rico Reyes with the Cliff Dochterman Award. The award recognizes an individual Rotarian who acts as a role model and renders distinguished and dedicated service to Scouting through active service, leadership, or other exemplary contributions to the Scout Association.



2019 recipients of the Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award (L to R): Christy Cochran, Dr. Tim Urban, Deborah Vasquez. The award recognizes educators who instill Scouting values in students.



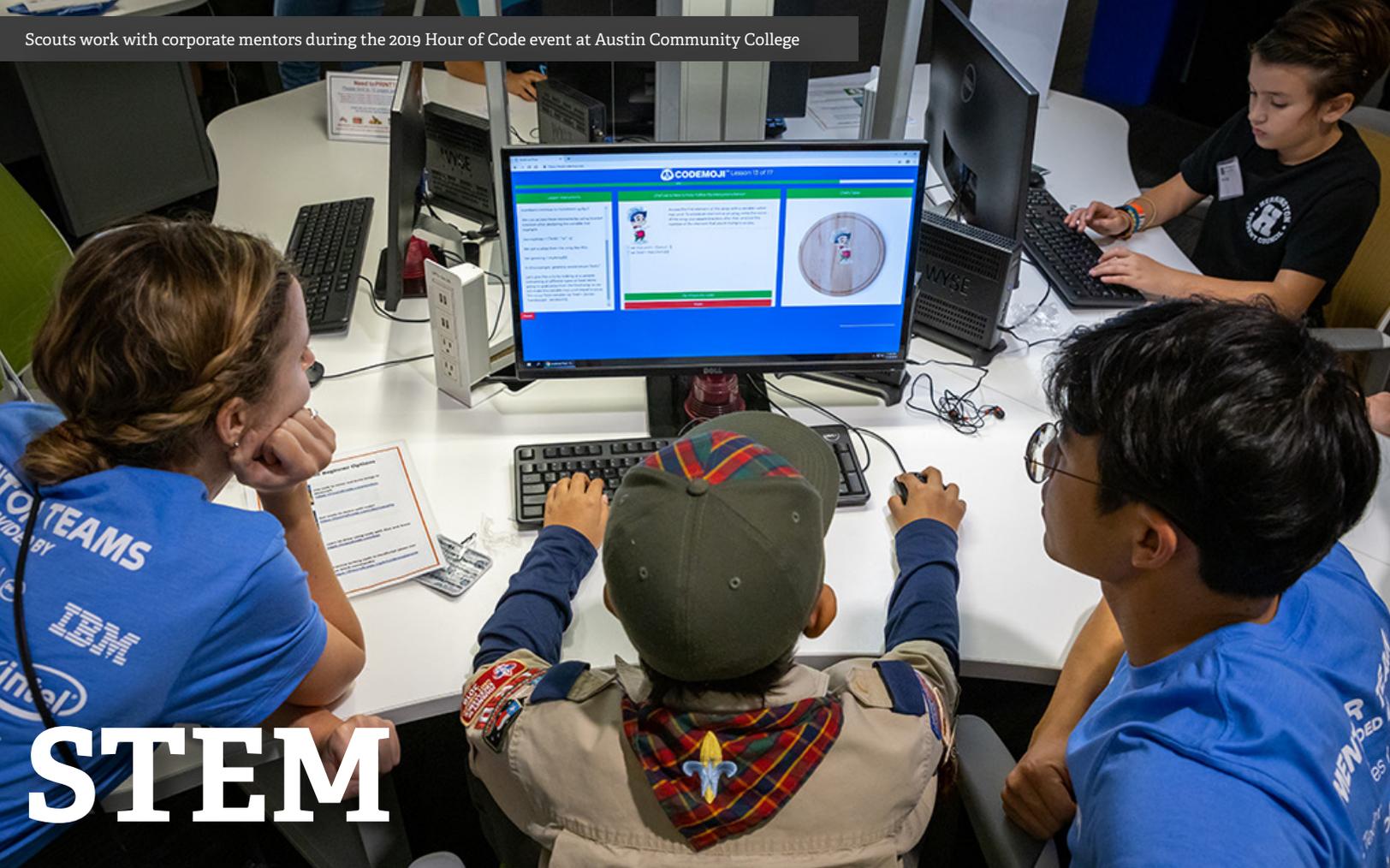
Photo courtesy Victoria Advocate

Attorney Errol John Dietze was honored by community members for being the first Eagle Scout in Cuero. He earned the award in 1955. In his recognition speech, Dietze spoke about his experience as a Scout, the leadership skills he acquired through the organization and the importance of having organizations like the Scouts available to youth in the area to learn important life lessons.



2019 recipients of the Sea Scout Leadership Award (L to R): Laura Cook, Jessica Steen, Venus Morales. The award recognizes youth and adults who have shown exceptional dedication and provided outstanding leadership to the Sea Scouting program.





# STEM

America's need for STEM (that's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and inspiration requires innovative thinking. Our council has answered this call by partnering with Central Texas educators and corporate citizens in a variety of ways, including our annual Hour of Code event with Austin Community College and companies such as Google, IBM, Dell Technologies, General Motors, Atlassian, Intel, Cisco, and more. Even if a Scout doesn't grow up to work in technology, learning STEM skills will help our youth become better problem solvers in whichever field they eventually choose.

While computers play a role in STEM, there is much more to explore. Scouting has been involved in STEM learning long before computers existed, introducing youth to topics such as Environmental Science, Soil and Water Conservation, Insect Study, Chemistry, Geology, Weather, and more in hands-on experiences at summer and winter camps. The addition of our mobile lab, The Vortex, has helped us bring engaging STEM education programs to even more youth who wouldn't otherwise have access.



Students at Round Rock's Bluebonnet Elementary learn about magnets in The Vortex mobile lab. The Vortex visited more than 6,000 students in 2019.

In 2019 our council debuted its first "Innovation Design Challenge." Scouts designed an app addressing a world or local sustainability challenge, and then "pitched" their idea in three minutes or less to judges at the Facebook Austin offices. Youth had to submit a basic wireframe of their application, address questions about the purpose of the app, and develop a start of the app code using the Code.org platform. The best pitches earned a \$2,000 cash prize for their Scout unit. Hugh Forrest, Director of the SXSW Interactive Festival, and Robert Metcalfe, Professor of Innovation at UT-Austin's Cockrell School of Engineering, were among the judges.



The annual STEM Adventure Weekend at Lost Pines Scout Reservation offered a fun weekend outdoors plus chances for Scouts to explore Astronomy, Environmental Science, Engineering, Robotics, Geocaching, and more. Campers also had a chance to earn one of the Boy Scouts of America's Nova Awards, which range in topic from agriscience and water to physics and engineering. In the same weekend, a Scout can learn how to program an electronics control board plus enjoy a traditional campfire under a starry sky.



Our world-class STEM summer day camp, TechLab, celebrated its fifth year in 2019. The camp is a partnership between our council and the Austin Independent School District. Hosted at Anderson High School's Applied Technology Center, TechLab campers get the opportunity to not just learn but also practice skills in 3D design, robotics, welding, hydrology, and more. Each summer's camp has additional programming associated with a theme that rotates between Oceans, Space, Rainforest, Caves, and Arctic. The camp serves youth both in and out of Scouting, including many students from Title I elementary schools.



Members of Explorer Post 247 raised funds for, purchased, and delivered a power-lifting chair to an Austin man who was not physically able to lift himself and often had to call local first responders for help. Post 247 is a partnership between our council and Austin-Travis County EMS.



# To Help Other People

Hours of community service performed (by district)\*:

Chisholm Trail	11,707	3.46 hours per Scout
Blackland Prairie	7,416	7.19 hours per Scout
Order of the Arrow	7,280	4.35 hours per Scout
Armadillo	6,736	3.14 hours per Scout
Thunderbird	5,657	3.21 hours per Scout
North Shore	5,418	2.55 hours per Scout
Sacred Springs	4,331	2.94 hours per Scout
San Gabriel	2,750	3.20 hours per Scout
Bee Cave	2,239	1.30 hours per Scout
Live Oak	1,734	3.43 hours per Scout
Hill Country	1,431	3.76 hours per Scout
Colorado River	795	1.26 hours per Scout
Waterloo	118	0.15 hours per Scout

\*Reported totals through BSA Journey to Excellence as of December 2, 2019

Dempsey Smalls of Scouts BSA Troop 910 created two new demonstration areas and expanded a Monarch Butterfly waystation at the Peterson Community Garden in Hutto. Troop 910 is chartered by the Paloma Lake Ward, Round Rock East Stake.



For two decades, Scouts BSA Troop 8787 has spent the Saturday before Memorial Day placing thousands of flags at the Cook-Walden Capital Park Cemetery in Pflugerville. Troop 8787 is chartered by VFW Post 8787.



Scouts BSA Troop 441 built benches and other amenities for residents at the Community First! Village, an affordable housing community for the formerly homeless in East Austin. Troop 441 is chartered by Lake Travis United Methodist Church.



Scouts BSA Troop 198 collected about \$1,000 worth of donations of dry goods for families with a sick child at the Ronald McDonald House in Austin. Troop 198 is chartered by Rolling Hills Community Church.



Ron Garland, Capitol Area Council VP-Endowment, and Mollie O'Hara, Capitol Area Council Executive Board and Endowment Committee Member, present volunteer leader Judith Carroll with recognition as a member of the Boy Scouts of America's Second Century Society. Judith's decision to bequest part of her estate to local Scouting will help ensure future generations of Central Texas youth enjoy and benefit from the Boy Scouts' legacy of outdoor adventure and leadership development.



# Giving Back

Scouting does not happen without the generosity of volunteers and donors. Whether it's time spent as a leader or dollars given to make facilities and opportunities possible for youth, your support makes a difference in families' lives in Central Texas.



Council President Marietta Scott recognized Glenn Beck for his 11 years of service as Scoutmaster for Scouts BSA Troop 155. The troop is chartered by St. John's United Methodist Church of Georgetown.



Clarke Heidrick was named the 2019 recipient of our council's Distinguished Citizen Award. The dinner in his honor raised critical funds for local Scouting.



Jake Yopez of Scouts BSA Troop 410 was the first recipient of our council's Britt Medford High Adventure Scholarship. The Medford scholarship paid 75% of Jake's cost to attend Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. The scholarship is made possible by the generosity of the Medford family, in remembrance of the late Eagle Scout and architect/designer Britt Medford. You can learn more about the Medford scholarship on our website at [www.bsacac.org/high-adventure](http://www.bsacac.org/high-adventure).

Eagle Scouts Cohen Ward, Jacob Barker, and Tyler Kunze were the 2019 recipients the Lockhart Eagle Scout scholarships for post-secondary or vocational education. The scholarships are made possible by the late Byron Lockhart, an Eagle Scout who worked in the FBI and as a local attorney. You can learn more about the Lockhart Eagle Scout Sholarships on our website at [www.bsacac.org/scholarships](http://www.bsacac.org/scholarships).



# In Memoriam

Remembering our Scouting family lost in 2019



Julie Benkoski



F.R. Burnham



Margaret Chesney



Annie Cominotto



Bill Edwards



Patrick Flanagan



Gus Garcia



Joe George



Ruth Goldstein



Peggy Sue Hagle



Charlotte Huthnance



Lamar Joiner



Mark Kendzora



Kenneth Kruse



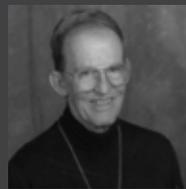
Len Layne



Peggy Maddux



Robert Meyer



Carl Moore



Bob Nyland



Janie Pickering



Bill Powers



Sameer Prasla



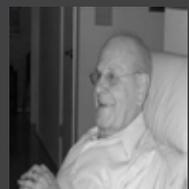
C.L. Ray



Sue Robinson



Luke Rogers



Jack Schroeder



Rodney Simonsen



Steve Sotiros



Carolyn Swenson



Gerald Sylvester



Marc Tellepsen



Brandon Tippie



Robert Underwood



Robb Van Eman



Carey Vendetti



Cavitt Wendlandt



Janie Weir



Alison Wikstrom



Edwin Wilhem



Michael Woehl



Emily Cutting



BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA  
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On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.

