



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
CAPITOL AREA COUNCIL



2021 Year in Review

It's been a difficult two years... especially for children and teens. The combination of an uncertain future and a lack of outdoor activity has resulted, according to researchers, in a doubling of clinically diagnosed depression and anxiety symptoms among youth¹.

Even before 2020, any pediatrician or health expert would have told you at length about the benefits of children spending time outdoors, including increased fitness levels, social aptitude, and – especially – diminished stress². The increased reliance on virtual communication and decreased outdoor socializing necessitated by Covid-19 protocols have further reinforced the importance of these benefits and the activities that deliver them.

Enter Scouting.

Scouting's safe, social, outdoor programs have never been more important for the health and well-being of America's youth. "The data is very clear that the mind and the brain are healthier when we spend more time [...] in nature, but [also] just outdoors in general," says Dr. David A. Merrill, director of the Pacific Neuroscience Institute's Pacific Brain Health Center at Providence Saint John's Health Center³.

But in reviewing the latest studies on youth mental health, even a lack of time outdoors alone doesn't appear to be enough to explain the rise in diagnosed concerns. However, Monash University psychology researcher Mark Czeisler and colleagues believe their continued research⁴ into how young people tolerate uncertainty may help us understand the bigger picture of what's causing the dramatic increase in youth mental health problems.

Once again, enter Scouting.

Dealing with uncertainty is at the very heart of the Scout Motto, Be Prepared. Few, if any, programs give young people experience engaging and overcoming uncertainty, in roles ranging from leader to team member, like Scouting. Age-appropriate activities test younger Scouts' abilities, with trained, caring adults providing supervision and support. Advanced problem-solving and group challenges allow teens to plan, adapt, and – sometimes – fail, all while in a safe, judgement-free environment that prioritizes growth and self-evaluation.

Since 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has helped youth to maximize their potential and grow into successful citizens. Scouting now enters the dawn of a new era, ready to deliver the life-changing opportunities boys and girls from every background so desperately need.



Diego Nieves was a Scout in Mexico before moving to Austin at age 14. While in an HEB, he saw an adult in uniform from Scouts BSA Troop 256 and quickly connected with that unit. With hard work and focus, he earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2021. Troop 256 is chartered by Bannockburn Baptist Church.



Emily Hale, an Eagle Scout from Troop 3451, volunteered her American Sign Language (ASL) skills to help a deaf family in a different troop who had just joined Scouting. Troop 3451 is chartered by St. William Catholic Church.



Ben Smith of Scouts BSA Troop 513 began work on his Eagle Scout project in the Summer of 2020 but dealt with delays at every stage due to the pandemic. He not only finished his project and earned Eagle, but also started college online. He has earned more than 40 hours of credit toward a degree in political science. Troop 513 is chartered by Hope Presbyterian Church.



Members of Cub Scout Pack 155 meet with Williamson County Judge Bill Gravell at the county courthouse while working on the Building a Better World Adventure for the Arrow of Light Award. One of the Adventure's requirements is to meet with a community leader to discuss issues important to your community. Pack 155 is chartered by Grace Lutheran Church.



Bear Cub Scouts from Pack 345 learn about local plants and wildlife during a nature hike with a Park Ranger. Pack 345 is chartered by St. William Catholic Church.



A new member of Cub Scout Pack 21 learns how to make a first aid kit during the pack's September campout. Pack 21 is chartered by Berkeley United Methodist Church.

Members of Scouts BSA Troop 151 during a summer trek to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico - the largest Scout camp in the world. Troop 151 is chartered by First United Methodist Church of Georgetown.



Scout Garland Hart is welcomed by his new Scoutmaster into Scouts BSA Troop 204 during a "crossover" ceremony in March. Troop 204 is chartered by La Grange First United Methodist Men.



1 Global Prevalence of Depressive and Anxiety Symptoms in Children and Adolescents During Covid-19, Racine et al, August 9 2021, Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics

2 Children's Medical Center at Summerlin Hospital

3 The longitudinal associations of physical activity, time spent outdoors in nature and symptoms of depression and anxiety during Covid-19 quarantine and social distancing in the United States, Department of Research and Evaluation, Young et al, 2021, Kaiser Permanente Southern California

4 Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the Covid-19 Pandemic - United States, June 24-30, 2020, Czeisler et al, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Scouting family welcomes all families

Michael Files
VP-Diversity, Council Executive Committee

"I believe the 2010 Baylor University study, Merit Beyond the Badge, clearly provides the "why?" behind the importance for families from all backgrounds to participate in Scouting. The study found there is a "statistically significant difference" between Eagle Scouts, other Scouts and non-Scouts, in several life-centric key areas; such as health and recreation, connection, service and leadership, environmental stewardship, goal orientation, planning and preparedness and character.

I look forward to seeing you on the Scouting Trail!"



Judge Maya Guerra Gamble
Executive Board member, Committee Chair for Scouts BSA Troop 9

"Scouting offers two things to children often lacking elsewhere: 1. time spent with no objective -- those hours on the campout when you the Scouts are doing something, but are playing, lounging, laughing, running are some of the most amazing hours. Our kids' lives are ever-more packed with obligations and schedules. Scouting, through regular camping, offers a break. And even better, it is a break outdoors! 2. freedom to try dangerous things like building a fire, using a knife, sleeping outside, even using an axe or a torch to do metalwork. Life feels so restricted sometimes and our kids don't have the freedom to get first hand experiences the way I did when I was a kid. But Scouting offers opportunity every day for these kinds of experiences: danger, but in a safe way.

In Pack 9 and Troop 9 where my family has done its Scouting, we love new families joining us. We have Scouts from multiple schools, religions, neighborhoods, and cultural backgrounds. The Scouting structure of achievements offers a great opportunity for kids from different backgrounds and experiences to develop common ground between them."

Diana Castro
Committee Chair, Cub Scout Pack 21

"I believe that Scouting offers children and families a chance to grow together and individually. Scouting gives life lessons that are fun and memorable. It gives you self-confidence, leadership, and skills.

It is important for families from all backgrounds to be a part of Scouting because it provides a diverse program that is structured to fit all family background and needs one may have. It can help develop a stronger bond over time between parent and child. Scouting is all about building confidence, self-esteem, learning life skills, leadership, team building, outdoor adventure, education in the now and for the future, having fun... I mean, I can go on and on! The outcome of Scouting is different for everyone but as a family you always take something away from it and that is the beauty of Scouting."



Kuruvila Mani
Council Commissioner

"I moved to the United States when I was 10 years old. My father was a Scout in India and "strongly" encouraged both my brother and I to join Scouting. We joined a small troop in the Midwest and those Scouts and Scouters welcomed us and over time became part of my extended family. We didn't have any equipment or the money to buy any, so my Scoutmaster asked the older Scouts if they had any clothes and equipment that they had outgrown that they could give to us. We were soon more than equipped for our first campout. I discovered later that this behavior is commonplace in Scouts. By teaching our youth to share what they have with their fellow Scouts, we just reinforce many of the points of the Scout Oath Law.

When I became a Scoutmaster in Austin, I happened to be home over the holidays and went to see my old Scoutmaster. The smile on his face when I told him that I had become a Scoutmaster and hoped to make a difference to the youth in my troop like he had done for me and my brother spoke louder than any words. I hope I have been as welcoming to new families in my Troop as my Scoutmaster was to me all those years ago.

Wherever you go in the United States or the rest of the world, people recognize the common values that we all share as Scouts. We all start with the same values which are the Scout Oath and Law, but those shared values don't force us to have the same perspectives. Our different faiths and cultural backgrounds, give us a different perspective that we can and need to share with each other. As immigrants from India, my brother and I certainly looked and sounded different than our fellow Scouts in the Midwest, but we found we had more in common that we realized but that our differences were important as well. We learned from each other, and I believe that our troop was the stronger for it."



"A Scout is friendly. A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He offers his friendship to people of all races and nations, and respects them even if their beliefs and customs are different from his own."

Scout Handbook



Lynn Brooks
International Committee Chair

"My journey (in Scouting) began with my son's Cub Scout Pack, then went global on family trips abroad. My son, played "British Bulldog" with New Zealand Scouts as he had with Troop 5 back home. He adventured with Ecuadorian Scouts and while he didn't speak Spanish, he wanted to return. In 2007, he attended the World Scout Jamboree in England.

We humans are a global, interdependent species. Our survival depends on understanding intercultural communication, sustainability, human rights, global justice, cultural diversity, and environmental stewardship. Scouting offers an all inclusive way to address these issues:

- ▶ Global Network; 54 million Scouts in 172 National Organizations with shared values.
- ▶ World Travel; Explore new places through World Scout Jamborees, World Moots, Kandersteg Scout Center, and more.
- ▶ Care for the Planet; Scouts for SDG's supports the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- ▶ Give Back; Service opportunities such as Messengers of Peace are integral to the Scout mission.
- ▶ Intercultural Exchange; Jamboree on the Air-Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA-JOTI) connects Scouts around the world virtually.
- ▶ FUN!; Play Minecraft, chat with Scouts abroad, learn about what's happening in their country."



Year-round adventure

Scouting resumed year-round traditional camping and outdoor programs in 2021 thanks to the Covid-19 vaccine rollout and improvements in the public health landscape. While no camp program resumed full capacity, the following council events welcomed Scouts for much-needed fun and adventure:

Scouts BSA Summer Camp	1,237 Scouts attended
TechLab STEAM Day Camp	162 Scouts attended
Cub Family Outdoor Discovery	390 Scouts attended
Webelos Extreme Adventure Camp	54 Scouts attended
Scouts BSA Winter Camp*	482 Scouts attended
National Youth Leadership Training	168 Scouts attended
STEM Adventure Weekend	87 Scouts attended
Conservation Award Weekends	230 Scouts attended

* Registrations as of December 1, 2021

A Lion Cub Scout shows off some treasures found during Cub Scout Pack 912's fall campout at Russell Park near Lake Georgetown. Pack 912 is chartered by Hutto Lutheran Church.



Pictured above: A member of Scouts BSA Troop 448 cools off with a treat from the trading post during Summer Camp at Lost Pines Scout Reservation. Troop 448 is chartered by St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church.



Members of Scouts BSA Troop 967 inspect a catch while fishing at Goose Island State Park in October. Troop 967 is chartered by Buda United Methodist Church.



2021 Silver Beaver Award recipients; the highest honor presented at the local council level for service to youth through Scouting:

- Jim Behrens
- John Crawford
- Richard Fant
- Joel Holst
- Dave Smith
- Trey Walls
- Jack Ward



2021 Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award recipients; presented to adult volunteers/organizations providing exceptional service to rural and/or urban at-risk youth:

- Morganne Davies
- Alan Debus
- Sheila Debus



2021 William H. Spurgeon Award recipients; presented to adult volunteers/organizations providing exceptional service to youth through the Exploring program:

- Hector Aguilar
- Shasta Buchanan
- Tori Howard
- Ken Long
- Eric Myers



2021 Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award recipients:

- Allen Dews
- Michael J. Forstner



Eagle Scout Cole Kosch of Scouts BSA Troop 990, chartered by St. John Neumann Catholic Church, produced a video to educate his peers on the dangers of vaping as part of his Eagle project. "I hope that my video will connect with teens to help them understand the dangers of vaping."



Steve Stevens from Sea Scout Ship 911 was recognized with the National Sea Scout Leadership Award. In addition to serving as a unit leader, Steve has constantly volunteered for council events including our annual Sporting Clays Shoot fundraiser.



Greg Smith, member of our council's Executive Committee and the President/CEO of the Austin Revitalization Authority, was honored by the Austin Area Urban League with the Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award.



Danny Kaiser has served youth through Scouting for 55 years. He's served in Colorado River District as a Unit Commissioner and member at large. He's a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, and a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award.

Scout



Two of our Scouts were among the first in the country to earn the BSA's Distinguished Conservation Service Award. Morgan Jones (R) is one of the few to earn the Award's Silver Honor. Declan Howell (L) was recognized in the Bryan on Scouting national blog.



353 young men and women in our council earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2020, overcoming Covid-19 delays to life, school, and Scouting. Among these Scouts are members of the first female Eagle Scout class in the history of the Boy Scouts of America. Eagle Scouts 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.



Neal Carlton, Christian Dohse, Cmdr. Michael Files, Mark Marshall, and Tim Taylor were honored as our council's 2021 recipients of the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Scout Award. This prestigious award is given to an Eagle Scout who has uncommonly demonstrated his commitment to making our community a better place to live, and achieving career and life success.



Sea Scout Ship 911 was recognized as the first Southern Region Flagship. Despite Covid-19, Ship 911 members used ingenuity to meet and sail more than 15 times and perform 335 hours of community service.

Salute



Danny Martinez has served youth through Scouting for 20 years. He has served as a Den Leader, Assistant Scoutmaster, and Scoutmaster. He helped start Scouts BSA Troop 19, one of the first and largest troops for girls in the country.



Tom Trefny was named Boy Scouts of America National Service Territory 7 Sea Scouting Commodore. Tom has been involved in Scouting since 2004. He has recently helped Sea Scouting leaders in the Southern and Western Regions.



Stephen Dillon has served youth through Scouting for 20 years. He has served as a Assistant Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and Charter Organization Representative, supporting Scouts on their Eagle projects and Boards of Review.

Kenneth Hunt of Cub Scout Pack 433, chartered by Del Valle Elementary LEAD, represented our country in the Intercontinental ChessKid FIDE Challenge. Kenneth competed online with more than 1,900 kids from 86 countries, winning three matches.



2021 Venturing Leadership Award recipients:

Karina Kumar Jim Beck
Camille Reyes Michael Capochiano



2021 Sea Scout Leadership Award recipients:

Emma Chao Hugh Mitchell
Gabriella Furnans Harry Polly



Eagle Scout Grant Dzurenko of Scouts BSA Troop 157, chartered by First United Methodist Church of Round Rock, was interviewed by Fox 7 Austin about earning all 137 available merit badges in the Scouts BSA program.

2021 Learning for Life Leadership Award recipients:

Shaun Cranston



Service

From the first time a Scout raises their right hand and promises to “help other people at all times” or be “Friendly, Courteous, and Kind,” they are making a promise to be of service to their community, nation, and world.

(Pictured above): Cub Scout Pack 711 collected food for families in need. Pack 711 is chartered by St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church.



Scouts BSA Troop 70 cleaned historical markers in downtown Austin as a part of an historic trails service project. Troop 70 is chartered by Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church.



Scouts BSA Troop 61 reinforced the barrier of the Pedernales Falls State Park birdwatching area. The barrier helps keep predators out of the area. Troop 61 is chartered by Austin Ridge Bible Church Southwest.



Eagle Scout Alexander Seshan of Scouts BSA Troop 280 led the construction of a 12-foot tower in Dripping Springs for a threatened species. The tower is for Chimney Swift birds, a species that is decreasing in population. The project spanned a total of 150 hours for completion. Troop 280 is chartered by St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church.

Photo courtesy Peter Finley/Macaulay Library

Cub Scout Pack 12 worked together to help Clayton Elementary prepare outdoor classroom spaces for students. There was a critical need for such spaces in 2021 as teachers and administrators considered how to return students to in-person education while adhering to Covid-19 prevention protocols. Pack 12 is chartered by Circle C Homeowner's Association.



The National Eagle Scout Association established the Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award (ESSPY) to recognize valuable service of an exceptional nature by an Eagle Scout candidate to a religious institution, a school, community, or other entity through completion of an Eagle Scout project. This year's recipient from our Council is Shreev Goval of Scouts BSA Troop 371, chartered by Avery Ranch Owners Association. We sat down with Shreev to ask him what made him choose his Eagle Scout project and what he loves most about Scouting.

What made you decide to select a flag retirement pit as your Eagle Scout project?

From very early on, I would see torn flags scattered after Fourth of July. As Cub Scouts, we learned the proper way to retire experienced flags. We retired flags in my Den Leader's portable barbeque grill. I wondered if that's the way people retire flags. When it was time for me to think about my Eagle Scout service project, that's the first thing that came to my mind, creating a flag retirement pit for the community. I approached many places including my community HOA, Veterans posts in Round Rock, Cedar Park, Georgetown. The VFW of Georgetown was very excited about the idea and that's how my Eagle Scout service project became a reality.

What words of advice do you have for other Eagle Scouts preparing for their projects?

Hang in there and don't give up! Finding a true passion project takes time and patience but it is truly rewarding.



Weathering The Storm

On February 13, for the first time on record, the National Weather Service issued Winter Storm Warnings for all 254 counties in Texas. After a prolific amount of snow and ice accumulated, temperatures across our council on February 15 were colder than those in Iceland, Norway, Canada, and Alaska.

Winter Storm Uri, estimated to be the costliest natural disaster in Texas history, left many people in need for weeks on end. Scouts across Central Texas rallied to help, from a neighbor next door to people they'd never met before.



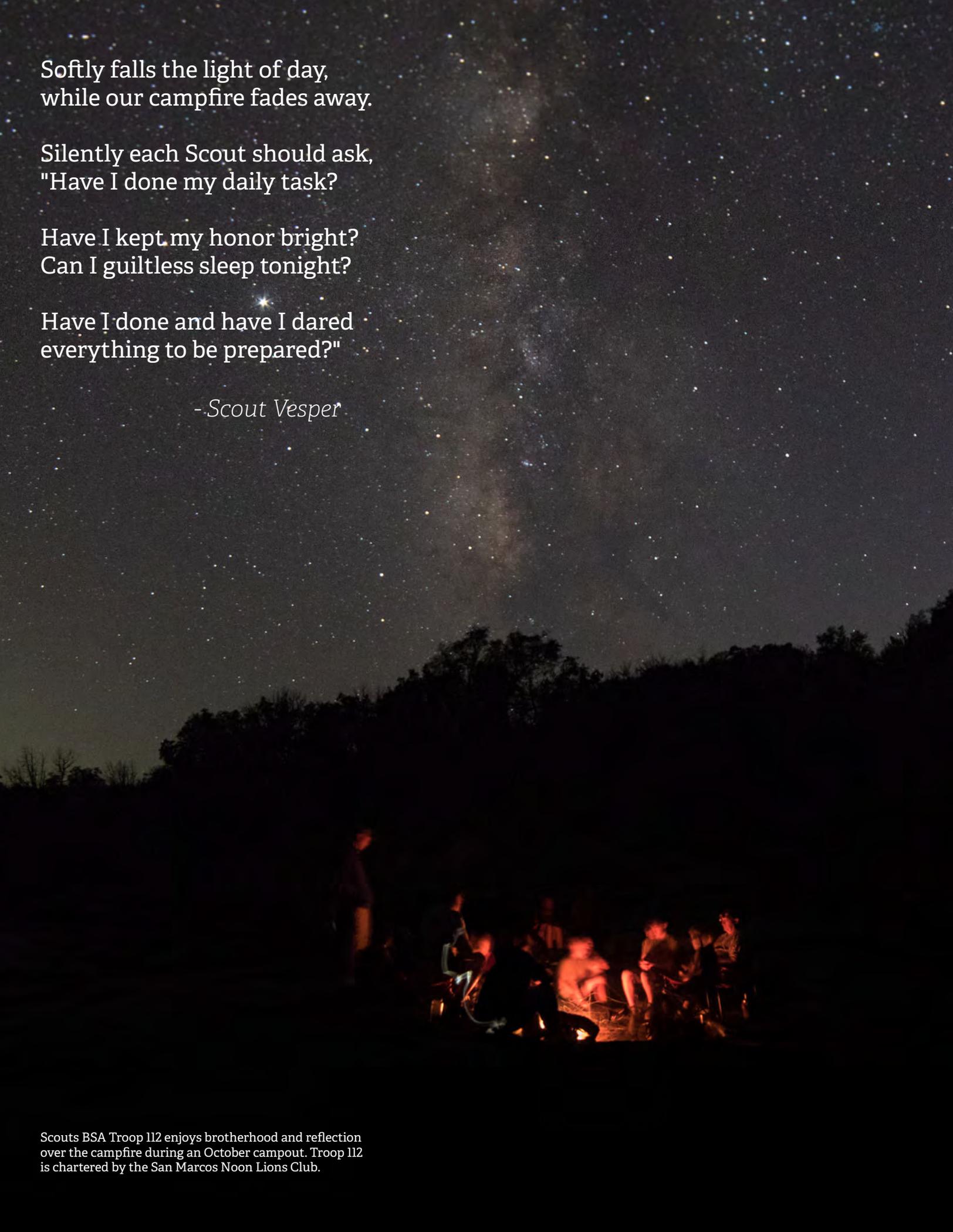
Nathan McCoy of Scouts BSA Troop 403 and his brother, Nolan, of Cub Scout Pack 320 shoveled sidewalks and driveways of senior neighbors' homes after shoveling snow off of their own driveway the day before. Both neighbors were surprised and delighted to find the boys outside clearing the snow and ice. Troop 403 is chartered by St. Paul's Catholic Church and Pack 320 is chartered by Bethany Lutheran Church.



Jackson Elliott of Cub Scout Pack 204, chartered by the La Grange Rotary Club, helped staff the warming center at his church. In addition to greeting people, he also filled water jugs for those without water, packed food bags for the hungry, and helped his parents deliver food and water to people in need around La Grange.



Scouts BSA Troop 395 teamed up with the City of Rollingwood, Travis County Precinct 3 Commissioner Ann Howard, and Austin ISD Trustee Arati Singh to deliver donations of bottled water to families still under a boil water order in Oak Hill and Southwest Austin a week after the winter storm.



Softly falls the light of day,
while our campfire fades away.

Silently each Scout should ask,
"Have I done my daily task?"

Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?

Have I done and have I dared
everything to be prepared?"

- Scout Vesper

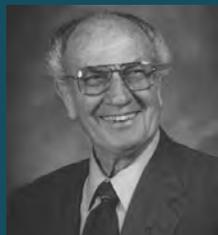
Scouts BSA Troop 112 enjoys brotherhood and reflection over the campfire during an October campout. Troop 112 is chartered by the San Marcos Noon Lions Club.

In Memoriam

Remembering our Scouting family lost in 2021



Tom Barlow



Ted Breihan



Okie Bridges



Tom Buckner



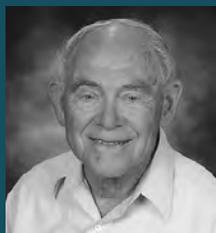
Mac Cannary



Jean Carter



Lee Chesney



Ross Compton



Donald Dacy



Carolyn Deschner



James Fish



John Hajdik



Ryan Jarnigan



Ernie Lerma



Lloyd Lochridge



Thomas McGaha



Martha McGonigle



Christie Nalle



Will Newton



Hector Olvera



David Parkhill



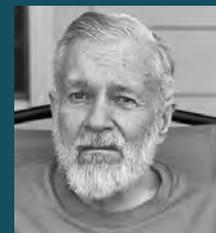
Richard Scott



Jeff Scruggs



Ben Sifuentes



Gary Smeltzer



Bill Spice



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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.

