



BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA®  
CAPITOL AREA COUNCIL



# LEADING ***FORWARD***

2023 Year in Review

A lot of people these days talk at or past each other. Few talk with each other.

***It's very hard to understand, let alone solve, problems that way.***

Scouting believes the key to understanding and potentially solving the problems of today and tomorrow lies with leadership. Specifically, the leadership that will be provided by youth who grow into adults working together and guided by the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

How do you start to learn these leadership abilities? Lord Robert Baden-Powell, worldwide founder of Scouting, said, "the more responsibility the Scoutmaster gives his patrol leaders, the more they will respond." It's with B-P's vision in mind that we bring groups of Scouts from different communities together three weeks each year for a special leadership program called National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). Participants learn from a staff of slightly older and more experienced Scouts.

Eagle Scout Elise Trenk wants to study economics and earn a PhD. For now, though, her role on the NYLT staff is giving her an advanced degree in what it takes to be a true leader. "A leader isn't just about, you know, being in charge, being the boss of everyone, having that control, that power. But it's about serving others and it's about taking into account what they want to do and how to help them become an effective team," says Trenk.



Her staff colleague and fellow Eagle Scout, Maya Granoff, notes that the process of becoming a team can be hard... but that's the point. "Failure is... is encouraged," says Granoff. "It's encouraged because it helps you learn."





For a week, boys and girls at NYLT practice how to diagnose challenges, carry out plans to address them, and evaluate the lessons learned, all while working with peers they hardly know. "It's not just leadership, learning how to lead other people," says Life Scout Jack Pape. "But also learning... about other people's differences... and they don't have to divide you, but they can bring people closer together again."

In its article, "The Benefits of Teamwork and Collaboration in Youth Education," Education Week writes, "Experts believe that teaching youth to work in groups fosters creativity and resilience. These skills are invaluable in a world where problem-solving often requires diverse perspectives." Senior Patrol Leader and Eagle Scout Sam Weiss sums up how NYLT turns these concepts into reality.

"As people, we are social creatures and we interact with one another on a daily basis. But shaping how those interactions are and having the ability to inspire other people to the best of their ability is what leadership is all about. Leadership for me is about inspiration, and I believe that everybody fundamentally can be a leader."

*Want to hear Elise, Maya, Jack,, and Sam describe the NYLT course? Scan this code with your phone.*





# LEADING WITH **COURAGE**



Jaron Rodriguez, 13



Jaron Rodriguez, 3

Just shy of his second birthday, Jaron Rodriguez developed a bump around his right eye. Blood work and scans revealed he had cancer in 90% of his blood. He was diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphocytic leukemia.

Every month for nearly four years, doctors would inject chemotherapy drugs into Jaron's spine. He had to miss school for treatments. It was a lot to ask of any child, but Jaron found a way through it worthy of the highest calling of the Scout Oath and Law: he thought of others.

Jessica Rodriguez, Jaron's mother, said Jaron told his family that he wanted to share his toys since he had so many. But since chemotherapy suppressed his immune system, Jaron had to be isolated from other kids. So, they came up with the idea of starting a YouTube channel and having Jaron share his toys through video reviews. Other children found his channel, Jaron's Toys, and enjoyed it. The account would eventually grow to nearly 30,000 followers.

"We just thought it was going to be his family and friends," his mom said. "It kind of picked up when a couple of videos went viral."

A decade later, Jaron is a healthy Star Scout in Scouts BSA Troop 161 and plays on his school's football and basketball teams. Oh, and his YouTube channel? St. Baldrick's Foundation, which raises money for childhood cancer research, found the channel, found Jaron, and asked him to serve as one of the foundation's five national ambassadors. "I'm super excited to be part of this," said Jaron. "The research is hope. Every child deserves to live a long and healthy life."

Jaron says his leadership experience in Scouting will help him in this important national role. "As an Assistant Patrol Leader, I learned leadership skills such as planning and setting goals and how to achieve them. I plan to use the same skills plus new ones that I have learned in my troop that will help me serve in my role as an Ambassador."



# LEADING WITH **COURAGE**



Being a leader means being prepared and having the courage to act when needed. 15-year-old Benjamin Chang knows that all too well.

In October, Benjamin was riding in an Austin-Travis County EMS ambulance as a member of Explorer Post 247. Exploring is a Scouting program that partners with businesses and agencies to give young men and women first-hand experiences in a particular career field. On this day, Benjamin got exactly that when the ambulance crew arrived at a scene with a patient whose heart had stopped.

"I got a cardiac arrest call and it was my first," he said. "I saw that the guy was there, so I just started compressions because compressions were already stopped when we got there. We brought him back after, like, 30 minutes of working on him."

The Exploring program with Austin-Travis County EMS has prepared nearly two dozen young people to enter the medical field. Benjamin hopes to be the next. "When I grow up,

I want to be an anesthesiologist," Chang said.

He's only a 10th grader, so he has a few years to go. For now, he's learning valuable lessons about not just lifesaving skills but also how to handle unexpected pressure situations.

"I'm just, like, not scared of anything that comes my way," Chang said.



EMS Explorer Post 247

Explorer Chang just did CPR for the first time and assisted in successfully resuscitating a patient who was in cardiac arrest!





# LEADING WITH *DISCOVERY*



Members of Cub Scout Pack 142 celebrate after successfully learning the survival skill of starting a fire.

Whether it's learning to build a fire, witnessing a partial eclipse, or challenging the world in a competition to build the best robot, no program provides as many opportunities to discover new abilities or passions like Scouting.



Scouts learn about a partial eclipse during a fall Conservation Awards Weekend program at Lost Pines Scout Reservation.



Members of Explorer Post 2158 prepare for events at the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas.



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

(TOTALS AS OF DECEMBER 5)



4,739

RANKS EARNED



2,775

RANKS EARNED



30

RANKS EARNED



3

RANKS EARNED



305

EAGLES



11,471

MERIT BADGES

892

TRAINED

1,613

DAY/WEEKEND  
PARTICIPANTS

2,313

LONG TERM CAMP  
PARTICIPANTS

784

HIGH ADVENTURE  
PARTICIPANTS

## ADULTS

UNIVERSITY OF SCOUTING 145  
CUB SCOUT RANGEMASTER 96  
SHOOTING INSTRUCTOR 86  
WILDERNESS FIRST AID 52  
CLIMBING (ALL) 27  
WOOD BADGE 40  
SEABADGE 29  
BALOO 96  
IOLS 89

## YOUTH

NYLT 147  
SEA SCOUT ACADEMY 85

STEMBOREE 64  
ECLIPSE OVER THE PINES  
▶ OLDER YOUTH 344  
▶ CUB SCOUT 210

TECHLAB 314  
CONSERVATION WKD 108  
WOOTEN DAYS 300  
CUB DAY CAMP 200  
WEBELOS EXTREME 73

## SUMMER CAMP

▶ LOST PINES 954  
▶ OTHER 698

## WINTER CAMP 587

NATIONAL JAMBOREE 74

## PHILMONT 234

SEA BASE 217  
NORTHERN TIER 102  
THE SUMMIT 231



(L) Eagle Scout Alex Foster of Scouts BSA Troop 229 committed to play football at the United States Air Force Academy.



(R) Eagle Scout Shreev Goyal of Scouts BSA Troop 371 earned all 139 merit badges offered by the Boy Scouts of America.



Eagle Scouts Caroline Newby (L) and Kieran McDonald (R) became the first to earn our council's Harrison McClure Conservation Award.



Our Tonkawa Lodge of the Order of the Arrow made history by inducting its first female youth Vigil Honor members: Abby Bowlin, Katie Bowlin, Hayden Crawford, and Riley Stuart. The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's national camping honor society.



### 2023 Silver Beaver Award recipients

*The highest honor presented at the local council level for service to youth through Scouting*

Lynn Brooks  
Dale Clay  
Simon Garza  
Craig Hiatt  
Eric Kline  
Toni Nelson

### 2023 Whitney M. Young Service Award recipients

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

Christine Gisela Loerwald

### 2023 Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award recipients

Brian Currier  
Tracy Weber  
A+ Federal Credit Union

### 2023 Sea Scout Leadership Award recipients

Angel Median  
Mike McAlister  
Sean Williams

### 2023 Venturing Leadership Award recipients

Abigail Bowlin  
Katherine Bowlin  
Chris Kesinger  
Bob Davis  
Zachariah Reitler

### 2023 National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award recipients

Dale Clay  
John Demmler  
Will Gregorcyk  
Dan Leonard  
Kuruville Mani  
Te Starr

### 2023 National Eagle Scout Association Scholarship recipients

Austin Tharp  
Jake Yopez

### 2023 Byron Lockhart Eagle Scout Scholarship recipients

Sean Clarke   Morgan Jones   Trevor Roberts



Former council, regional, and national Sea Scout Commodore TW Cook was named a 2023 recipient of the Boy Scouts of America's Silver Antelope Award. This award recognizes Scouters of exceptional character for distinguished service to youth in their territory.



Council Executive Board member Greg Rabaey was recognized with the Cliff Dochterman Award. The award recognizes a 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 of his or her home country.



# LEADING WITH **COMPASSION**



Members of Scouts BSA Troop 1096 and Cub Scout Pack 151 took part in activities with Honor Flight Network at Austin's Bergstrom International Airport. The Honor Flight organization provides veterans from World War II, Korea, and the Vietnam War with a trip to Washington, D.C., to share fellowship with fellow comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans.



About 50 Scouts and adult leaders from Cub Scout Pack 165, Scouts BSA Troops 157, 365, 565 and 3451 helped clear downed limbs and brush left by the February ice storm in Round Rock.



Members of Scouts BSA Troop 1953 from the Marbridge community started 2023 by helping Keep Austin Beautiful remove holiday decorations left on trees along Loop 360.



# LEADING WITH **COMPASSION**



Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 471 and Scouts BSA Troops 98, 472, and 473 donated more than 200 pounds of food to the Elgin Community Cupboard.



Eagle Scout Zoe Rehm of Scouts BSA Troop 72 created a pollinator garden with a resting area for volunteers at the Vireo Preserve.



Kara Hawley/Austin American-Statesman

Members of Scouts BSA Troop 967 retired more than 100 flags for a flag retirement ceremony in Buda on Flag Day.



# LEADING WITH *GENEROSITY*

Scouting is not possible without the generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure provided by so many here in Central Texas. We are grateful for every person's selfless contribution to youth through the Scouting program, whether they make a leadership level monetary gift like a James E. West Fellowship and Tom Wooten Society commitment or the time and service provided in direct support of a local unit or our council at large.

## 2023 James E. West Fellows

Rebecca Fearing  
Stephen Harris  
Tim Hill  
Bill Kohl  
Mollie Leach

Mark Marshall  
Jeffrey Russell  
Richard South  
Stacey Trollope

*Want to learn about the ways  
you can support Scouting?  
Scan this code with your  
phone.*



Scout Executive Jon C. Yates recognized Lora Baynard for nearly 20 years of service to youth and leaders at the February meeting of our council's Executive Board. Ms. Baynard led the food preparation team during summer camp at our Lost Pines Scout Reservation. She stepped down to enjoy some well-earned time with her extended family.



# LEADING WITH *GENEROSITY*



(Above) Vice President-Endowment Ron Garland recognized Board President Anooj Thakrar and Past President Jack Gindler with induction into the Boy Scouts of America's Second Century Society. This group is made up of individuals, families, foundations, and corporations who make a major gift contribution to Scouting at the local or national level. Qualifying gifts to be recognized as a Second Century Society member include an outright gift of \$25,000 or more payable over five years.



(Left) Vice President-Endowment Ron Garland and Tom Wooten Society Chair Jack Gindler recognized the W.D. Kelley Foundation for becoming a Tom Wooten Society member. Tom Wooten Society members pledge to give a total of \$25,000 or more over three years to support Scouting in Central Texas.



The challenges of tomorrow will require creative, thoughtful, principled leaders.

***Our collective future depends on every youth developing to the fullest.***

Sally Durant would have been excused if she had quit. For months she and other adult volunteers worked to invite enough girls to start a new Scouts BSA Troop. Finally, they were able to organize a dozen new Scouts into what became Troop 1948, chartered by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12058 in Kyle.

After nearly a year and a half, the troop has grown from that original founding group to a unit nearly 20 strong.

In October, the troop won its first Sacred Springs District Webelos Woods competition and now plans to challenge for awards at the district's Spring 2024 Camporee. Scoutmaster Sally Durant said, "We may have started small but we are mighty and I would encourage you to support any leaders that come forth wanting to start a girl's troop... It is no easy task but it is a program the girls want. And our girls deserve it."

Every young person does. And our future depends on us finding and empowering more Scouts - no matter who they are - to become leaders who will meet the challenges of tomorrow.





# IN MEMORIAM



Carl Andreasen



Sergio Barajas



Floyd Bentley



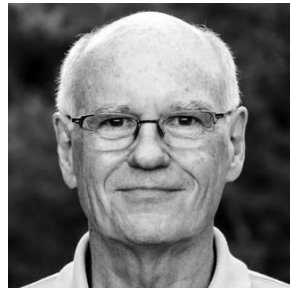
Jack Collins



Monica Canestaro-Darby



Everett Deschner



Carl Edwards



Rhonda Esakov



Benton Hooks



Frank Ivy, Sr.



Ron McCandless



David Moore



Matthew Nazareth



Oscar Raesz



Kevin Reese



Peter Rose



Chris Sanders

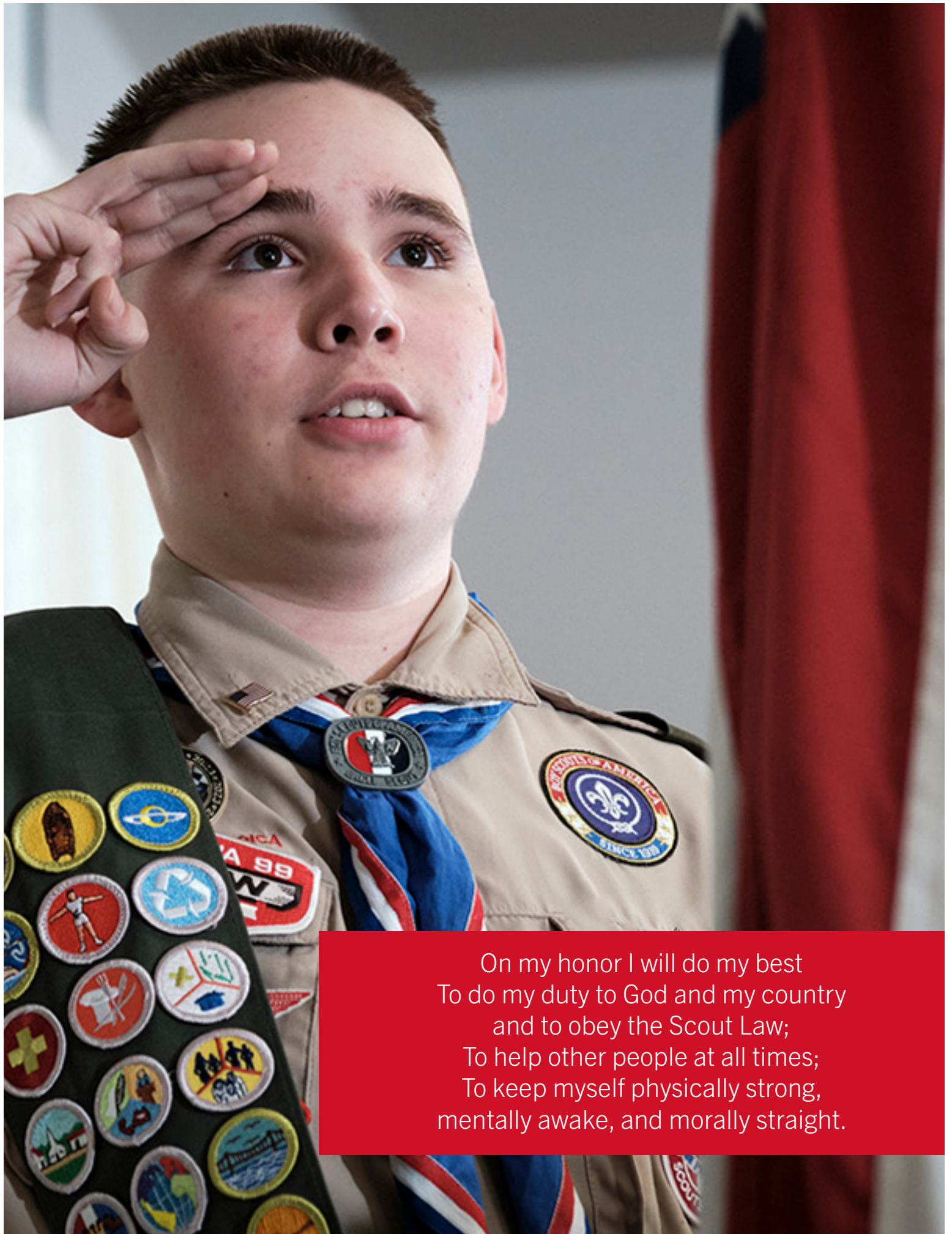


Brooks Smeaton



Harry Whittington





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.