



Community Organizations and the BSA

For 103 years, the Boy Scouts of America has focused on working together to deliver the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training. Its proven and time-tested methods have made it part of the fabric of America. The BSA provides an infrastructure that offers participants unique and valuable experiences and trains and protects its members while supporting its mission.

The creation and continuous improvement of a youth development program is challenging but rewarding. The following are world-class offerings available only with the BSA. These are meant to help organizations think through important criteria when deciding which youth development program to sponsor.

- **Unique Value and Experiences:** The BSA provides unique value and experiences to its youth members through more than 1,000 independently owned, operated, and accredited outdoor camping facilities across the country. The BSA also owns and operates four national high-adventure bases that provide units once-in-a-lifetime adventures and hosts the national Scout jamboree, a 10-day event held every four years that draws tens of thousands of Scouts, Venturers, volunteers, and staff from all over the country to celebrate Scouting.
- **Independently Evaluated Program:** The BSA's programs have been independently evaluated and deemed highly effective. In "Merit Beyond the Badge," a study by the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion and Program for Prosocial Behavior, researchers found that attaining Scouting's highest rank enhances a youth's values, ethics, decision making, relationships, and personal development. The study showed that Eagle Scouts have a greater connectedness to a religious community and are significantly more likely to report volunteering time to a religious organization.
- **Liability Insurance:** The BSA provides liability insurance to chartered organizations, leaders, and families attending Scouting activities, which allows organizations to focus on delivering the program to its members. Accident and sickness insurance is also provided by local councils at no or very minimal cost for adult and youth members.
- **Youth Protection Policies and Procedures:** Scouting is a leader among youth-serving organizations in developing policies and procedures to help keep kids safe. The BSA requires background checks on all adult volunteers; provides comprehensive training programs for volunteers, staff, youth, and parents; and mandates reporting of even suspected abuse. The BSA has continually enhanced its multitiered policies and procedures to ensure it is in line with and even, where possible, ahead of society's knowledge of abuse and best practices for prevention. BSA's standards and relentless focus on youth protection have been recognized and praised by experts in child protection.
- **Oversight and Quality Control:** The BSA provides oversight to its units, which ensures quality control. In addition, nationally there are more than 1 million volunteers at the district and council level dedicated to helping grow and support more than 116,000 units. That support includes training, coaching, and mentoring volunteer leaders on how to run an effective unit. Also, Scouting provides a multilevel leader training curriculum and online leader training resources.
- **Multicultural Services and Programming:** The BSA is dedicated to serving all young people and provides multicultural services and creative programming to serve them. Further, with the changing demographics in almost all communities, the BSA continues to provide to local units a wide variety of bilingual materials, training courses, and curriculum to assist leaders.
- **Established Relationships with Chartered Organizations:** The BSA delivers the Scouting program through civic, faith-based, and educational organizations that operate Scouting units for their youth members, as well as the community at large. Of these, more than 70 percent of all units are chartered to faith-based organizations.



To read this article and more in *The Commissioner* newsletter, go to Scouting.org/commissioners/newsletter, or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

Download a QR reader for your smartphone at scan.mobi.



Fall 2013

THE COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COMMISSIONERS AND PROFESSIONALS

www.scouting.org/commissioners



The BSA is proud to have long-standing relationships with the following organizations (listed in order of number of youth members).

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	American Legion	Parent clubs in schools
United Methodist churches	Lions International	Private schools
Catholic churches	Rotary International	Groups of citizens
Presbyterian churches	Veterans of Foreign Wars	Business/industry
Lutheran churches	Kiwanis International	Parent Teacher Associations
Baptist churches	Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks	Other community organizations
Episcopal churches	Boys & Girls Clubs	Community centers
United Churches of Christ	Optimist International	Nonprofit agencies
Christian Church (DOC)	YMCA/YWCA	Playgrounds/recreation centers
Independent community churches	Masons/Eastern Star	Athletic booster clubs
Other churches	Loyal Order of Moose	Chambers of commerce
Churches of Christ	Conservation Clubs/Izaak Walton Leagues	Homeowners associations
Evangelical independent churches	Ruritan National	Handicapped resources
Church of God	Labor/AFL-CIO	BSA council/district
Church of the Nazarene	Grange National	Business-to-school support agencies

Today, the Boy Scouts of America represents approximately 2.6 million youth and 1 million adult members across the nation. The organization remains breathtakingly popular, particularly among parents of current and former Scouts, with 85 percent of parents giving the organization a favorable rating. The BSA is a one-of-a-kind world-class program, uniting those with diverse beliefs about a number of important issues by staying focused on serving young people and preparing them for life.



To read this article and more in *The Commissioner* newsletter, go to Scouting.org/commissioners/newsletter, or scan this QR code with your smartphone.

Download a QR reader for your smartphone at scan.mobi.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Prepared. For Life.®