



History of the BSA Highlights

FACT SHEET

1910

- The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated
 - February 8, 1910
 - Under the laws of the District of Columbia
- Thirty-four national representatives of boys' work agencies met, June 21
 - Met in a temporary national headquarters in a YMCA office in New York
 - Developed organization plans
- Founders of Scouting: ([click here to learn more](#))
 - William D. Boyce, incorporator
 - Colin H. Livingstone, president
 - Daniel Carter Beard, national Scout commissioner
 - Ernest Thompson Seton, Chief Scout
 - James E. West, Chief Scout Executive
 - President William Howard Taft, honorary president
 - Former President Theodore Roosevelt, honorary vice president and Chief Scout Citizen

1911

- National Council office opened, January 2
 - 200 Fifth Avenue, New York City
 - 7 employees
- First annual meeting
 - At the White House, Washington, D.C.
 - Addressed by President Taft
- The Scout Oath, Scout Law, badges, and fundamental policies were adopted
- National Court of Honor presented the first awards for heroism: 22 Bronze Medals

1912

- First Eagle Scout, August 12
 - Arthur Eldred
- First national civic Good Turns were performed
 - Promotion of a safe and sane Fourth of July
- Sea Scouting began
- Boys' Life became the official BSA magazine

1913

- First local council charters were issued
- Scouting became the official magazine for volunteers
- First Boy Scout Week was celebrated

1914

- First Scout Sunday was celebrated
- First tree-planting project was held in New York
- Training for Scout leaders was developed
- First William T. Hornaday gold medal for the conservation of wildlife

1915

- National office to train all Scouters was established
- Fifty-seven merit badge pamphlets were issued
- The Handbook for Scoutmasters was issued
- The Order of the Arrow was founded



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1916

- Constitution and bylaws were adopted
- The first college course in Scouting began at Teachers College, New York

1917

- Scouting's full resources were placed at the service of the government
 - Slogan: "Help Win the War"
- The first winter camp was held by Chicago Scouts

Scouts' War Effort: 1917-1918

- Sold 2,350,977 Liberty Loan bonds, totaling \$147,876,902
- Sold war savings stamps, to a value of \$53,043,698
- Distributed more than 300 million pieces of government literature
- Aided in food and fuel conservation projects
- Planted Boy Scout war gardens

1918

- BSA adopted the slogan "The War Is Over, but Our Work Is Not"
- Scouts rendered nationwide service during the influenza epidemic

1919

- First four Gold Medals were awarded by the National Court of Honor for saving a life at the risk of the rescuer's own
- U.S. Bureau of Naturalization invited Scouts to aid in its Americanization program

1920-1929

- First World Jamboree, 1920
 - London, England
 - 8,000 Scouts from 34 countries were present
 - 301 BSA members attended
- The international left handclasp was adopted, 1923
- Every Scout a Swimmer program began, 1924
- Second world jamboree, 1924
 - Copenhagen, Denmark
 - 56 BSA members attended
- First Silver Buffalo Awards for distinguished service to boyhood were awarded, 1926
 - Twenty-two awards given
 - The first was awarded to Baden-Powell
 - The second was presented in the honor of the unknown Scout whose Good Turn brought Scouting to America
- National office was moved to 2 Park Avenue, New York City, 1927



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F A C T S H E E T

1930–1939

- Cub Scout program was formally launched, 1930
 - 5,102 Cub Scouts by the end of the first year
- First Silver Beaver awards for distinguished service to boyhood within a council, 1931
- President Roosevelt called for help from the Scouts for the distressed and needy, 1934
 - Nationwide Good Turn
 - Collected 1,812,284 items of clothing, household furnishings, foodstuffs, and supplies
- Silver Jubilee of Scouting, 1935
- Membership passed 1 million, 1935
- National jamboree was canceled because of an infantile paralysis epidemic, 1935
- First national jamboree, 1937
 - Washington, D.C., at the invitation of President Roosevelt
 - 27,232 attended, representing 536 councils
- Philturn Rockymountain Scoutcamp established
 - Gift from Waite Phillips, 1938
 - 35,857 acres of land near Cimarron, New Mexico

1940–1949

- Philmont Scout Ranch established
 - Additional gift from Waite Phillips, 1941
 - Residence and ranch buildings
 - Livestock and operating ranch equipment
 - Contiguous to former Philturn Rockymountain Scoutcamp
 - Total combined acreage: 127,000
- First Silver Antelope Awards for distinguished service to youth within a region, 1943
- Councils and campsites by 1949
 - 543 councils
 - 831 campsites
 - 288,545 acres

Scouts' War Effort: 1941–1945

- Included 69 specific requests from the government
- Collected 30 million pounds of rubber during a two-week drive
- 20,000 Scouts earned the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Medal for Victory Gardens
- Distributed pledge cards for war bonds and savings stamps
- Distributed stamp posters
- Collected aluminum, wastepaper, and salvage
- Conducted defense housing surveys
- Distributed air-raid posters
- Served as messengers and dispatch bearers
- Assisted emergency medical units
- Served as fire watchers



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1950–1959

- Second national jamboree, 1950
 - Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
 - 47,163 Scouts and leaders attended
- First Boy Scout stamp issued by the U.S. Post Office Department, 1950
- 2 million pounds of clothing collected for domestic and foreign relief, 1952
- Distributed more than a million posters and 30 million Liberty Bell doorknob hangers in the Get-Out-the-Vote campaign, 1952
- 20-millionth member joined, 1952
- Third national jamboree, 1953
 - Irvine Ranch, California
 - 45,401 Scouts and leaders attended
- *Boys' Life* circulation passed 1 million, 1954
- National office moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1954
- More than 100,000 units, 1954
- More than 1 million adult volunteers, 1954
- Fourth national jamboree, 1957
 - Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
 - 50,100 Scouts and leaders attended
- 15 millionth copy of the *Handbook for Boys*, 1957

1960–1969

- Scouting's Golden Jubilee, 1960
- Fifth national jamboree, 1960
 - Colorado Springs, Colorado
 - 53,378 Scouts and leaders attended
- Johnston Historical Museum
 - Dedicated June 4, 1960
 - New Brunswick, New Jersey
- Sixth national jamboree, 1964
 - Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
 - 52,000 Scouts and leaders attended
- 500,000th Eagle Scout honored, 1965
- 40 millionth member registered, 1965
- BSA hosted the 12th world jamboree, 1967
 - Farragut State Park, Idaho
 - 12,000 Scouts and leaders from 107 countries attended
- First female Explorers, 1969
- Seventh national jamboree, 1969
 - Farragut State Park, Idaho
 - 35,000 youth and leaders attended

1970–1979

- Scouting Keep America Beautiful Day
 - June 5, 1971
 - Scouts collected more than a million tons of litter
- National Eagle Scout Association formed, 1972
- Eighth national jamboree at two sites, 1973
 - Moraine State Park, Pennsylvania
 - Farragut State Park, Idaho
 - 64,000 youth and leaders attended



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- Ninth national jamboree, 1977
 - Moraine State Park, Pennsylvania
 - 28,600 Scouts and leaders attended
- National office moved to Irving, Texas, 1979

1980–1989

- 30 millionth Cub Scout, 1980
- 10th national jamboree, 1981
 - Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia
 - 30,000 Scouts and leaders attended
- The 1 millionth Eagle Scout, 1982
 - Alexander M. Holsinger
- 75th anniversary, 1985
 - Theme: “Pride in the Past ... Footsteps to the Future”
- 11th national jamboree, 1985
 - Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia
 - 32,615 Scouts and leaders attended
- First Scouting for Food National Good Turn, 1988
 - More than 60 million food items were collected
- 12th national jamboree, 1989
 - Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia
 - 33,000 Scouts and leaders attended

1990–1999

- Learning for Life established, 1991
 - Character-building program for the classroom
 - 700,000 youth participated during the first year
- 13th national jamboree, 1993
 - Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia
 - 26,000 Scouts and leaders attended
- 14th national jamboree, 1997
 - Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia
 - 35,000 Scouts and leaders attended

2000–2009

- The 100-millionth youth member, 2000
 - Mario Castro
- 15th national jamboree, 2001
 - Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia
 - 40,000 youth and leaders attended
- National Scouting Museum was built, 2002
 - 50,000-square-foot facility
 - Next to the national office in Irving, Texas
- 16th national jamboree, 2005
 - Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia
 - 43,000 Scouts and leaders attended
- ArrowCorps⁵, 2008
 - In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service
 - 3,600 Scouts and adult volunteers participated
 - \$5.6 million worth of improvements made to national parks
- The 2 millionth Eagle Scout, 2009
 - Anthony Thomas