History of the BSA
Highlights

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
## History of the BSA

### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scouts’ War Effort: 1917–1918</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>— Sold 2,350,977 Liberty Loan bonds, totaling $147,876,902</td>
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<tr>
<td>— Sold war savings stamps, to a value of $53,043,698</td>
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<td>— Distributed more than 300 million pieces of government literature</td>
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<td>— Aided in food and fuel conservation projects</td>
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<td>— Planted Boy Scout war gardens</td>
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### 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
History of the BSA

Highlights

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
### History of the BSA Highlights

#### 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
History of the BSA
Highlights

1980–1989

• 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
• ArrowCorps®, 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

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