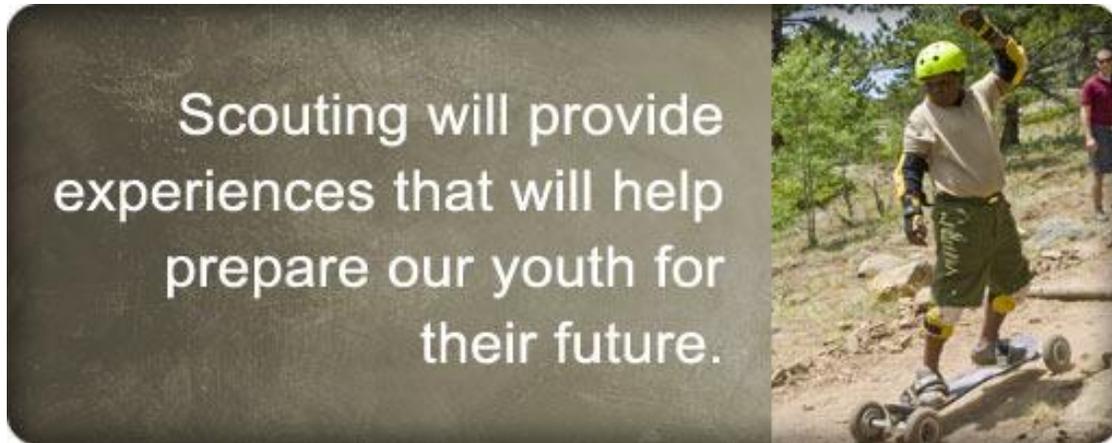


Some of the benefits of Scouting to youth



Advantages of Boy Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America offers a unique youth program. It has five distinct features that other clubs and organizations do not offer today's youth. Granted, some clubs do offer one or two of these features, but no other youth organization offers all five of them.

What are these features that makes Scouting so special?

1. **Scouting is a value based program.** The BSA asks boys to take an oath when they join, and then live up to that oath. Scouting teaches values, promotes good citizenship, and provides good adult role models. The program is diversified. It is not the same thing every day as some youth activities can be. In fact, Scouting compliments other organizations by providing program that they may be missing.
2. **Developing leadership is another feature of Scouting.** The boys plan their own troop program. They learn new things through hands-on experiences, not just by text book learning. They will receive the chance to be a leader by holding a position of responsibility in the troop. Each troops decide when they hold elections. Some hold elections every 6 months, other every year, so many of its members will be given the chance to hold a troop or patrol office.
3. **Scouting is an educational program.** Through the advancement program a boy will learn many new skills. Some of these will be just for fun, but many will help him later on in life. Subjects introduced through the merit badge program may help a boy discover a new life-long hobby or even a career choice. As he earns his merit badges and ranks he is recognized in front of his parents and peers for his accomplishments. This builds self-esteem and helps him to develop a sense of pride.
4. **Scouting encourages service to the community.** An important part of Scouting is doing service for others. The Scout Slogan states that a Scout will "Do a Good Turn Daily". Troops do countless hours of service conducting food drives, road and park cleanups, and conservation work, to name a few. By doing service a boy develops a pride in his community, a pride that will carry into adulthood.
5. **Scouting can be a vehicle to bring families together.** Many families find scouting to be a neutral topic, one in which parents and children can participate together. It offers parents a chance to spend 'quality time' with their sons. And the program is already there. All you have to do is participate.

The Scouting program does have its advantages. And families that participate in the program can attest that Scouting pays good dividends.

Benefits

Scouting provides youth with an opportunity to try new things, provide service to others, build self-confidence, and reinforce ethical standards. These opportunities not only help them when they are young but also carry forward into their adult lives, improving their relationships, their work lives, their family lives, and the values by which they live.

A 2005 study by Harris Interactive found that 83 percent of men who were Scouts in their youth agree that the values they learned in Scouting continue to be very important to them today. Eighty-seven percent of men who remained in Scouting five or more years attribute some of their self-confidence in their work to their Scouting experience. Half of the group say Scouting had a positive effect on their career development and advancement, and 83 percent say there have been real-life situations where having been a Scout helped them be a better leader.

As youth, Scouts are taught to live by a code of conduct exemplified in the 12 points of the Scout Law, and they continue to live by these laws in adulthood.

- ✿ **Trustworthy:** The majority of Scouts agreed that Scouting has taught them always to be honest (75 percent) and to be a leader (76 percent).
- ✿ **Loyal:** Eighty-eight percent of Scouts are proud to live in the USA, and 83 percent say spending time with family is important to them.
- ✿ **Helpful:** Eight out of 10 Scouts surveyed believed that helping others should come before their own self-interest.
- ✿ **Friendly:** Eighty percent of Scouts say that Scouting has taught them to treat others with respect and (78 percent) to get along with others.
- ✿ **Courteous:** Almost nine of 10 Scouts (87 percent) believe older people should be treated with respect.
- ✿ **Kind:** Most Scouts agree (78 percent) Scouting has taught them to care for other people, while 43 percent say their skills in helping other people in need are “excellent.”
- ✿ **Obedient:** Boys in Scouting five years or more are more likely than boys who have never been in Scouts to reject peer pressure to hang out with youth they know commit delinquent acts (61 percent vs. 53 percent).
- ✿ **Cheerful:** Overall, Scouts are happy with their schools (78 percent) and their neighborhoods (79 percent). However, because Scouting builds such high ideals in youth, Scouts are less satisfied than non-Scouts with the state of the world today (47 percent vs. 52 percent).
- ✿ **Thrifty:** More than eight out of 10 Scouts (82 percent) say that saving money for the future is a priority.
- ✿ **Brave:** Eighty percent of Scouts say Scouting has taught them to have confidence in themselves, and 51 percent rate their self-confidence as “excellent.”
- ✿ **Clean:** Nearly the same number of Scouts (79 percent) agree that Scouting has taught them to take better care of the environment and that Scouting has increased their interest in physical fitness.
- ✿ **Reverent:** Scouting experience also influences religious service attendance. Eighty-three percent of men who were Scouts five or more years say attending religious services together as a family is “very important,” versus 77 percent of men who had never been Scouts.



Benefits of Scouting to you!

- Scouting will provide experiences that will help prepare you for your future.
- It provides youth with an opportunity to try new things, provide service to others, build self-confidence, and reinforce ethical standards.
- Scouting benefits the individual for their lifetime.
- Come – Be a part of this life experience.
- Looking for a unit to join? Go to beascout.scouting.org.

Resource: Values of Americans Study