



BUILDING STRONGER

SCHOOLS
LEADERS
COMMUNITIES
YOUTH
CITIZENS
FAMILIES
PARTNERSHIPS

TOGETHER



ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2020

LEADING YOUTH TO LIFELONG VALUES,
SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL

DEAR FRIENDS,

In 2020, Scouting showed its resilience in Southeast Texas. Navigating through a global pandemic that effected our local area, state, nation, and world, the benefits of Scouting were still present and effective to our area's youth. The programs of Scouting continue to offer varied opportunities to teach youth to be strong in character, have self-confidence, and grow in their leadership abilities. The Sam Houston Area Council was able to serve 24,735 youth during 2020 through traditional Scouting and career-based Exploring programs.

Fostering these talents, along with service projects and citizenship activities, is how we are **Building Stronger Youth**.

Community service and Scouting go hand in hand. Our Scouts and volunteers participated in over 345,000 hours of community service projects in 2020. These hours accounted for a total economic impact of \$9,938,923 according to the volunteer service organization *Independent Sector*. These service projects were highlighted by the collection and distribution of nearly 170,000 pounds of food during our annual Scouting for Food/Souper Bowl of Caring efforts in February.

Through service we are **Building Stronger Citizens**.

The new Camp Strake was officially opened in 2020, hosting the first long-term, face-to-face camping during Winter Camp in December. Winter Camp had over 300 Scouts participate, with well over 400 total campers present. The camp was fully accredited under National Camp Accreditation Program ("NCAP") standards with no adverse comments or deficiencies. Although Summer Camp at Camp Strake had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 12 Council merit badge days - 8 days at Tellepsen Scout Camp and 4 days at Camp Strake were held in its place. We had scouts work on over 1,600 merit badges and had over 60 volunteers serve as counselors and support staff. In addition, Cub Scouts were able to participate in virtual Cub Day camps, replacing the district face-to-face day camps.

Through the resilience of Scouting we are **Building Stronger Leaders**.

As a key measure of our community service and financial health, the Sam Houston Area Council was awarded the designation as an accredited charity by the Better Business Bureau, earned the Seal of Transparency Gold Level by GuideStar, and achieved a 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, the highest possible rating for the 8th consecutive year.

All of these successes were made possible through the generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure of thousands of volunteers and donors. Thanks to your support and commitment to Scouting, we continue to lead youth to lifelong values, service, and achievement.

We hope you are proud to be part of the Sam Houston Area Council.

Together, we are Building Stronger Communities.

Clay C. Williams
Chair of the Board

Forrest J. Bjerkaas
Council Commissioner

Thomas O. Varnell
CEO/Scout Executive

Please visit www.samhoustonbsa.org/annual-reports to view the expanded 2020 annual report.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

The value of serving others was on display by Scouts of the Sam Houston Area Council when they participated in the service project Souper Bowl of Caring. Partnering with the Souper Bowl of Caring and area food banks, over **5,000** Scouts and leaders collected nearly **170,000** pounds of food. The food was then distributed to those in need in our area.



COVID-19 RESPONSES

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic our Scouters had to pivot to virtual and hybrid activities, including:

- Virtual Merit Badge days - 5 week-long virtual sessions were held to provide merit badge instruction.
- Council Virtual Cub Day camp - replaced all Cub Scout face-to-face day camps. 1,274 Cub Scouts attended these virtual camps.
- Delivered University of Scouting adult training program in Fall, using a combination of virtual and face-to-face courses.
- Successfully implemented hybrid Order of the Arrow Fall Pow Wow, as well as a modified OA induction processes during COVID camping restrictions.
- Created alternative plans for Rocket Days, Cub-O-Rees, Camporees, Webelos Woods, Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills / Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation ("IOLS/BALOO") and other such District events
- Venturing Virtual Halloween Forum - more attended than previous year's in-person event.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



24,735 total youth served in **798** units

 **13,073** Cub Scouts in **331** packs

 **10,589** Scouts in **344** troops

 **483** Venturers and Sea Scouts in **78** crews and ships

 **593** Explorers in **45** posts

10,803 Registered volunteer adult leaders

345,181 Community service hours performed by Scouts, Explorers and leaders

*statistics reflected as of 12-31-2020

PROGRAM

9,924
Cub Scout ranks earned

5,902
Scout ranks earned

908
Scouts attaining the rank of Eagle Scout



OPERATING FINANCIAL SUMMARY*

INCOME

Community Support	\$3,008,917
United Way	\$1,060,605
Gov't Grants/PPP Loan	\$1,287,718
Council Generated	\$1,678,186
	\$7,035,426

EXPENSE

Program Services	\$8,077,177
Direct Service (ScoutReach)	\$729,859
Administration	\$570,617
Fundraising	\$739,471
	\$9,387,265

*2020 Unaudited financials.
Fully audited financials are available online at www.samhoustonbsa.org/annual-reports

CAMPING

The first long-term, face-to-face camping was conducted at Camp Strake in December 2020. Winter Camp had over **300** Scouts participate, with well over **400** total campers present. The camp was fully accredited under National Camp Accreditation Program standards with no adverse comments or deficiencies. We are very excited that 2021 will be our first Summer Camp program at Tsuru Scout Camp at Camp Strake.



THANK YOU!

Annually, the Sam Houston Area Council invests over \$250 in each of our Scouts through programs and services. Thank you to the following Leadership Level supporters that are helping to Build Stronger Families.

\$500,000+

Stephanie & Frank D.Tsuru
David Weekley Family Foundation

\$100,000-\$499,999

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