We all know that Scouting’s goal is to prepare young people to succeed in life...
But is it working?
Tufts University Study

For three years, a research team from Tufts University worked with the BSA’s Cradle of Liberty Council to measure the character attributes of both Scouts and non-Scouts — all with a goal of better understanding the character development of youth as it was happening.
2,000+ Scouts and non-Scouts aged 6-12 from across the Philadelphia area were measured in 6 key areas:

- Hopefulness*
- Obedience
- Cheerfulness
- helpfulness
- Kindness
- Trustworthiness

*Hopeful Future Expectations
At the beginning, there were no significant differences in character attributes between Scouts and non-Scouts. By the end, the differences were striking ...
Key Findings

- Over time, Scouts reported significant increases in several character areas, while non-Scouts did not.

- Scouts are more likely to embrace positive social values than non-Scouts.

- The more regular their meeting attendance, the better character attributes.

- More tenure = better character attributes.

- Better program + more involvement = better character attributes.
Over the course of the study, the change in positive character attributes for Scouts vs. non-Scouts became evident.
After 2.5 years of research, Cub Scouts reported significant increases in cheerfulness, helpfulness, kindness, obedience, trustworthiness, and hopeful future expectations.
There were no significant increases reported among non-Scouts.
When asked what was “most important” to them, Scouts were significantly more likely than non-Scouts to choose “helping others” or “doing the right thing” vs. “being smart,” “being the best,” or “playing sports”
Scouts are **significantly more likely** than non-Scouts to embrace other-oriented values, including “helping others” and “doing the right thing”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Other-oriented Values as Most Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSA</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSA and Sports</td>
<td>64.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>53.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Over time, Scouts reported significant increases in several character areas, while non-Scouts did not.
Scouts are more likely to embrace positive social values than non-Scouts.
Meeting Attendance Matters

Scouts who attend meetings regularly report higher trustworthiness, helpfulness, kindness, and thriftiness, higher levels of hopeful future expectation and self-regulation, better grades, and a better connection with nature vs. Scouts who “sometimes” or “rarely” attend.
Tenure Matters

As Scouts' tenure in the program increases, they report higher levels of trustworthiness, intentional self-regulation, hopeful future expectation, and better grades.
Engagement Matters

Scouts who are more engaged in the program are more cheerful, helpful, and kind, and have higher future expectation and intentional self-regulation.

Highly engaged youth who are registered in highly engaged packs reported higher character attributes.
We are succeeding. Scouting works.

Here's what you can do ...

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scoutingwire.org/how-scouting-promotes-positive-character-development

www.tuftscampstudy.com