**Why Scouting?**

*A Presentation for Parents and Other Supporters of Youth*

Prepared by the Grand Teton Council

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**The Tufts CAMP Study**

**Study Design**

- 1,800 Cub Scouts aged 6-12
- 400 carefully matched non-Scouts from Philadelphia area
- Duration 2½ years, starting in 2012
- Development was measured in 9 key areas:
  - Hopefulness
  - Cheerfulness
  - Helpfulness
  - Kindness
  - Obedience
  - Hopeful Future Expectations
  - Thriftiness
  - Religious Reverence
  - Trustworthiness
- In the beginning, there were no significant differences between the two groups.
- By the end however, the differences were striking.

**Character Attributes**

*Changes over 2½ years in Tufts CAMP Study*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Scouts</th>
<th>Non-scouts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheerfulness</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpfulness</td>
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<td>↓</td>
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<td>Obedience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hopeful Future Expectations</td>
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<td>Trustworthiness</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arrows refer to Size of Effect.

**Prosocial Priorities**

- Doing the right thing
- Helping others

**Non-Prosocial Priorities**

- Being smart
- Being the best
- Playing sports

Scouts were significantly more likely than non-Scouts to embrace Prosocial Values.

**Regular Attendance Matters**

- Scouts who were more active in Scouting
- Scouts who were less active in Scouting

Greater activity in Scouting predicted improvement in multiple areas:
- Academic success
- Connection to nature
- Thriftiness
- Intentional Self Regulation

**Religious Reverence**

*Change over 2½ Years*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Institutions</th>
<th>Non-religious Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scouts</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-scouts</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“I pray.”

“I like to read stories from my religion.”
Why Scouting

Sports and Youth Development

The Good and the Bad

The Good
• Improve grades in school
• Feel better about themselves
• Show leadership

The Bad
• Increase aggressive behavior
• Reduce ability to see right and wrong
• Increase chances for risky behavior

*When kids do nothing but sports, the overall effect on their character development is negative.*

What about Sports in Combination with a Good Program like Scouting?

• Kids active in both programs show the highest
  — Positive individual functioning
  — Contribution to family and community.

Scouting and Sports make a great partnership.

Is Participation in Scouting Associated with Prosocial Behavior in Adulthood?

*“Eagle Scouts—Merit Beyond the Badge”*
Baylor University, Institute for Studies of Religion
Nationwide Survey
Average Age of Respondent—47 years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Eagles Scouts</th>
<th>Scouts (Not Eagle)</th>
<th>Non Scouts</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Scouts</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>1,502</td>
<td>2,512</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparative Likelihood of Prosocial Behaviors in Eagle Scouts as Adults

- Spiritual goal made and achieved in the past year
- Has held leadership positions in local community
- Has taken a course or class of interest to them in the past year
- Has current certification in CPR

Eagles vs non-Scouts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Eagles vs non-Scouts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>81% vs 76%</td>
<td>*** p &lt; .001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76% vs 80%</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% vs 90%</td>
<td>***</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In Summary

Scouting and Character Development

✓ Scouting leads to the development of multiple positive character attributes.
✓ Scouting sustains Religious Reverence.
✓ Scouting is a strong partner with sports programs in building positive character.
✓ The positive effect of Scouting persists for decades.

Why Scouting?

Scouting Changes Boy’s Lives

The value of Scouting comes not from the great things that boys do in Scouting, but from the great things that Scouting does to boys.

*Scouting provides a solid foundation for boys to become men of character and honor.*