

# Why Scouting?

*A Presentation for Parents and Other Supporters of Youth*

Prepared by the Grand Teton Council

Parents 2.1

## 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**.

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### Character Attributes

Changes over 2½ years in Tufts CAMP Study

Attribute	Scouts	Non-scouts
Cheerfulness	↑	↓↓
Helpfulness	↑	↓
Obedience	↑↑↑	→
Kindness	↑↑	→
Hopeful Future Expectations	↑↑	→
Trustworthiness	↑↑	→

*Arrows refer to Size of Effect.*

J Youth Adol (2015) 44:2359-2372

<h3>Prosocial Priorities</h3> <p><b>Doing the right thing</b> <b>Helping others</b></p>	<h3>Non-Prosocial Priorities</h3> <p><b>Being smart</b> <b>Being the best</b> <b>Playing sports</b></p>
<p><b>Scouts were significantly more likely than non-Scouts to embrace Prosocial Values</b></p>	

J Youth Adol (2015) 44:2359-2372

### 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

Am J Comm Psychol (2016) 57:73-86

### Religious Reverence

Change over 2½ Years

	Religious Institutions	Non-religious Institutions
Scouts	→	↑
Non-scouts	↓↓↓↓	↓

*"I pray."*  
*"I like to read stories from my religion."*

### Sports and Youth Development

*The Good and the Bad*

*The Good*

*The Bad*

- Improve grades in school
- Feel better about themselves
- Show leadership
- 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?

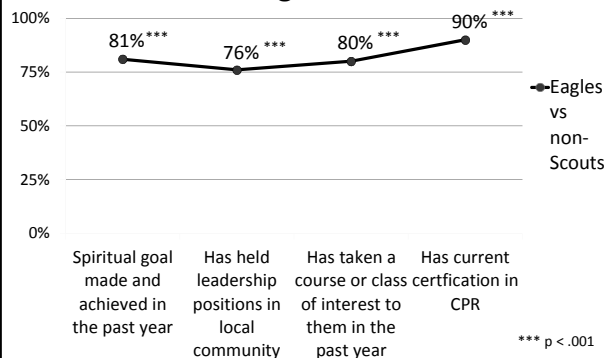
#### “Eagle Scouts—Merit Beyond the Badge”

*Baylor University, Institute for Studies of Religion  
Nationwide Survey*

*Average Age of Respondent—47 years*

Eagle Scouts	134
Scouts (Not Eagle)	853
Non Scouts	1,502
Total	2,512

### Comparative Likelihood of Prosocial Behaviors in Eagle Scouts as Adults



### 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.*