



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®
LAUREL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE KEY THREE

Like so many businesses, the Laurel Highlands Council was drastically affected by COVID in 2020. But instead of sharing the bad news, we wanted to take this time to share the exciting things that happened.

Not once did we forget about our Scouting families. When the packs and troops couldn't meet in person, we created and delivered programs and activities. Families could access den meetings online, and there were even virtual camporees. We had contests for the best at home campsites and cooking contests! It was awesome to see families having Scouting fun together!

When we couldn't have in-person Summer Camp, we offered Heritage @ Home, which gave Scouts the opportunity to take merit badge sessions with an online merit counselor, and there were even virtual campfire programs! Camp staff members were on hand if a troop wanted to come out for a day to fish, do shooting sports, or simply wanted to take a hike.

Merit Badge opportunities were offered at Camp Guyasuta, which provided advancement opportunities that the Scouts might have missed.

With Heritage Reservation Summer Camp closed, we were able to invest over \$1 million for improvements! We built three large restroom/shower house facilities, painted buildings, repaired loading docks, upgraded the staff areas and program areas, and put siding and roofs on the Potomac homes. Besides all the maintenance, we were able to start burying fiber so we can have internet access.

Even with all the challenges that COVID threw our way, we never lost sight of why we are here – our Scouting families!

Yours in Scouting,



W. Scott Hardy
Council President



Jack Boyde
Council Commissioner



Sharon Moulds
Scout Executive/CEO

OUR MISSION

**TO BE THE PREMIER YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN OUR
COMMUNITIES BY ENGAGING
YOUNG PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THE
WORLD BY INSPIRING LEADERSHIP,
CHARACTER, AND PURPOSE.**

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Laurel Highlands Council, Boy Scouts of America, fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion that makes it enriching to participate, volunteer, and work in the Scouting program. We invite all people to get involved in Scouting, mindful of the importance of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, religion, physical ability, and political belief. We create a positive and welcoming environment for all, valuing backgrounds and experiences that will grow and strengthen our movement and continue to make us a valued contributor to the communities we serve.



CAMPING AND PROG

CAMPER DAYS

Camp Anawanna = 2,437 camper days

Camp Baker = 1,480 camper days

Camp Guyasuta = 12,553 camper days

Camp Potomac = 4,389 camper days

Camp Seph Mack = 4,856 camper days

Heritage Reservation = 6,797 camper days

The total number of Camper Days for 2020 was 32,512.

WINTER WEEKENDS

The 2020 Winter Weekends at Heritage Reservation were a tremendous opportunity for Cub Scouts and their parents to enjoy fun-filled weekends in the great outdoors while experiencing the beauty of winter. Scouts and their families were able to stay in our Potomac Homes for the weekend. The families were able to choose from an array of activities including sledding, Klondike games, broom-ball, snowshoeing, and so much more. There were 719 Cub Scout Winter Weekend participants throughout the six weekends in January and February.

The Cub Scouts weren't the only ones having "snow" much fun. Scouts BSA and Venturers spent their winter weekends at Heritage Reservation for a few days of fun and relaxation. Those in attendance were able to head over to Nemaocolin's Mystic Mountain ski area for the day Saturday, while some kicked back, and others played a game or watched a movie. The Scouts BSA and Venturing weekend in January hosted 104 participants and 94 participants at the OA Winterfest at the end of January.



HIKE, BIKE, FISH

In the midst of cancelled events, and limited crowds, we knew we needed to get our Laurel Highlands Council Scouts outside and taking on adventure. Bring on Hike, Bike, Fish! Hike, Bike, Fish was our annual membership event that invited all current Scouts and any new Scouts to participate. Five locations were set up on September 25th to allow Scouts and their families to spend the day hiking, biking, and fishing. Families were able to take on this adventure at their own pace, so some spent the whole time working on the scavenger hunt, while others did some fishing and biking. This event was a great opportunity to get families outside and enjoying the Scouting program.

Between the five locations, over 300 people safely and socially distanced enjoyed Hike, Bike, Fish.



HAUNTED GUYASUTA

Haunted Guyasuta is our annual Halloween and Fall event for Scouts, families, and community members of all ages. On October 17th, we hosted both a scare and non-scare trail so that all would be able to participate in the Halloween fun. Six of our local troops were in attendance to help set up Halloween displays, and assist as trail guides and with climbing activities.

Participants were able to walk through Camp Guyasuta to view the Halloween displays, hop on the hayride with their families, climb our famous climbing tower, take a ride on the zip line, and end the evening with a good fall campfire.

This event typically boasts a very high attendance. And this year was no different, however, we did proceed with extra caution, ensuring that all participants stayed socially distanced and safe during their visit.



HERITAGE OPEN HOUSE

This year, Scouts were not able to attend Summer Camp in person, but we did not want that to stop us from getting our Scouts and families out to Heritage Reservation. On November 7th, families from across the council headed out to Heritage Reservation for the first ever open house. Scouts and their family members arrived at Heritage Reservation, and of course safely checked in. From there, families headed off to participate in hiking, fishing, archery shooting, rifle shooting, climbing and COPE activities, just to name a few. Participants were able to stop for lunch at their leisure, and then continue on to more activities of their choosing. Over 350 guests enjoyed a fun-filled day outside at camp, safely and socially distanced.



VIRTUAL PROGRAM

VIRTUAL DAY CAMP

Cancelled in-person day camps did not make for a fun and eventful Summer, so we took to Zoom to offer the first ever LHC Virtual Day Camp. From July 13th to 17th, Cub Scouts of all ages jumped on Zoom to attend Virtual Day Camp. Tigers, Lions, Bears, Wolves, and Arrow of Light Scouts attended their individual sessions to complete requirements for their adventures. Prior to Virtual Day Camp, camp boxes were delivered to each of the Scouts' homes. Inside "Day Camp in a Box," the Scouts found supplies they would need to complete their requirements for the week. Many say that the highlight of their week was working to complete their own musical instrument and then play a song for all of the participants. To wrap up the Virtual Day Camp, a Field Day was held at both Heritage Reservation and Camp Seph Mack on August 2nd. During the Field Day, Scouts were able to be outside, enjoy some Scouting activities, and build and launch their very own rocket. Building and launching the rockets were a part of the STEM activity that involved learning about aerodynamics, lift, drag and much more. The week-long Virtual Day Camp hosted over 90 Cub Scouts online. The Field Day in August hosted over 120 Cub Scouts and their friends, as the Scouts were encouraged to bring a buddy. The Field Day served as a great day of safe and socially distanced adventure.





HERITAGE @ HOME

When Summer Camp is cancelled for the health and safety of our Scouts and families, virtual program kicks in. This July, for two weeks, Scouts BSA members were able to virtually participate in Heritage @ Home. Scouts registered online, received “camp in a box” at their home, and jumped online via Zoom and Google Classroom to participate in a different type of Summer Camp for 2020. Each week, Scouts had the opportunity to work on up to six merit badges at their own pace. The days started and ended with flag ceremonies and evenings included fun activities like family games and campfires.

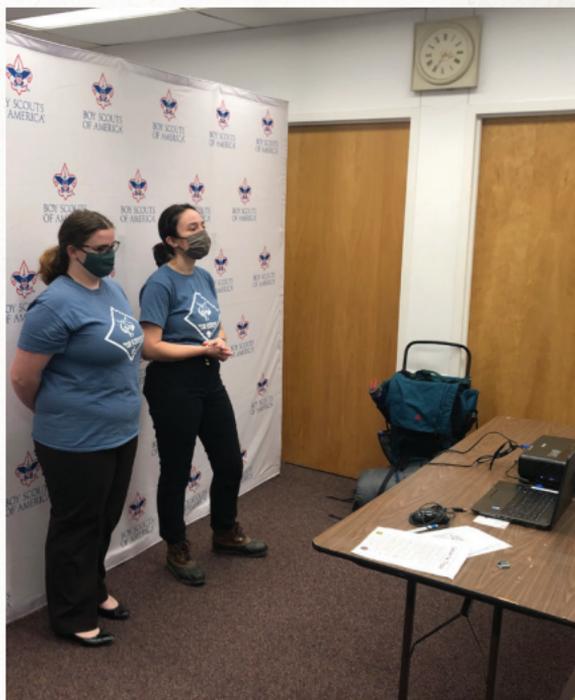
Many Scouts really liked being able to work on merit badges at their own pace. Heritage @ Home hosted 116 Scouts over the period of time from July 12th to July 24th. Scouts BSA members were also offered Saturday weekend programs on site at Heritage Reservation. Scouts could participate in our ATV Adventure program, COPE, a First Year Camper skills program, or work on merit badges like rifle shooting, shotgun shooting, or climbing. We had 149 Scouts participate over six weekends.



VIRTUAL SCOUTER-REE

2020 sure threw us for a loop this year, but as Scouts, we were prepared. When cancelled events and Scouting activities were becoming the norm, our staff jumped at the opportunity to provide program, but virtually instead! On both April 25th and May 16th, our staff and volunteers worked together to host the first ever Virtual Scouter-ree events. These events enabled Scouts to work on merit badges and NOVA awards, and of course enjoy a virtual campfire. The first Virtual Scouter-ree on April 25th hosted over 400 participants and the follow-up event on May 16th hosted over 300 participants.

Each event closed out with a fun Family Campfire that enabled Scouts from across the council to connect and tell stories, jokes, sing songs, or act out skits. Over 75 families participated online for the virtual campfire.



MEMBERSHIP

CUB SCOUTS

Cub Scouts is a year-round, family-friendly program designed for boys and girls who are in kindergarten through fifth grade (ages 5-10). Activities are used to achieve the aims and methods of Scouting: citizenship, character, personal fitness, and leadership. In 2020, 5,501 Cub Scouts were served within 183 packs.



SCOUTS BSA

Scouts BSA is designed for boys and girls ages 11-18. Scouts learn responsible citizenship, character development, and self-reliance through participation in a wide range of outdoor activities and educational programs. Camping, hiking, building projects, community service, and other experiences allow the youth to grow and mature at their own pace. In 2020, 3,883 Scouts BSA members were served within 203 troops.



VENTURING

Venturing is a program for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20. Its purpose is to provide positive experiences to help youth mature and prepare them to become responsible adults. The result of this dynamic program enables youth to pursue their special interests, grow, develop leadership skills, and become active citizens. In 2020, 768 Venturers were served within 30 crews.



EXPLORING

Exploring exists to teach important life and career skills to young people from all backgrounds through immersive career experiences and mentorship provided by community and business leaders like you. Together, we equip young people with character, leadership and life skills that can be used both today and in their future careers.

Exploring is based on a unique and dynamic relationship between youth and the organizations in their communities. Businesses and community organizations initiate a career-specific Exploring post or club by matching their people and organizational resources to the career interests of youth in the community. The result is a program of interactive activities that helps youth pursue their special interests, grow, and develop.

Exploring serves two different age groups, both coed. Exploring clubs serve middle schoolers, aged 10 - 14, in sixth through eighth grades. Exploring posts serve older youth 14 - 20 years old. In 2020, 383 Exploring members were served.

SCOUTREACH

Scoutreach is the council's commitment to making sure that all young people have an opportunity to join Scouting, regardless of circumstances, neighborhood, or ethnic background. The Scoutreach program meets the development needs of youth in urban and rural settings through a well-defined program based on values, learning by doing, fun, and positive role models. Scoutreach is the traditional Scouting program brought to the classroom or during after-school activities. In 2020, 263 Cub Scouts and 23 Scouts BSA members were served within 13 units.



TRAILBLAZER

TrailBlazer Scouting gives youth with disabilities and special needs the ability to participate in Scouting just like their peers. The TrailBlazer program is directed at helping unit leaders develop an awareness of disabled people among youth without disabilities and encouraging the inclusion of Scouts with disabilities and special needs in Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops, and Venturing crews. In 2020, 319 Cub Scouts, 169 Scouts BSA members, and 720 Venturers were served within 38 units.



SERVICE

SCOUTING FOR FOOD AND CHOW WAGON CAMPAIGN

Scouting for Food and the Chow Wagon is a community service campaign to collect food, nonperishable items, and pet supplies for community members in need of assistance. This year, we began work on a Spring Scouting for Food and Chow Wagon Campaign that was quickly halted by the coronavirus. To keep our Scouts and their families safe, we reworked the typical Scouting for Food and Chow Wagon plan to make it safer for Scouts and their families to participate. Scout units, families, and individual Scouts took two weeks to complete their campaign. The first weekend of participants choosing consisted of distributing Scouting for Food door hangers in their communities to let their neighbors know about the upcoming campaign. Door hangers listed pick-up times as well as most needed items at food banks and pet food banks. The next weekend, the Scouts were out and about picking up the contributions. They then worked to deliver the contributions to a local food bank or community center in their neighborhood.

This yearly campaign was needed more than ever in 2020, with many families losing income, and not knowing where their next meal would come from. While we did not have the normal high number of participants due to the virus, over 450 Scouts and their family members worked to safely collect and deliver over 14,000 pounds of food and nonperishable items, and over 500 pounds of pet supplies. We commended each of the Scouts, units, and families for their participation in a campaign that made a world of difference to those in need.



COMMUNITY SERVICE / EAGLE SCOUTS

Each year, the Laurel Highlands Council is very proud of the number of Scouts who earn the rank of Eagle Scout, and this year was no different. 264 Scouts worked tirelessly to complete their project and become the 2020 Eagle Scout Class... 264 Eagle Scouts, 264 community service projects. No Eagle Scout project is ever the same because no project has the same meaning. Scouts begin their trail to Eagle, deciding how they would like to better the community. From there they plan, recruit volunteers, and produce a project that betters the community. We are so proud of all 264 Eagle Scouts who earned the highest rank in Scouting this past year.



ACHIEVEMENTS / ADVANCEMENTS

CUB SCOUT RANKS

Lion - 285

Tiger - 528

Bobcat - 556

Wolf - 586

Bear - 596

Webelos - 662

Arrow of Light - 502

Total: 3,715

SCOUTS BSA RANKS

Scout - 384

Tenderfoot - 281

Second Class - 264

First Class - 253

Star - 221

Life - 244

Eagle - 264

Total: 1,911



LEADERSHIP - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dr. Lisa Abel-Palmieri[^] – Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania
- Richard M. Bausher⁺ – Boscov's Department Store
- Carl "Buck" Belt, Jr. – The Belt Group
- Jack Boyde ^{+++^}
- H. Scott Cunningham – retired, PNC Wealth Management
- Kevin Flannery ^{+^} – Township of Hampton
- Gordon Gebbens – UPMC Health Plan
- Andrea Geraghty – Meyer, Unkovic and Scott
- W. Scott Hardy^{++ ^} – Judge, U.S. District Court
- Livingstone M. Johnson⁺ – retired Judge, Court of Common Pleas
- William Koller⁺ – Bechtel Plant Machinery, Inc.
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- Richard Krapp – Mascaro Construction
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- Erich C. Smith[^] – PNC Wealth Management
- Kevin Squire^{+ **}
- Brian Tedeschi⁺ – Think Communications Inc.
- Lee Tilghman – The Dietrich Foundation
- James C. Tracy^{+^}

+Eagle Scout

*Chairman of the Board

++Council President

+++Council Commissioner

^Council Executive Committee

**Order of the Arrow

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

	2020 (unaudited)	2019
Friends of Scouting (net)	436,196	586,826
Special events (net)	254,346	487,760
Legacies and bequests	170,033	5,000
Foundations and trusts	332,018	667,020
Other direct support	3,415	49,127
United Way	317,190	366,068
Total Support	1,513,197	2,161,800
Camping revenue	687,924	2,278,077
Activity revenue	64,451	234,241
Investment income	926,546	664,629
Product sales (net)	101,940	435,095
Sale of scouting supplies (net)	25,186	46,298
Other revenue	1,185,606	547,982
Total Revenue	2,991,653	4,206,323
Total support and revenue	4,504,850	6,368,123

	2020 (unaudited)	2019
Employee compensation	2,909,285	3,429,440
Professional fees	250,070	319,594
Program and other supplies	257,792	815,616
Telephone and communications	73,127	80,051
Postage and shipping	11,427	13,273
Occupancy & utilities	361,574	496,986
Equipment rental	10,044	30,916
Publication and media	62,082	74,516
Travel	95,891	212,280
Conferences and meeting	14,552	52,002
Assistance to individuals	51,671	90,278
Recognition and awards	31,770	98,871
Insurance	224,614	255,168
Other	28,230	203,312
National charter fees	94,350	83,223
Total expenses	4,476,480	6,255,526
Surplus (deficit) Revenue/Expense	28,371	112,597

BOY SCOUTS
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LAUREL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

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