



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2022**



**LAUREL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL**  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

*who we are*  
**WHERE WE ARE GOING**

Looking at 2022 in our rear-view mirror, it is clear to us that our Laurel Highlands Council is blessed to have you and thousands like you who are so willing to share your time, talent, leadership, and treasure. And for that, we Thank YOU.

Our journey continued to move us forward to a new normal with the pandemic and the National Council financial restructuring. We remained purposeful in our approaches and thoughtful in our resource management to make the greatest impact in the communities we serve. The results? Our membership is growing and our financial footing sound.

During these existential and transitioning times, we remain steadfast in our two-point vision. Simply, that is...

1. To put Cubs in Dens, Dens in Packs, Packs in churches and synagogues in EVERY community we serve.
2. To build the sustainable financial mechanisms that re-invests in number one.

Our Scouting program is the compass for our future leaders. It is incumbent upon us to take the lead, make positive change and collaborate with other community-based organizations so that Scouting will continue to impact an ever-increasing number of youth and families.

Looking ahead, 2023 has all the potential to be a watershed point in time for us. We will be continually challenged to think differently. Volunteers, membership, annual support, unit service, camping, and popcorn are the battle cry.

The future is bright, and our direction is focused. We have outlined the path to greater growth and impact. Now is the time to seize the moment and take action. Thank you for engaging on this journey with us.

J Tracy  
President

Jack Boyde  
Commissioner

Todd McGregor  
CEO & Director



*who we are*

## OUR MISSION + VISION

Since 1910, Scouting has helped mold the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes and, through nearly a century of experience, understands that helping youth puts us on a path toward a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

The Laurel Highlands Council serves over 8,000 youth members and 4,000 volunteer adult leaders throughout its multi-state footprint in Western Pennsylvania, Western Maryland, and parts of West Virginia, making it one of the largest councils in the Boy Scouts of America.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

### 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 & reverent.

### VISION STATEMENT.

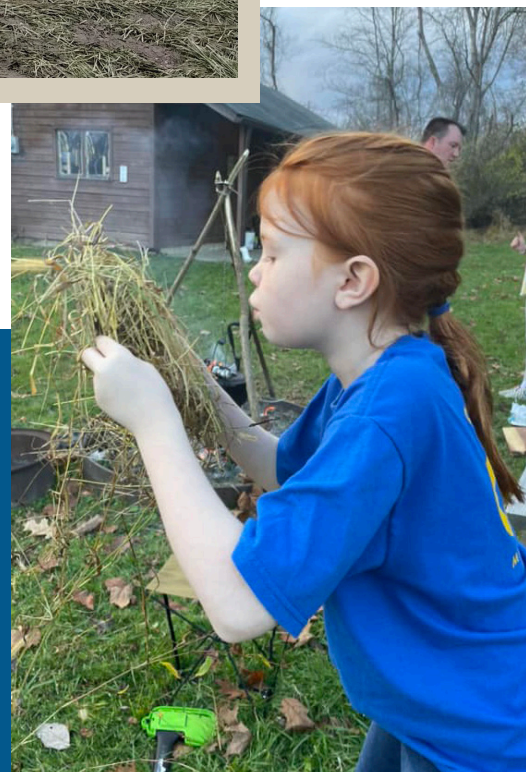
The Boy Scouts of America, Laurel Highlands Council aims to beneficially involve every eligible child and his or her family in the fun and adventure of our programs.

We will provide extraordinary youth development programs that: strengthen values, develop leadership skills, provide lifelong learning, and instill the habit of service to others. Laurel Highlands Council will be widely acknowledged as a community and national leader in serving youth, families, and neighborhoods.

The result will be achieved through the partnership of:

- 1) children and families
- 2) strong community organizations
- 3) committed, trained volunteers, and
- 4) districts, board and staff able to align community resources in support of Scouting

*who we are and*  
**HOW WE ARE SCOUTING**





# last year's NUMBERS + STATISTICS

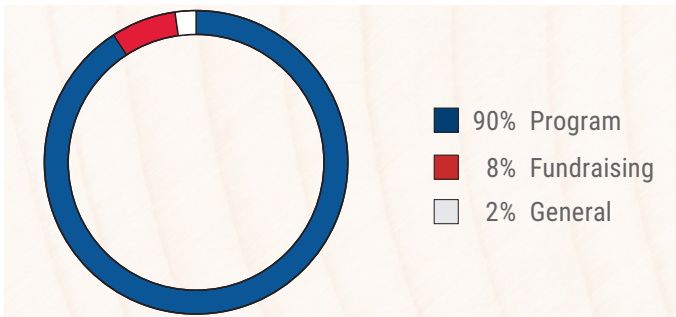
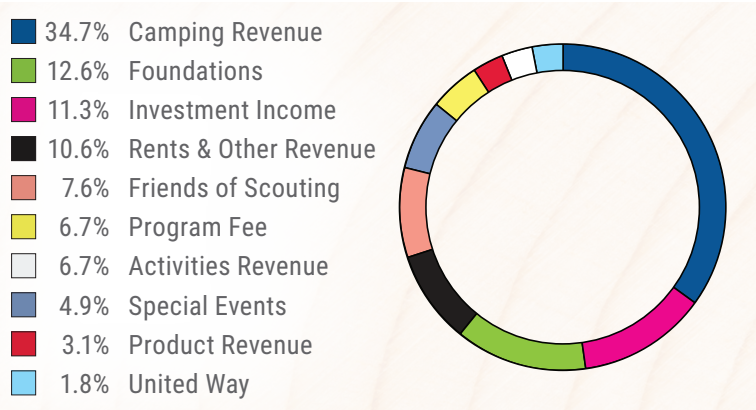
Scouting our way through 2022 was filled with adventures, learning, and growing. In 2022, we saw a 3.69% increase in membership growth over the past year. This increase means that more youth are learning to be community servants, showing leadership in their schools and families, tapping into their creativity, becoming wilderness survivors, and stewards of safety and preparedness.



- Explorers: 12
- Venturers + Sea Scouts: 596
- Scouts BSA: 3,552
- Cub Scouts: 4,644
- Total: 8,804



## HOW WE ARE FUNDED + HOW WE INVEST IN YOUTH



*programs*  
**CUB SCOUTS + SCOUTS BSA**



The Cub Scout program is all about encouraging boys and girls to make friends, be helpful to others, and do their very best no matter the outcome. As a Cub Scout advances through the ranks, the requirements get more challenging, to match the new skills and abilities they have learned. Last year, 2,672 Cub Scout Advancements were earned.

The Scouts BSA program is where youth develop outdoor survival skills, self-confidence, and ethics through youth planned activities with increased attention to service, community engagement, and leadership. Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. Scouts BSA members plan their own advancement and progress at their own pace as they meet each challenge. Scouts are recognized for each achievement, which helps them gain self-confidence. In 2022, 2,141 Scouts BSA youth advanced in rank.





*programs*

# EXPLORING, SEA SCOUTS, + VENTURING



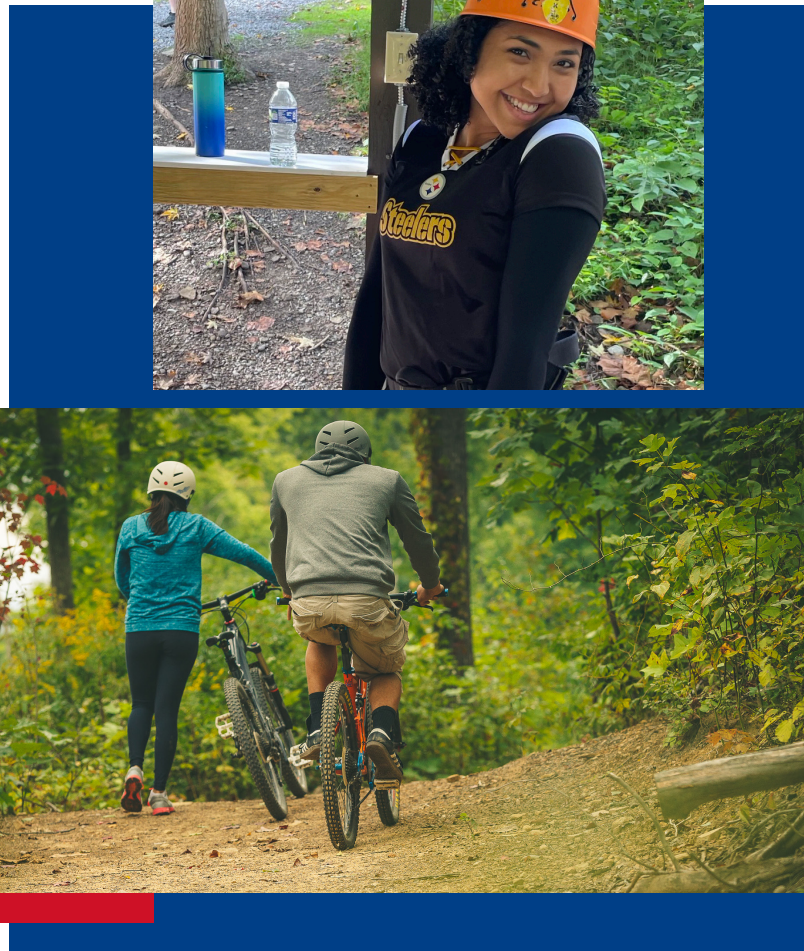
Venturing is a youth-led program where Scouts experience positive mentorship and develop leadership skills in a fun, supportive environment. In 2022, 396 Venturers developed leadership skills like decision making, communication, and organization by choosing activities they are most interested.



Exploring connects boys and girls with mentors and organizations within their communities. In 2022, 12 Explorers stepped into real-world work environments to gain hands-on experience and learn more about potential career paths.



Sea Scouting provides a fun, safe environment for Scouts to learn, build friendships, and develop character while earning advancement in this maritime program. 11 apprentice seamen advanced in rank this past year.



*program*  
**ADVANCEMENTS**

**2,672**

*Cub Scout  
 Adventures*

- Lion: 234*
- Tiger: 330*
- Bobcat: 660*
- Wolf: 351*
- Bear: 332*
- Webelos: 403*
- Arrow of Light: 362*

**2,141**

*Scouts BSA  
 Ranks*

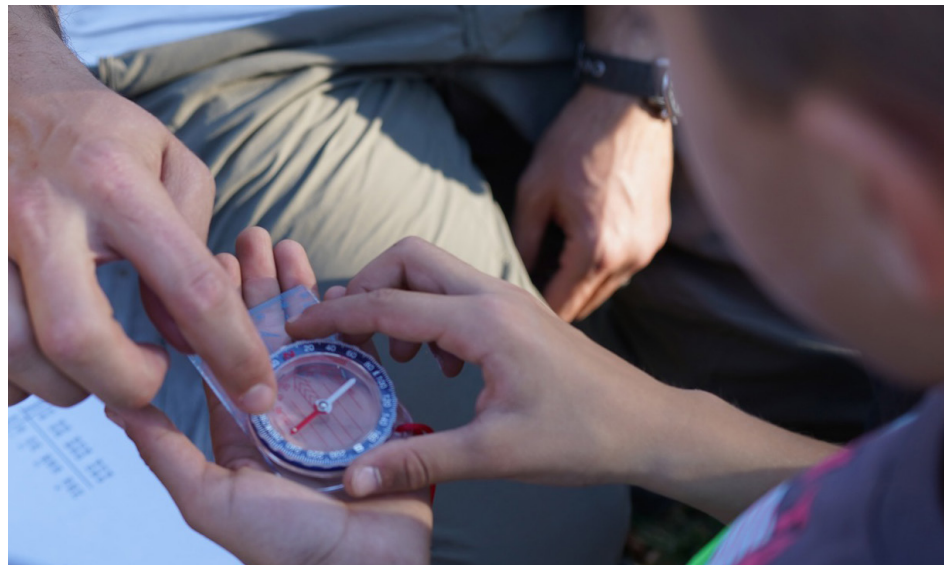
- Scout: 409*
- Tenderfoot: 381*
- Second Class: 317*
- First Class: 279*
- Star: 246*
- Life: 246*
- Eagle: 263*

**12,849**

*Merit Badges  
 Earned*

- Top 5:*
- Citizenship in Society*
- First Aid*
- Swimming*
- Environmental Science*
- Citizenship in the  
 World*

Did you know that learning about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers are just some of the merit badges that can be earned within the Scouting program? With more than 135 merit badges to earn, any Scouts BSA member, or any qualified Venturer or Sea Scout may earn any of these at any time. This past year, Scouts earned 12,849 merit badges! They picked a subject that interested them, found a merit badge counselor, and earned badges based on requirements of each. Some of 2022's most popular merit badges were First Aid, Citizenship in the Nation, and Camping.





# service to the COMMUNITY

When it comes to community service, Scouts get it right! This past year, Scouts contributed over 28,000 hours of community service, that's nearly three hours per Scout. In their time serving the community, one project they participate in each year is the annual **Scouting for Food Campaign & Chow Wagon Campaign**. This food and pet supply drive benefits community centers, food pantries, church food banks, and Animal Friends of Pittsburgh. Throughout the 2022 campaign, over 56,000 pounds of food and pet supplies were donated by Scouts, their families, friends, neighbors, and organizations in their local communities.



## 263 Eagle Scout Projects

The Laurel Highlands Council Scouts sure aren't lacking in community service hours, and the Eagle Scout Projects completed this past year are a testament to that. Projects ranged from small food pantries to historical preservation work, and bench building to trail fixing, and many in between.



Harrison M., Troop 560, Japeechen



Trista S., Troop 9076, Potomac

## *outdoor* ADVENTURE

**Outdoor Adventure. Summer Camp. Day Camp. Camporees.** You name it, our Scouts Camp it! Camping is the number one adventure that keeps kids in Scouting. Their time spent outside with their fellow Scouts are memories and skills learned that will last them a lifetime. The Laurel Highlands Council has six camping properties and over the course of 2022, Scouts and their families visited one of our camping facilities over 13,000 times! On average, that's nearly 1.5 camp visits per Scout.

Camping opportunities were abundant in 2022 from the LHC Signature Event at Camp Seph Mack, to Day Camp at Camp Baker, Merit Badge Days at Camp Guyasuta, Cub Fun Day at Camp Potomac, Summer Camp at Heritage Reservation, and so many more!

The Scouting and Beyond Signature Camporee at Camp Seph Mack boasted over 150 Scouts in attendance. While there, they worked on their wilderness survival skills, learned about Space, and got to launch rockets!

**13,011**  
*camper days*

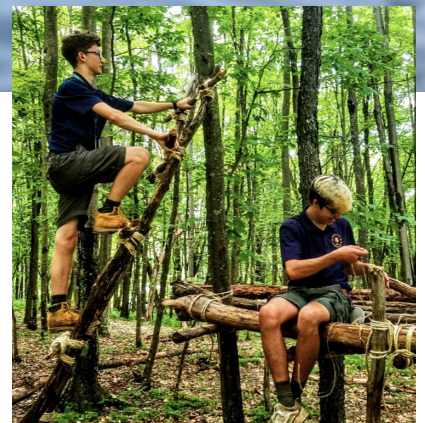






The TrailBlazer District puts the outing in Scouting! Every TrailBlazer Scout has the opportunity to attend Day Camp at Camp Guyasuta twice a year, and this year 738 Scouts attended in the Spring and Fall. During the Spring Day Camp, campers participated in a theme-based craft or nature hike. In the fall, they received a Trick or Treat Bag, mini pumpkin, and participated in a hayride around camp. Each Scout can experience the ropes and repelling course (COPE), participate in field games to learn team building, sharpen their skills at the archery course and eat a delicious lunch! They get to do all this while being outside and having fun! At the end of the experience, they received a patch to commemorate their day at camp.

Between all the experiences at Day Camp and Summer Camp, Scouts were able to work on and earn new Cub Scout Adventures and Scouts BSA Merit Badges while they had fun with their families and friends.





*scouting in action*

## REPORT TO THE COMMONWEALTH

On June 7, 2022, a contingent of Scouts, volunteers, and staff from the Laurel Highlands Council made their way to Harrisburg, PA to participate in the Annual Scouting Report to the Commonwealth. While COVID forced the cancellation of this event in 2020 & 2021, elected officials enthusiastically welcomed us to the Pennsylvania State Capitol. It was an excellent day for Scouting to enjoy high-profile visibility and build relationships with officials at the Capitol.

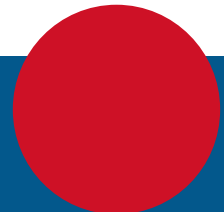
*scouting in action*

## MERITORIOUS ACTION AWARD



You never know when you might need to jump into action and use the skills you learned in Scouting! Nate C. an Eagle Scout, and Toby C. are both Sea Scouts from Ship 4481 in the Fort Bedford District.

While kayaking, the brothers came across another kayaker who had capsized. The individual was struggling to un-swamp his kayak when Nate and Toby came to the rescue! The pair were able to assist the individual in removing the water from his kayak and getting him back to safety.





# salesmanship FUNDING THE ADVENTURE

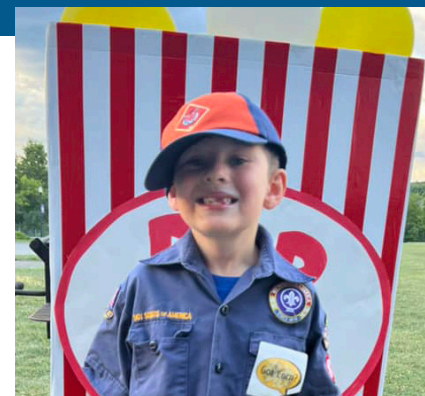
Funding the adventure one kernel at a time! Scouts in the LHC knocked on doors and used their Salesmanship Skills to sell Trail's End Popcorn in support of their Scouting adventures! The Top ten selling Scout sales totaled over \$47,000 and earned themselves a spot in the Pop-tastic Spin to Win event where they had the opportunity to earn even more prizes!

**\$574,000**  
in total Scout Sales!



Congratulations to our Top Ten Poppers:

- Elijah S.- Troop 7004
- Emberley P.- Pack 437
- Alexander M.- Troop 1017
- RJ C.- Troop 65
- Landon P.- Pack 965
- Benjamin L.- Pack 420
- Jesse M.- Troop 210
- Zachary J.- Pack 860
- Cadon S.- Pack 179
- Luca W.- Pack 420





## *a way of life* FAMILY SCOUTING

Scouting has had a huge impact on the Collery Family most of their lives, and we were lucky enough to be able to share their Family Scouting story. For the Collery's, Scouting is not just another scheduled commitment, but **a way of life**. Scouting is a key focus and so much more than just another activity. The story begins as Brian Collery (Father) became a member of Pack 225 in Bethel Park and worked his way to earning the rank of Eagle Scout.



Years later, Brian and his wife Diane had their first child, Nolan. When Nolan came of age for Cub Scouts, Brian knew he wanted him to have the same opportunities that he had been given as a youth. Fortunately, Nolan ended up following the same Scouting path as his father.

With such fond Scouting memories in the making, Brian noticed there was just one thing missing. His daughter, Brenna, had been watching from the sidelines for years, yearning to be allowed to participate. It became Brian's goal to find a way for his daughter to be able to experience Scouting.

When it was announced that girls would be able to join the BSA, the Collery family was ready, and signed up one of the first female Scouts BSA units, Troop 9329. The formation of the new

all-girl unit allowed the Collery's to have a true Family Scouting experience. Brenna is participating right alongside her brother Nolan in Troop 329.

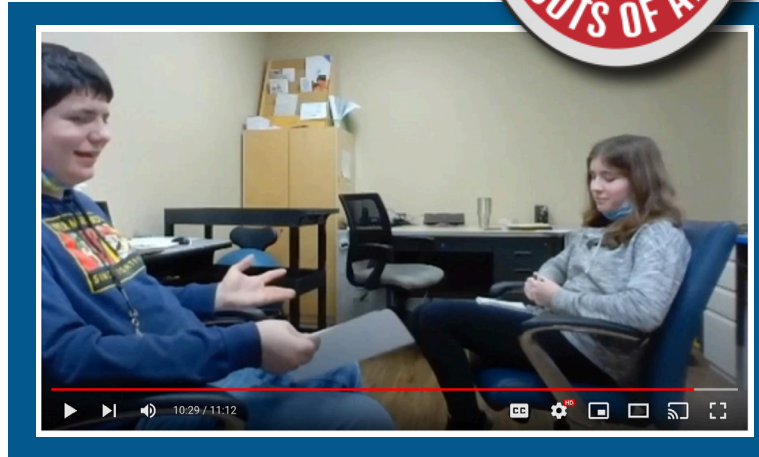
In October of 2021, Nolan Collery earned Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout when he successfully led a team of adult and Scout volunteers to carry out plans at the North Park Arboretum. Brenna is currently working toward earning the rank of Eagle Scout and we look forward to sharing her success in Scouting soon!





*blazing the trail***SCOUTING + SPECIAL NEEDS**

George Scher earned Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout on March 27, 2022. While earning the rank of Eagle Scout is not an easy task, George faced another obstacle, Autism. For years, his parents, Alan and Frances struggled to pinpoint a diagnosis for George, but around the age of six years old, he was diagnosed with the Autism Spectrum Disorder. After years of unknowns, the definition of Autism Spectrum Disorder was finally expanded, and things started to make more sense for his parents.



In second grade when he was just 7 years old, George decided it was his turn to join Cub Scouts. He had already been attending pack meetings with his older brother, Nathan, but when George attended Nathan's Pinewood Derby, he was sold on joining Scouts!

Since his diagnosis, George has attended Autism-focused schools to help him throughout his journey. George's parents have worked with him to understand himself as an individual and Autism in the general sense. Along the way, Scout volunteers and professionals worked to ensure that George had a beneficial Scouting experience, regardless of his Autism Disorder.



When it came time for George to complete his Eagle Scout Project, he wanted to share with others what the world was like for him and his friends with Autism. Over six months of planning and another three months of actual work went into George's project. George conducted and recorded video interviews about what it is like to live with Autism. From there, he use his video editing skills to combine the interviews into one informational clip that will educate others on awareness and give them a better understanding of autism.

George says that "there are a lot of people who don't understand Autism and even more who don't know how to interact with Autistic people." The mission of the Watson Institute, the beneficiary of George's project, is to help children with special needs achieve their fullest potential in all aspects of their lives. George's devotion to this project will help others better understand what makes people with Autism unique.

*eagle scout story*

# CONSERVATIONIST IN THE MAKING

Sam P. of Troop 448 in Bedford County started Scouting around the very young age of 18 months old when he began tagging along to Cub Scout meetings with his older brother, Will and their mom, Sue Prescott. While some may say he couldn't be in Cub Scouts until he was a little older, that didn't stop him from the enjoyment of being a "Scout Buddy."

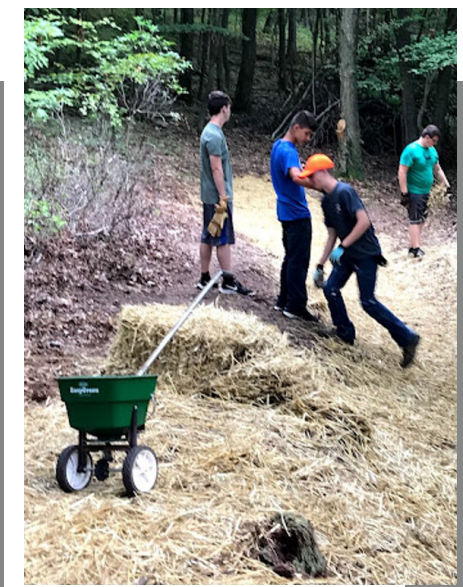
During a very active Scouting journey, Sam decided that he was going to earn his Eagle Scout Rank. As Sam decided upon his project, it only seemed fitting to incorporate some form of conservation and history stemming from his love and passion for both topics. Game Lands 73 in Bedford County would be the beneficiary of this quite extensive Eagle Scout Project.

Sam led a group of Scouts, family, friends, and volunteers to restore two historical sites: the foundation from a refuge keeper's cabin and the Civil War trench.

Both areas benefited when he created wildlife habitats from brush, trees, and other natural debris that were cleared for the restorations. He continued the restoration by planting grass that will enable the Game Commission to easily maintain the area, and he added informational signs at each site.

In the Spring of 2021, Sam found himself at a Leave No Trace training at Heritage Reservation where the lead instructor heard about his work on his Eagle Scout Project and encouraged him to learn more about the Conservation Award.

Sam earned the Rank of Eagle Scout on April 5, 2022 and with that, the first requirement the of the Conservation Award is complete. Sam begun researching plants and started plans for the second portion of the Conservation Award which will benefit Shawnee State Park. If things continue to go as planned, we'll be congratulating a Conservation Awardee very soon!





## *our leadership*

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 #District Chair

*thank you*  
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