

- **Fun and Friendship:** They like to have fun with friends. The camaraderie of Scouts is one of its strongest draws. Young people can enter a friendly environment to play sports and games as part of a team. The Scouter is like an older brother or sister, offering friendship and security in a different way than parents and teachers.

Scouting provides an alternative to sports and other clubs that put competitive pressure on young people. Some of your members may already have had bad experiences and may feel they don't fit in. Scouting offers them the chance to succeed as a member of a group.

- **Setting and Achieving Personal Goals:** Young people like to challenge themselves. They find satisfaction in reaching small goals--earning a badge, for example, or learning a new skill such as firelighting. Then they can set larger goals--surviving a first hike or camp or canoe trip. Later, they may want to earn the Chief Scout's Award or set personal standards for their own lives.

Their goals are guided by their interests and hobbies. After awhile, Scouting itself may become the hobby. Whatever a young person's goals, Scouting can provide a way to meet them.

- **Independence and Responsibility:** Young people want to become adults. Scouting gives them the opportunity to take small steps towards independence. When they join, they may be breaking away from parents for the first time, and the experience can be fun or lonely.

As they progress in Scouting, they are ready to take larger steps by planning activities, outings, and camps and learning from their experiences, good and not so good. If they become patrol leaders, they become even more responsible members of the group. Perhaps the leadership role is an important goal in itself, something through which they gain confidence and esteem.

- **Family Factors:** Families may influence young people's decisions to come into Scouting. Perhaps they want a break from brothers and sisters. Maybe their parents want a break from them and force them to join. Perhaps they come from fatherless homes looking for father-figures. On the other hand, they may be following in the footsteps of parents who were in Scouting

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## Why Join Scouting?

Scouting reinforces the skills and values we want our sons to learn while they're having fun.

### Education

Scouting is designed to promote socially acceptable behavior while arming our young men with the skills and knowledge they need to make wise decisions. Scouts, families and communities are helped through education provided by Scouting on:

- Fighting child abuse and substance abuse
- Environmental stewardship
- Physical and mental health
- Setting and achieving goals
- Citizenship
- Helping others in need
- Career preparation and education



### **Leadership Skills**

Scouting teaches our young men the skills that help prepare them for a lifetime of ethical leadership. Among Scouting alumni are:

- Almost 90% of all Senior Class and Student Council Presidents
- More than two-thirds of all Rhodes Scholars
- More than two-thirds of military academy graduates

### **Values**

Research conducted by Louis Harris & Associates showed that when a random sample of Scouts was asked what Scouting had taught them, almost nine out of ten responded with the following:

- Take better care of the environment (89%)
- Get along with others (88%)
- Always give your best effort (87%)
- Have confidence in yourself (87%)
- Set goals for yourself (87%)
- Care for other people (86%)
- Treat other people with respect (86%)

In addition, Scouts were found to be more likely to:

- Assume leadership roles in clubs and school organizations
  - Put the needs of others before themselves
  - Make the most ethical, not necessarily easiest, decisions
  - Value education and the environment
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12 will have their first contact with a church

1 will enter the clergy

5 will earn their church award

18 will develop a hobby that will last through their adult life

8 will enter a vocation that was learned through the merit badge system

1 will use his Scouting skills to save his own life

1 will use his Scouting skills to save the life of another person