

REPORT TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

CONCEPT

Based on the long-standing practice of the BSA's Report to the Nation and Report to the State, the Report to the School District provides an opportunity at the local level to promote Scouting and renew relationships with chartered organizations.

A "Report to the School District" is presented annually to the superintendent and president at a meeting of the local school board. This is an opportunity to highlight and share the benefits Scouting provides your community, emphasizing its impact on the local school district. It provides an opportunity to build the Scouting brand and image as well as increase the awareness and visibility of Scouting's service. Within our Scouting membership, the report to the district will provide a source of pride and a boost to morale.

This area of outreach is the responsibility of the council and district membership committees.

WHY REPORT TO THE DISTRICT?

A Report to the School District is an opportunity to reach out and communicate to your community and school district officials the service and the benefits that Scouting provides in your community and school district. Presented annually to a local school board, the report is an ideal time to tell the Scouting story. It is a public opportunity for highlighting our service to our communities and for reintroducing to the public and to elected officials all that Scouting has to offer.

Service is Scouting's great legacy, and a chief reason that the Boy Scouts of America is one of the world's premier youth organizations. For more than a century, our members have answered the call to service. Where once they sold war bonds, collected rubber and scrap metal, and grew victory gardens, Scouting's youth and adults now fight hunger, provide shelter, clean up waterways, restore wildlife habitats, and render much other meaningful service to meet local needs.

As we report on another successful year of Scouting, we reiterate that Scouting is here, energetically serving the community, the state, and the nation. Scouting is relevant. The program achieves worthwhile results and wide-ranging benefits. The Boy Scouts of America continues to change lives and shape leaders.

BENEFITS OF REPORTING

The Report to the School District allows us to tell not only who we are but also what we do. It provides a high-profile opportunity to build the Scouting brand and image and to heighten perceptions of Scouting. It is a chance to increase the awareness and visibility of Scouting's service—Scouting's enduring commitment to making a difference.

Within our membership, the report engenders pride and boosts confidence. Youth participants selected as district presenters enjoy recognition by the council and district for their service and leadership. Their units are proud that one of their own members was selected. This pride spreads through the chartered organization, council, and district. Our volunteers want to believe that they are a part of something bigger than themselves, and representing their council in the Report to the School District allows them to share their Scouting spirit.

The Report to the School District also opens the door to new volunteers and potential donors. Increased awareness and publicity bring additional opportunities to engage new volunteers, attract financial support, and help grow Scouting in your area.

Highlighting units sponsored by schools and parent groups at schools reinforces the relationship between Scouting and schools. Sharing the service rendered by Scouts and Scouting units to schools, ranging from Cub Scout den service to Eagle, Summit, and Quartermaster award service projects, emphasizes the value provided to schools by Scouting. Recognition of Eagle Scout and Summit award recipients by the schools they attend offers additional opportunities to recognize the role of schools in producing engaged young adult citizens.

DISTRICT AND COUNCIL PARTICIPATION

The report to the district may be approached in a number of ways. It can take place at a school board meeting or at a community luncheon or breakfast. This provides your district or council with an opportunity to promote the good work that Scouting accomplishes in the community with an emphasis on the relationship between Scouting and schools.

It is helpful to plan on recognitions for school district officials. These individuals should receive something from your council every year. Think beyond a traditional Scouting coffee mug. Present something that the individual will wear or prominently display—perhaps a necktie, lapel pin, or pendant. Items may be customized for each individual. The Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award is a significant way to recognize those who contribute to Scouting’s mission in the school.

RECOGNITION HIGHLIGHT: FRETWELL OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

The Boy Scouts of America makes available the Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award. This award was developed to honor school faculty, staff, and administrators who exemplify the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law in an educational setting. Recognizing Fretwell Award recipients at this time provides an additional opportunity for relationship building between the local school district and the local Scouting organization. Information on the Fretwell Award is available at [XXXXXXXXXX](#).



ASSEMBLING THE REPORT

A template for writing your report is included here.

The Report to the School District is an opportunity to highlight and share the benefits that Scouting provides to your local community, particularly in partnership with school systems. Communicate success through statistics such as the number of youth and adults served, through the service provided to your community and your state, and through Scouting's collaborations with community organizations.

COMPILE STATISTICS

Use the BSA Report to the State Council Data Worksheet (<https://goo.gl/AmSmM1>) as a tool to begin the process. This information is shared with your council's area director for Report to the Nation needs. You should also identify how many units in your local council are chartered by school-parent organizations, meet in school district facilities, or have had service projects carried out on behalf of the schools in the school district. Service projects for the Eagle Scout, Venturing Summit, and Sea Scout Quartermaster awards are especially noteworthy.

GATHER SUCCESS STORIES

Numbers don't tell the whole Scouting story. They don't say everything about a council's success. Each council also needs to submit two service-oriented success stories. These accounts of service will provide a clearer picture of the benefits of Scouting in your community. We do not want to present simply what Scouting is but what it does. We want to show the invaluable role that Scouting plays in our communities.

The report must answer a key question: "What's in it for your school district?" Show how Scouting helps the community and school district accomplish their strategic plans and community outreach. Scouting, by its very existence, helps a school system accomplish these goals.

Scouting was founded on service. This is the foundation the report must stand on, and service initiatives like Messengers of Peace—especially ones that provide service to schools—should be a cornerstone. Your service-oriented success stories will show your school board and school district officials how Scouting benefits your communities.

PREPARE AND PRESENT

A written Report to the School District should be prepared and placed in a presentation folder to be presented to the superintendent or school board president. The document should be prepared in a professional manner and on appropriate letterhead, such as your local council letterhead.

Each council or district should prepare a Report to the School District booklet that features reports and photos from each of its units. Pay special attention to units that are chartered by schools and parent-teacher organizations in the local school district and those units that meet in school district-provided facilities. This will provide a communications resource to tell the story of Scouting to your community's leaders.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE

The Boy Scouts of America is an organization committed to making a difference in the lives of young people. Through the efforts of more than [national total] dedicated volunteers and the support of community and religious organizations, the BSA reached more than [national total] youth in [year] with its program of citizenship, mental and physical fitness, and character development.

OUR MISSION

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.

OUR MEMBERS

We use numbers and statistics to measure our success in delivering the Scouting program. But those figures provide only a glimpse of Scouting. Behind the numbers are caring adult volunteers, families, and supporters who give their time and talents to build a better future, one child at a time.

SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

[Add community information, compiled from the Report to the State worksheet. Include a few success stories highlighting the impact of Scouting in your community.]

COLLABORATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

[Add information compiled during the data collection process. Include a few success stories highlighting the impact of Scouting.]

YOUTH AND ADULTS SERVED

[Add community information compiled from the Report to the State worksheet with an emphasis on local school district relationships.]

SCRIPT FOR PRESENTATION

A sample script is provided here. This example is designed for use at a school board meeting and may be modified for use in different settings.

Good evening. I am [name], an adult leader in the [name of local] Council.

We are honored to be present here this evening. The purpose of this assembly is to Report to the [name of] School District on Scouting's progress during the year [year]. Scouting is celebrating [number] years of training American youth in the ideals of citizenship.

Ideals such as duty to God and country, and the Good Turn in service to others have become a strong element in our society. What we learn today in Scouting will help us meet the challenges of the future.

The United States Congress granted a federal charter to the Boy Scouts of America on June 15, 1916. Since that time, councils throughout America have reported their activities and progress to their respective partners. [Council] has [number] of packs, troops, teams, crews, and ships that meet in facilities provided by the [name of] School District.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the delegates who will present remarks.

DISTRICT/COUNCIL DELEGATE REPORTS

Each youth delegate is prepared to give a short summary of Scouting in his or her respective Scouting unit. [Delegates should identify themselves not only by their name and unit but also by the school they attend.]

[Allow time for youth delegates to form up behind the floor microphone.] Please hold your applause until all have reported.

[Note that youth delegates should represent all levels of the BSA program. They should be wearing a complete uniform and be well-prepared to deliver their comments. In addition to their comments on school and Scouting collaborations, they should share some of their school accomplishments (club member/elected officer, honor roll, etc.). It is important to communicate the caliber of youth involved in Scouting and to ensure that youth accomplishments are a source of pride for the school system as well.]

Thank you, members of the delegation.

REPORT AS A WHOLE

I now call on [name], [unit], from [city], to give the report of Scouting in the [district] of the [council] for [year].

[Selected youth delegate reports on the overall program in the community.]

Thank you, [name].

RESPONSE BY SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIAL

At this time, I have the great privilege to introduce the honorable [name, position] of the [name of school district].

[District official gives a response.]

Thank you, [name]. In recognition of your participation in today's ceremonies, please accept this token of our appreciation. The eagle is a symbol of strength and leadership—attributes that we in Scouting strive to achieve.

SCOUT OATH

As we officially begin another year in Scouting, we rededicate ourselves to the values of duty, service, and personal fitness. Will everyone please stand and join me in the Scout Oath? [Pause for everyone to stand.] Following the oath, everyone please remain standing until [district official] and the escorts exit the chamber.

[Give the Scout sign and lead the group in the 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.

[District official and escorts exit.]

The Report to the School District ceremonies are now concluded. Thank you for your attendance, and have a great year.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATION IDEAS

Job shadowing allows the youth delegates to shadow (accompany and observe) school district leaders throughout the day. The delegates might first participate in a day at a board member's place of employment, in which selected youths shadow board members as they engage in their professional responsibilities. Other delegates could shadow members of the administrative staff at the school district headquarters or at a school. Work with school district leadership to arrange this opportunity for youth members.

An opening dinner is similar to a delegate breakfast. It serves the same purposes and follows a similar format: The president of the host council gives a brief welcome. After dinner is served, an inspirational speaker may give a 15- to 20-minute talk to the delegates. The master of ceremonies then provides instructions and directions for the rest of the activities.

A closing dinner may be a fundraising dinner. Invite your school district leadership, elected community officials, and key business leaders; highlight the delegates from across the school district; and present the Report to the School District. If possible, show pictures or video of the youth delegates shadowing school district officials, presenting the report, etc.

Any council may also conduct a fundraising dinner. Highlight your council delegates from across multiple school districts and present your council report to leadership from multiple school districts, including elected community officials and key business leaders. Include pictures or video of the youth delegates participating in the Report to the School District activities.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT

The following content may be useful for incorporating into the Report to the School District. When preparing the presentation, it is important to communicate the common role Scouting and schools have in preparing young people for successful lives. Emphasizing Scouting's complementary role in supporting the mission of schools is important.

TUFTS UNIVERSITY STUDY ON SCOUTING

Current and former Scouts have always felt that Scouting has made a difference in their lives, and now a study out of Tufts University has found that Scouting does in fact have a measurable, positive impact in the character development of young people.

The study, funded by the John Templeton Foundation, involved nearly 1,800 Cub Scouts and 400 non-Scouts under the age of 12, and was conducted over three years. It sought to measure the difference Scouting makes in young people's lives as those positive changes were happening.

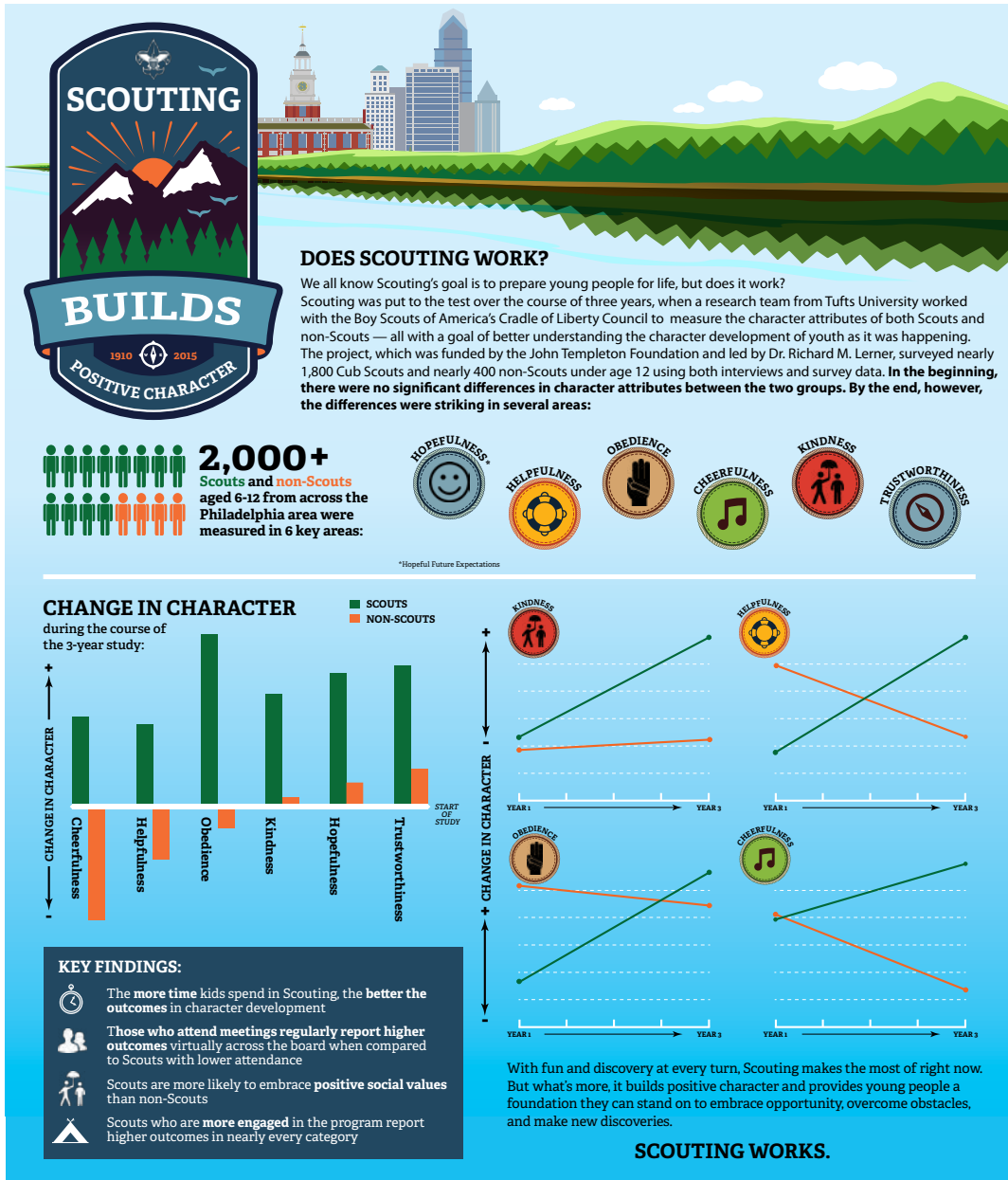
Participants were assessed at five intervals during the study to see if and how character changes were taking place. At the beginning of the study, there was no statistically significant difference in character between those in Scouting and those who weren't—ruling out the possibility that Scouting simply attracts people of higher character to begin with.

"After three years, Scouts reported significant increases in cheerfulness, helpfulness, kindness, obedience, trustworthiness, and hopeful future expectation," said Dr. Richard M. Lerner, who led the study at Tufts University. "In our control group of non-Scouts, there were no significant increases, and in some cases (e.g., religious reverence) there was an observed decrease, which was quite striking."

In addition, the study found a direct correlation between the amount of time boys spent in Scouting and the positive impact realized—those who spent more years in the program reported higher character attributes. Scouts who were more engaged also reported higher character attributes. And those who attended regular meetings reported higher character attributes compared to those with lower attendance.

"Each and every day we get to see the positive influence Scouting makes in young people's lives," said Michael Surbaugh, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. "And while we weren't surprised by the study's results, it is great to be able to quantify the impact of the program and show parents the value of participation."

With Scouting's focus on providing pro-social experiences, young people are able to build a foundation of positive character attributes that allows them to embrace opportunity, overcome obstacles, and be better prepared for life. You can learn more about the study at www.tuftscampstudy.com/.



SCOUTING'S PROGRAM DESIGN

Scouting's pedagogy is grounded in experiential education. Much of the content of Scouting is based on self-selected topics of investigation and exploration. STEM fields are well-represented as part of Scouting's content, as are experiences encouraging physical fitness, participatory citizenship, and pro-social development.

Scouting is often recognized primarily through its use of the outdoor program. The outdoor program is more than just what Scouts do—it provides a vehicle for delivering positive outcomes in five areas: character development, personal fitness, participatory citizenship, outdoor adventure, and leadership development.

The program, lasting from age 6 through age 20, provides a series of age-appropriate activities that deliver the program's desired outcomes.

Scouting's experiences and methodology cultivate soft skills such as collaboration, problem solving, interpersonal relationships, communication skills, and conflict resolution. These skills and outcomes work in harmony with the development of the same skills in the school setting.

SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANS

Nearly all school districts have a published strategic plan. In preparation for your report to the school district, there is considerable value in researching the district’s strategic plan and showing how Scouting supports that plan.

The following provides an example. Referencing a plan from a local school district, three core outcomes were identified:

DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN	SCOUTING SUPPORTS VIA . . .
<p>1. EQUITY</p> <p>Student equity means that all students have equal access to quality staff, courses, activities, services, and resources based on their individual needs.</p>	<p>Scouting shares the same value of equity and access, and can be delivered in any setting that can host a school. The Scouting program is self-directed and self-guided and naturally differentiates based on participant needs and interests.</p> <p><i>Provide examples of how Scouting locally has delivered on this goal in support of the local district and schools over the last year.</i></p>
<p>2. EXCELLENCE</p> <p>Student excellence is a balance of rigorous academic, social, and career readiness skills.</p>	<p>Scouting provides, in a nonformal setting, not only development of “soft skills” but also a program that enriches academics, interpersonal development, and exposure to careers. Many Cub Scout and Boy Scout advancement requirements provide insights into careers; the Exploring program is grounded in work and career readiness experiences.</p> <p><i>Provide examples of how Scouting locally has delivered on this goal in support of the local district and schools over the last year.</i></p>
<p>3. COMMUNITY</p> <p>Community engagement is proactive involvement of stakeholders in school district priorities and partnerships.</p>	<p>Scouting provides a ready, tested, and willing partner as a stakeholder with a common interest in youth development.</p> <p><i>Provide examples of how Scouting locally has delivered on this goal in support of the local district and schools over the last year.</i></p>