

Citizenship Education

The VFW's Citizenship Education Program provides materials and information, sponsors events, and promotes activities designed to stimulate interest in America's history and traditions, institutions of civic responsibility, and patriotism.

Community Activities

A key element of VFW membership involvement is community service. The VFW's Community Service Program supports these activities with materials and guidelines designed to encourage service in the local community benefiting education, the environment, health services, civic pride, and community betterment.



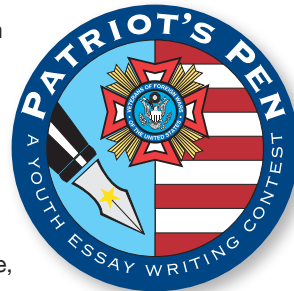
Voice of Democracy

Voice of Democracy is the premier youth scholarship program of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary VFW. It is open to students in ninth through 12th grades and provides more than \$2.5 million annually in awards and scholarships. Created in 1947, it gives students a chance to extol the virtues of democracy and experiment with the technologies of radio broadcasting.



Patriot's Pen

Patriot's Pen is an essay program designed to give students from sixth through eighth grade their own opportunity to write about patriotism. The themes for each of the essay competitions are announced in January of each year. Students in either program must be enrolled in public, private, or parochial high schools or home study programs in the United States or its territories or possessions, or be dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.



Youth Activities

Working with organizations like the Boy Scouts of America, National Rifle Association, Reserve Officer Training Corps, and Junior and Special Olympics, VFW posts and their ladies auxiliaries provide leaders and sponsorship for a variety of youth activities. The VFW's Youth Activities Program promotes these efforts with materials, planning, and an awards program.

For more information about VFW programs, call 816-968-1117 or visit www.vfw.org.



The VFW Scouters Achievement Award is designed to recognize VFW Scouters who serve on the VFW state and national Scouting teams for a three-year period and who accomplish the required tasks during this period. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award—it is available to any VFW Scouter on the Scouting team who completes the service, training, tenure, and performance requirements. The VFW Scouters Achievement Award recognizes the dedication and work required by a VFW team member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in the VFW.



For further information, contact:



Prepared. For Life.™



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STRENGTH THROUGH SERVICE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America

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 Scout Law.

The Boy Scouts of America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars: Building a Foundation of Respect

- **Respect for God.** Volunteer leaders and VFW members working together to instill values and faith in God through the Scouting program
- **Respect in Citizenship Education.** Scouting and the VFW working together to teach youth about patriotism in respect for the flag of our country
- **Respect in Volunteerism.** Volunteer leaders and VFW members working together to guide Scouts into service projects in their local communities
- **Respect for the Environment.** Teaching youth to respect their environment, as well as protect and preserve the outdoors



Why Scouting?

By working together, community organizations and the Boy Scouts of America:

- **Increase the organization's visibility in the community.** Having the Scouting program identified with your organization helps to solidify the organization as a credible and viable part of the community. This gives the organization a way to provide valuable experiences to young people in the neighborhood through service, including Scouting for Food, the Good Turn for America service initiative, Eagle Scout service projects, and cleanup efforts.
- **Promote a shared vision and provide opportunities for community organizations to use BSA facilities,** which gives organization officers and staff an opportunity to share in leadership and team-building programs. Affiliated organizations have access to council camps, conference centers, and training facilities. Benefits include housing, dining, and instruction in team building, set in majestic outdoor environments such as the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia, Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.
- **Provide a major source of manpower in accomplishing the organization's community service projects.** The BSA has a strong heritage—established over more than 100 years—of providing service to the community, and incorporates a service mission in its rank advancement program.
- **Greatly increase the potential for boosting an organization's membership through stepped-up exposure of the organization's ideals and mission to parents and participating youth.** Scouting is intergenerational—older generations and youth often become isolated from parents and grandparents. Scouting provides an opportunity for adults to become merit badge counselors, mentors, leaders, or committee members.
- **Provide multimedia resources to organizations through the BSA website, as well as through access to the BSA's educational materials.**



Cub Scouting

Purpose

The Boy Scouts of America created Cub Scouting in 1930 to help advance the character development and spiritual growth of young boys. This central mission of Cub Scouting might be even more important to boys growing up today than it was for the first Cub Scouts more than 80 years ago. Cub Scouting is for boys who are in the first grade through fifth grade (or are 7 through 10 years old).

Program

Local Cub Scouting activities involve the parents, adult leaders, and friends of Cub Scouts in home-centered programs that teach life skills, habits, values, and attitudes consistent with the interests of their church and community. Millions of boys and their families participate in Cub Scouting.

Methods

Cub Scouting encourages each boy to strive for his personal best, a lesson that will help him achieve success not only as he enters Boy Scouting but also throughout his adult life. Cub Scout activities encourage character development, physical coordination, family unity, and enthusiasm for learning. Cub Scouting helps boys develop a sense of teamwork, achievement, self-confidence, and respect for others. Learning to master new skills helps the Cub Scout realize his own abilities and discover that his can-do attitude is the first sign of success in any endeavor. In fact, that's the Cub Scout motto: "Do Your Best."

Boy Scouting

Purpose

Boy Scouting encourages boys to develop physical, mental, and emotional fitness, and to adopt and live by meaningful personal standards as a cornerstone for success in life. These values include the basic principles in the Scout Oath and Law. Boy Scouting is for boys and young men not yet 18 years old, and who are at least 11, or have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10 years old, or who have earned the Arrow of Light Award in Cub Scouting and are at least 10 years old.

Program

Boy Scouts learn to develop personal strengths by example and through hands-on experience. Activities include fitness and leadership training, wilderness adventures, and merit badge incentives for boys mastering hobby and career skills. Scouting encourages boys to expand and test their personal initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.

Methods

Boy Scouts learn some of life's more serious lessons while having fun. Boys learn about important values, such as helping yourself by helping others, and honoring the basic rights of others. Boy Scouting's active learning experiences include hiking, camping, and other outdoor expeditions; competitive individual and team sports activities; and community or religious service projects. Many Boy Scouts first practice basic leadership, self-government, and citizenship skills during regular troop campouts and meetings.

Venturing

Venturing is an effective young-adult coed program designed to improve character, citizenship, and fitness. In addition, Venturers exercise leadership, social, outdoor, and community service endeavors. Venturing provides a variety of challenging activities to teach young people ages 14 (or 13 if they have completed eighth grade) through 20 the real-world meaning of values, ethical decision making, and life skills. Venturing teaches leadership and problem-solving skills to help youths mature into confident, successful adults. Venturing crews organize around a special vocation or interest of the youth members. Specialties include outdoors, sports, arts/hobbies, youth ministry, and Sea Scouting.

