





GROUP DIRECTOR, MEMBERSHIP GROWTH



IRVING, TX



EAGLE SCOUT,
PAST AREA DIRECTOR
& SCOUT EXECUTIVE





What's most exciting about your role as Group Director, Membership Growth?

Working with dedicated volunteers and professionals to bring Scouting to more youth across the country is a blast. Today, with the success of Exploring, we're helping to reintroduce one of the best programs of workforce development to business leaders and young adults. Additionally, with the overwhelming interest in the Lion pilot, we can better meet the needs of councils, as well as the families they serve. Pilot programs like STEM Scouts and other possibilities we're going to be looking at should allow us to bring Scouting's character and leadership programs to even more youth in the months and years to come.



What is your Scouting background? What drew you to the BSA?

I'm a product of the program and was fortunate to have the BEST Den Mother (that's what we called them back then) ever. I'm so thankful that Mrs. Mugrage introduced the fun and adventure of Scouting to me. I was fortunate to be involved with a great Scout troop, Troop 880 in Mt. Healthy, Ohio, and enjoyed having my dad as Scoutmaster for part of the time, as well as helping my two brothers on the Scouting trail. We were an active troop with annual trips to Boundary Waters, Philmont, and the national jamboree, and I also had the opportunity to serve on a summer camp staff. I was involved in two Exploring posts, as well. My Eagle Scout award, and all it took to earn, gave me the foundation for the rest of my life. Throughout my career, I've had amazing experiences working on the staff at Dan Beard Council (Cincinnati, OH), as Scout executive for Southwest Michigan Council (Kalamazoo, MI), as an area director for Area 4 of the Central Region (Ohio and West Virginia), and as Scout executive for Bay-Lakes Council (northeast Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula).



What's your favorite Scouting memory?

For me, there are so many to choose from; however, personally, in 1989 when my sons were 3 and 5, I had the opportunity to serve on the Philmont Training Center faculty. Wisely, I took my family. At the end of the week, I asked my boys to promise to bring me back on a trek into the backcountry when they were older. They kept their promise, and in 2011 and 2012 we returned to Philmont. I got to go twice, and we had a remarkable experience! As a professional, one of the most memorable moments was when a leader told me he just received the promotion of his life at work and he attributed it to the leadership skills he'd learned at Wood Badge. He was so thankful for Scouting and the impact it had on his adult life.



How is your role significant to the Scouting experience?

Bringing our life-changing program to more youth has been my passion my entire career. I've had great mentors — both volunteer and professional — over the years. I'm delighted to bring my experiences and passion to the National Service Center to help ensure we're still making memories and changing lives. If my work can affect today's youth like Scouting did for me and my friends, the future is indeed bright.



And, most important, what's your go-to campout food?

I learned as a Scout there wasn't anything we couldn't cook outdoors, and I think we tried almost everything. But on a chilly evening, nothing's better than a cobbler from a Dutch oven, using berries you picked earlier in the day.