



Developing strong relationships with youth happens through sharing time with them. If you are looking for a proven avenue for helping you devote more meaningful time to your son, call your local Boy Scout council today, listed in the white pages of the phone book. Or go to the BSA national Web site at www.scouting.org.

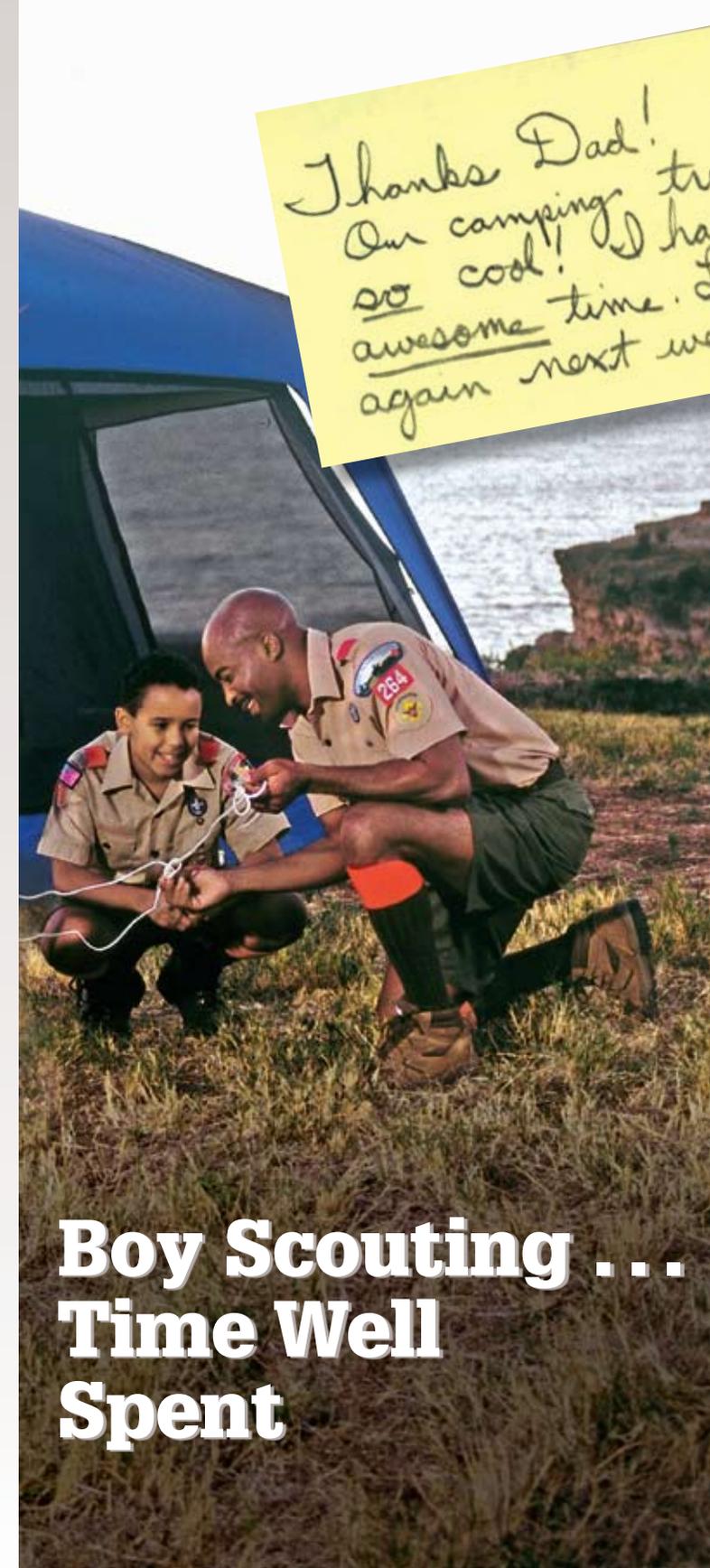


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*Thanks Dad!
 Our camping trip
 so cool! I had
 awesome time.
 again next week*

**Boy Scouting . . .
 Time Well
 Spent**

Every generation has unique experiences that are shaped by their era. There are usually stark contrasts between the experiences of youth and their parents.

Most 12-year-old boys today probably

- **Never lived in a house without a microwave oven, VCR, or TV remote control**
- **Would not recognize an eight-track tape and never owned a record album**
- **Do not know the names Hawkeye Pierce or Johnny Carson**
- **Consider Nolan Ryan, Larry Bird, and Magic Johnson to be “historical” sports stars**
- **Always considered rollerskating to mean “in-line”**
- **Never heard the terms “Soviet Union,” “Cold War,” or “Berlin Wall”**

However, some elements in the lives of boys are timeless. The need for people to feel respected, valued, accepted, and connected to those around them are constant from generation to generation. Parents help meet these needs in youth through making the right types of investment in youth.

With a growing concern about the climates in which our children are growing up, adults are paying more attention to how and where youth spend their time. The emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of young boys are met (or unmet) through their environment.



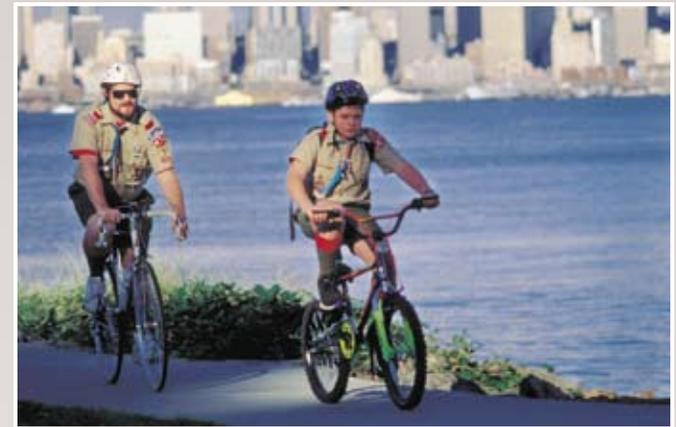
A recent study by **Louis Harris & Associates** demonstrates that boys in Scouting are provided with surroundings that help guide them in developing such values as

A sense of pride in America	81%
Moral principles	74%
A relationship with God	60%

Adolescence is a time when high self-esteem can be critical for successfully navigating the challenges of young adulthood. This trait is built over time, through positive experiences. Scouting fosters self-esteem by placing a boy in settings where his peers and mentors are pulling for him. When boys are encouraged and complimented for their efforts, they gain a sense of value and belonging. They also experience a sense of accountability and teamwork. Each boy learns that his role is important to contributing to the total team’s outcome.

In Scouting, boys learn through the experiences of camping, hiking, building projects and community service. These experiences allow boys to grow and mature at their own pace. And, it is the results of these experiences that cause one father to say, “There are things learned in Scouting which a boy cannot readily pick up elsewhere.” It is also through these experiences that parents and sons get

an opportunity to share and talk about their thoughts, feelings, goals, and values.



What goals do you have for you and your son this year? Parents of Scouts encourage their sons to be in Boy Scouting because they believe the program helps them do the following:

Learn self-reliance	95%
Learn moral values	94%
Be in a friendly/safe environment	94%
Participate in community service	90%
Build friendships	88%
Get positive role models	88%
Learn respect for others	86%

All parents want more time to devote to their children, and Scouting provides a structure for shared interests and activities between parents and sons. Parents and Scouts work together on projects, share learning experiences, and are together in the simple act of riding to troop meetings. Although it is important for parents and sons to find shared interests, the key to these times of togetherness is not always a particular topic or project. Instead, it is the dedication of a son and parent to take the valuable gift of time and reserve it for spending with one another. This is *time well spent*.

Source: A Louis Harris & Associates research study titled *A Year in the Life of a Cub Scout... Boy Scout... Venturer*, 1998