

It's Our Turn To Make A Difference!

If you are a parent or grandparent, you may recall a time when some adult made a difference in your life. Now, it's your turn to make a difference in the life of a child. Don't miss the opportunity that is in front of you. Invest time in the life of a child. While today's youth may have different needs than you had as a child, one thing remains true: they need time with you.

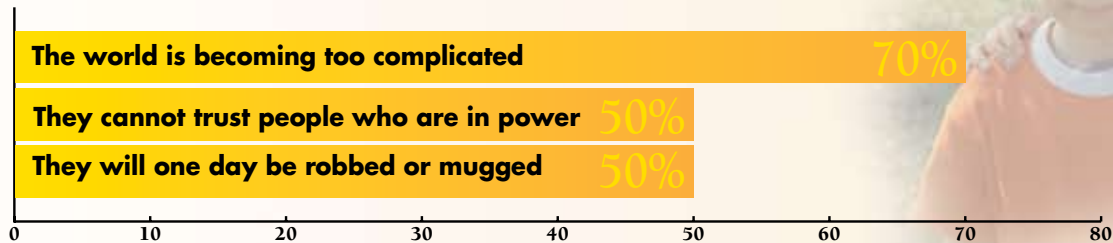


Turbulent Times

Every new generation relies on the previous one. The experiences we have as we mature to adulthood provide us with knowledge and skills that are meant to be shared. By sharing, we pass the torch to the next generation in a way that helps prepare them to meet new challenges and difficulties. A recent Roper Study concludes that in these times, our youth are faced with significant concerns. At least one of two say they are very concerned about:

- AIDS
- The use of illegal drugs
- The kidnapping of children

Other studies show that 50 percent or more of teens believe



Youth Need You: A Crisis of Character

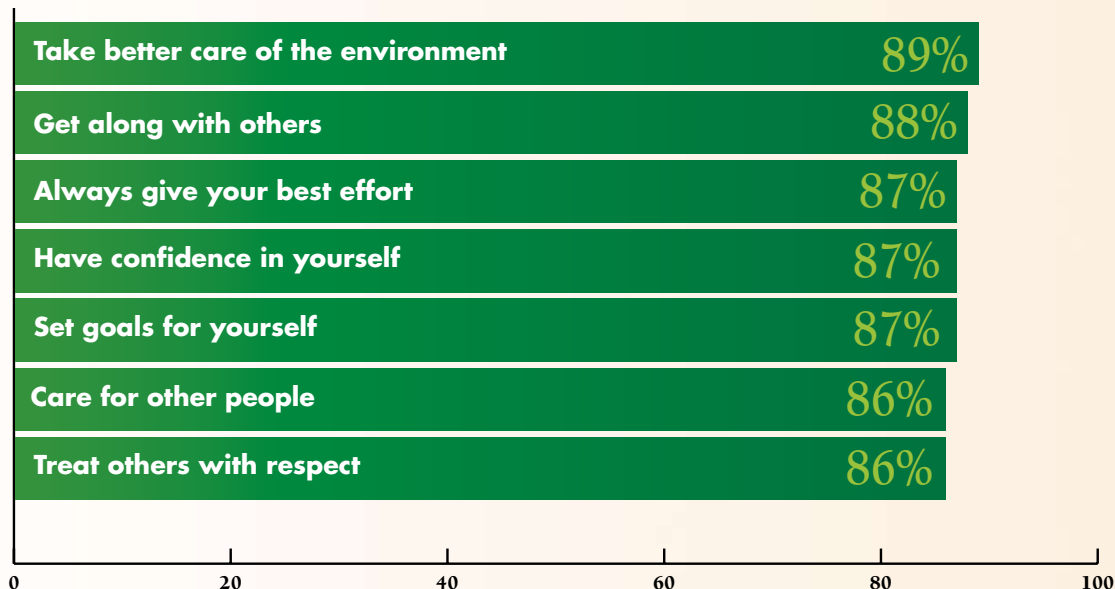
There is also evidence that the need for mentoring relationships is being met by the wrong kinds of people. Between 1980 and 1995, the number of gangs in America increased from 2,000 to 23,000 and from 100,000 to 650,000 members.

Despite living in the most prosperous and technologically-advanced society in history, our children are demonstrating a growing inability to meet the challenges of personal responsibility, respect for others, personal integrity, and self-esteem. Our young people are struggling with a crisis of character.

Scouting is the Right Place for You

Scouting provides an avenue for adults to make a difference in the life of a child. What makes Scouting the best choice? Look at the evidence.

Studies of boys and young men and women in Scouting by Louis Harris & Associates have demonstrated that Scouting's programs support healthy development among youth. In *The Values of Men and Boys in America*^{*}, Harris found that boys in Scouting learn to



^{*}*The Values of Men and Boys in America*, 1995

Years after their youth experience in Scouting, 84 percent of men agree that “The values I learned in Scouting continue to be important to me.”

And, three of four (74 percent) agree that “There have been real-life situations where having been a Scout helped me to be a better leader.”

The connections between youth and parents are known by former Scouts, as 83 percent agree that “Scouting and good family life are natural partners.”

They also know that Scouting is an avenue to reach disadvantaged youth in inner-city neighborhoods (90 percent) because it offers a mentoring relationship, life skills, and an exposure to challenging opportunities that they may not get otherwise.

Scouting: The Key to Success

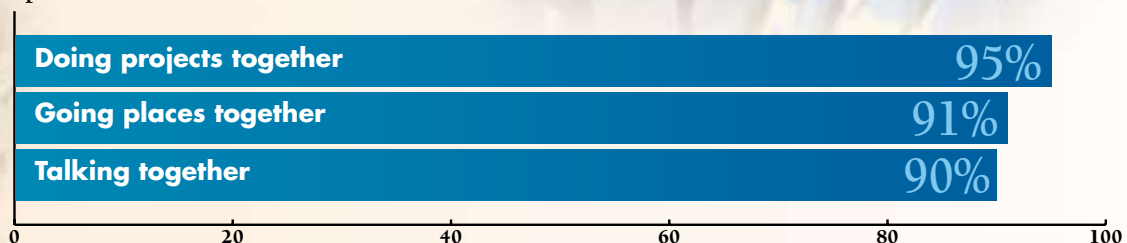
A final conclusion from *The Values of Men and Boys in America* was the high correlation between Scouting and future achievements. These take the form of higher high school graduation rates, higher college graduation rates, and higher household incomes. While the initial outcomes study by Harris illustrated positive outcomes of the Scouting program, a second, more in-depth study uncovered the keys to success for Scouting. *A Year in the life of a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturer*^{**} found the keys in Scouting’s ability to meet the developmental needs of youth.

Six Critical Elements of Healthy Youth Development

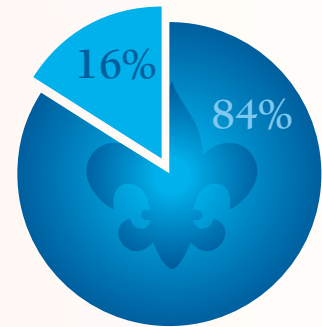
1. Strong personal values and character
2. A positive sense of self-worth
3. Caring and nurturing relationships with parents, other adults, and peers
4. A desire to learn
5. Productive and creative use of time
6. Social adeptness

Time Well Spent

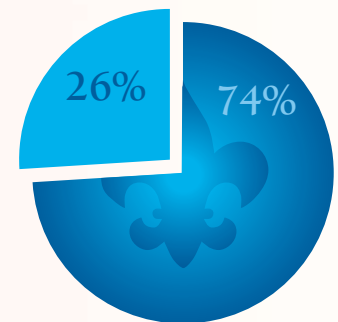
In Cub Scouting, the strong bond of boys and their parents is reinforced with interpersonal time.



“The values I learned in Scouting continue to be important to me.”^{}**

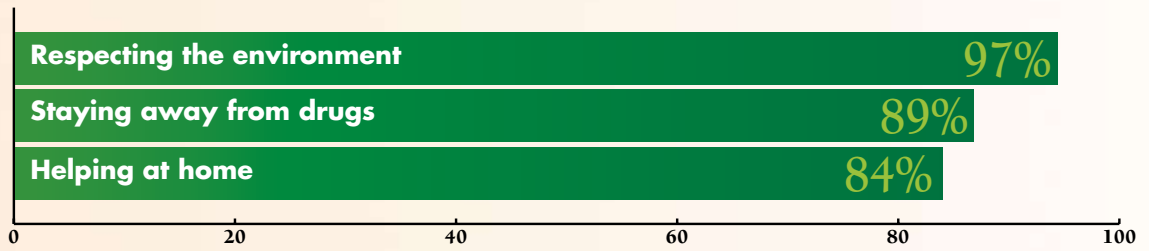


“There have been real-life situations where having been a Scout helped me to be a better leader.”^{}**



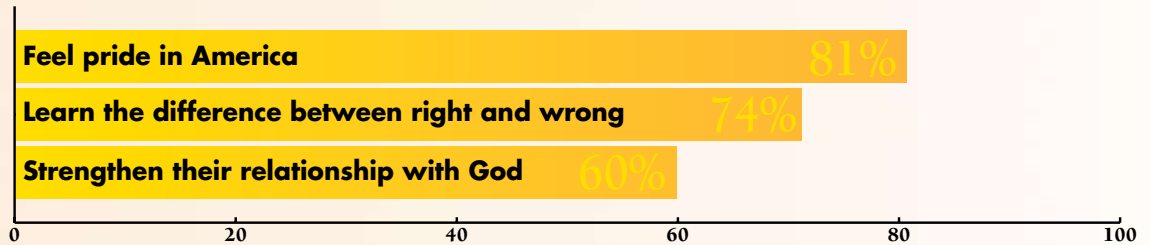
^{**}*A Year in the life of a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturer*, 1998

Parents see character-related values communicated to Cub Scouts, including

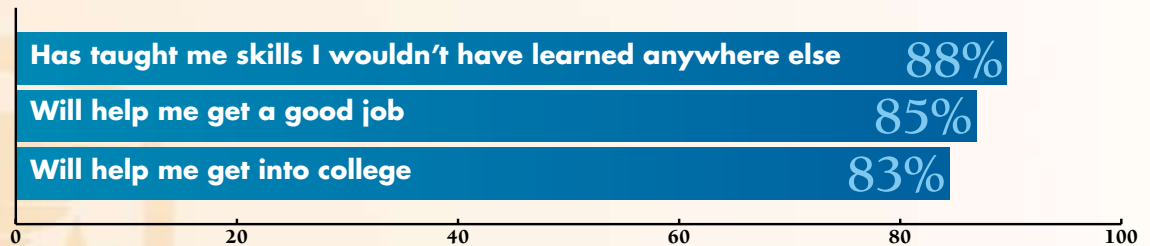


Growing Stronger Through Scouting

As youth grow older and develop a need for greater independence, they enter Boy Scouting and Venturing, which are designed to foster their growth in skills and personal character. Boy Scouts indicate that Scouting has encouraged them to



We know that high percentages of Boy Scouts feel that Scouting has prepared them for a successful future. Most say that their Scouting experience



One of the most important outcomes of the Venturing and Boy Scouting programs is the growth in self-esteem and usefulness gained by members at meetings. This development happens when youth set and meet personal goals and share their ideas and opinions.

- 91 percent of Venturers are asked to share opinions and ideas at meetings.
- 89 percent of Venturers feel encouraged by peers in their group.
- 58 percent of Boy Scouts are encouraged to do their best by a leader or adult.
- 48 percent of Boy Scouts receive encouragement from other Scouts.

Start Making a Difference

As a parent or grandparent, you not only make a difference; you make *the* difference in the lives of your children. Invest in Scouting today by getting a child you love in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, or Venturing.

Call your local Boy Scout council to find the community Scouting group that is best for you.

