

Scouting gives parents an opportunity to provide their children with a safe, structured, nurturing environment. This environment fosters the initiative to learn and discover, while instilling strong values and morals.

While various activities and youth groups teach basic skills and promote teamwork, Scouting goes beyond that and encourages youth to achieve a deeper appreciation of others in their community. Early in their Scouting experience, boys learn the value of serving others.

Scouting provides boys with a sense that they are important as individuals. It is communicated to boys that those in the Scouting family care about what happens to them, regardless of whether a game is won or lost.

Finally, and perhaps most important, Scouting promotes activities that lead to personal responsibility and high self-esteem. As a result, when hard decisions have to be made, a boy can resist peer pressure and make the choice he knows is right.



Cub Scout Promise

I promise to do my best
To do my duty to God and my country,
To help other people, and
To obey the Law of the Pack.



Boy 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.



Venturing Oath

As a Venturer, I promise to do my duty to God
and help strengthen America,
To help others, and to seek truth, fairness, and
adventure in our world.



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What Will Your Son's Future Hold?



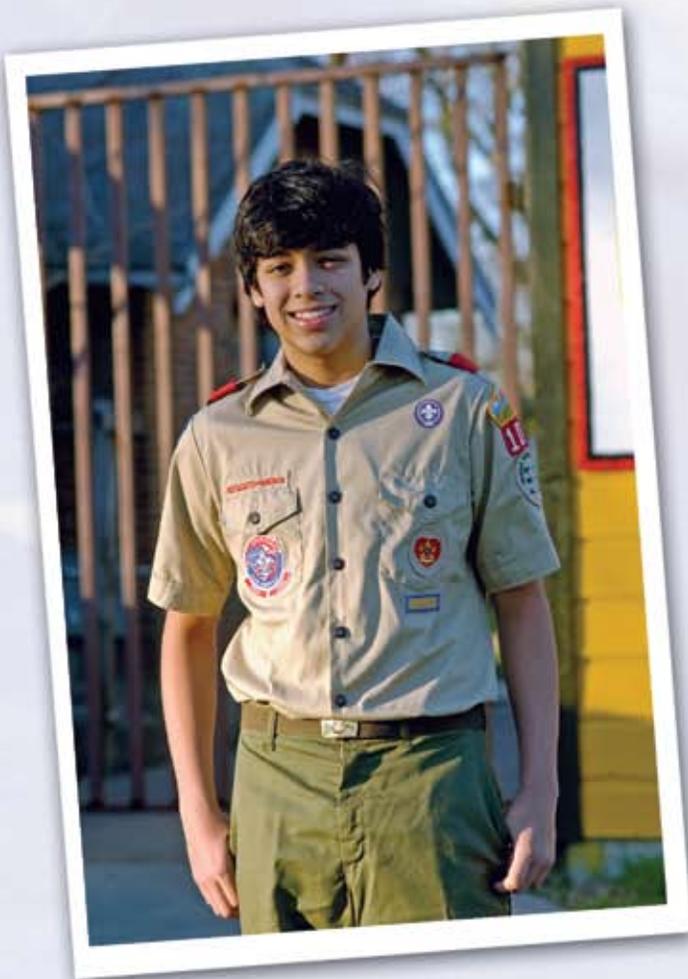
Boys today are at risk. They are:

- More likely than girls to drop out of school,
- Less likely to enter or graduate from college,
- More likely to have low self-esteem, and
- More likely to be diagnosed with learning disabilities.

**One organization works to give
boys a brighter future.**

The Boy Scouts of America provides boys with programs and activities that allow them to try new things, provide service to others, build self-confidence, and reinforce ethical standards.

A recent study conducted by Harris Interactive shows that Scouting programs build boys mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. The skills they learn in Scouting help them overcome obstacles and challenges with courage and character throughout their lives.



The Values of Scouting

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.

Study results indicate that Scouts with at least five years' tenure are more likely than boys who have never been Scouts to:

- Assume leadership roles in clubs or school organizations,
- Put the needs of others before their own,
- Have higher self-confidence,
- Be active in a variety of after-school activities, and
- Resist peer pressure to take part in delinquent or dishonest activities.

Scouting Teaches Life Skills

Scouting also provides youth with skills that help them cope with any situation. Youth say Scouting has taught them to:

- Always give their best effort,
- Always be honest,
- Treat others with respect,
- Set goals,
- Stay physically fit, and
- Take care of the environment.

Scouting and Academic Performance

Scouts agree that Scouting activities have helped them improve their performance in science, reading, and math.

And Scouts are also more likely than other boys to report earning high grades in school.



Lifelong Benefits of Scouting

The values and skills boys learn in Scouting last a lifetime. More than eight of 10 men (83 percent) who were Scouts agree that "the values I learned in Scouting continue to be very important to me."

Men who were Scouts five or more years as boys are more likely than men with no Scouting experience to:

- Graduate from high school (91 percent versus 87 percent),
- Graduate from college (35 percent versus 19 percent),
- Earn higher annual household incomes (\$80,000 versus \$61,000),
- Value family relationships highly (81 percent versus 72 percent),
- Have lifelong friendships (89 percent versus 74 percent),
- Attend religious services (87 percent versus 77 percent), and
- Believe helping others should come before one's own self-interest (92 percent versus 83 percent).

In addition, more than eight of 10 men who were Scouts (83 percent) say that there have been real-life situations in which having been a Scout helped them to be a better leader.