

Roundtable Hot Topic

The Community of Scouting



Understanding Community

What is a community? According to Webster's dictionary, a community is "a unified body of individuals such as people with common interests, living in a particular area." This definition perfectly captures the heart of Scouting.

The Value of Community

Why does living in a community matter? Community fosters well-being, nurtures relationships, and helps build stronger individuals. But what does this have to do with Scouting and the current challenges we face?

The Role of Community in Scouting

For many years, Scouting units and the movement as a whole thrived individually. That reality is changing. As we work to rebuild and strengthen Scouting, we must seek both new and traditional ways to grow our units and the movement—the answer lies in embracing community. Anyone who has started a unit or lived in a rural area knows that a den or patrol of one offers little enjoyment for youth. With the introduction of the new 3X3 model, this situation may become more common. As a result, some units may not survive to see their first recharter, leading to the potential loss of youth and leaders.

Building a Stronger Scouting Community

However, when we adopt a community-minded approach, everyone can grow, flourish, and become stronger. How can this be achieved? We can begin by viewing Scouting as a community or a global movement:

- The more we support other units, the more Scouting as a whole will succeed.
- Small units need community support: By teaming up, small units can create outstanding shared experiences for all participants.
- Larger units have valuable resources: By sharing knowledge, equipment, and opportunities for bigger activities, they help strengthen the entire Scouting community.
- Councils that have had to restructure can partner together to put on larger events that may not be possible otherwise.
- Leveraging the Council Service Territories to work with multiple councils to help build up commissioner teams.

The possibilities for collaboration are endless. Our challenge today is working as a community, helping Scouting grow both in and out of our own units, and helping other units form, grow, and thrive! After all, Scouting's Vision is to prepare all youth to become better citizens to the communities they live in. We have the opportunity to model that in action by being better citizens in our Scouting community.

The Challenge

The challenge - look beyond your unit. Look around the room you are in tonight. Are there units that are struggling? Are there units that are missing? Are there leaders who are discouraged? Roundtable was created to foster community.

We are going to end our hot topic a bit differently - with the remaining time, talk to each other, share, and see where your community can shine!