Scouting America

Occoneechee Council

2024 HIGHLIGHTS & GRATITUDE REPORT

WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE THIS 2024 SNAPSHOT WITH YOU.

We are growing and eager to serve more youth and their families in 2025. The success of our Council would not be possible without the volunteers and families that invest in Scouting through their time, talents and treasures.

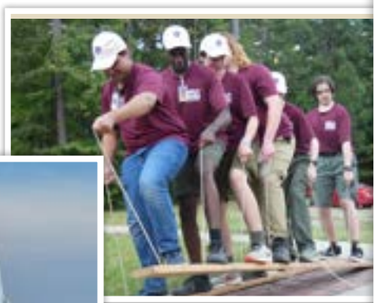
We are stronger because of each and every one of you. Thank you!

A YEAR OF GROWTH

We grew in both youth membership and total Scouting units for the third consecutive year. Since COVID, we've increased by 11 percent cumulatively. To support this growth, we expanded our staff to enhance volunteer service and build capacity for continued membership growth.

We grew our Scoutreach membership by 62 percent last year, increasing from 386 youth members to 627 youth members in underserved communities throughout our region.

Our Exploring workforce development programs grew by 42 percent, thanks to partnerships with organizations like Truist, Capitol Broadcasting Company, The Durham Bulls, The North Carolina Highway Patrol, and Wake Tech. Exploring provides hands-on, real-world experiences for students, offering them a glimpse into the opportunities and challenges that exist in a particular field.



SUMMERTIME ADVENTURES

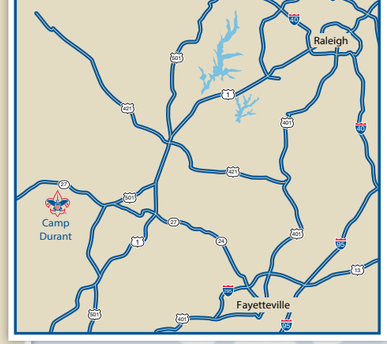
Scouts BSA summer camp at Camp Durant was a massive success, welcoming 1,100+ youth during four week-long sessions. With outstanding feedback on our camp programs and facilities, we are excited to build even greater outdoor experiences in 2025.

Our Sea Scouts sailed in Commodore's Cup race at Camp LeJeune, and participated in unforgettable 8-day High Adventure cruise from Oriental to Cape Lookout Lighthouse.

WINTER
700 Scouts braved the cold for an action-packed weekend of merit badge classes at Winter Blast.

SPRING
1,300 Cub Scouts and families came together for an exciting outdoor festival at Cuboree.

FALL
800+ Cub Scouts enjoyed a thrilling Halloween-themed campout at Spookoree.



SCOUTING OWNS THE OUTDOORS

Outdoor adventure is the promise we make to young people when they join Scouting. Boys and girls yearn for programs that stir their imagination and challenge their skills in the great outdoors.

In 2024, we delivered on that promise—providing unforgettable experiences that shaped young lives and built lasting memories.

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

Through fun yet challenging physical and mental activities, Scouting encourages personal growth by teaching youth how to set goals and achieve them with determination.

Thank you for helping our Scouts and Leaders achieve the incredible things below:

- 351 Eagle Scouts in our 2023 class.
- Over 200 Cub Scouts and their families participated in Cub Summer events.
- 1,872 Cub Scouts advanced in rank, setting the foundation for future adventures.
- 1,737 Scouts BSA members achieved new ranks, demonstrating their skills and leadership.
- 2,800 STEM-related merit badges earned, blending innovation with outdoor experiences.
- 375 adult volunteers completed leadership training, ensuring our Scouts receive the best possible guidance.

OVER 44,000 SERVICE HOURS WERE PERFORMED BY OUR YOUTH, WHICH EQUALS A RETURN ON OUR SUPPORTER'S INVESTMENTS OVER $1.5 MILLION.

SCOUTS HELP THEIR COMMUNITIES

We could fill pages with stories of Scouts who go above and beyond for others. Cub Scout Justin (right) used his birthday money to create coloring and activity bags for children in need at his church.

SeaScouts Ship 94 delivered non-perishables to Hurricane Helene victims and removed debris from their homes. All fall and into Christmas tree season, our units ran fundraisers that directly supported communities living in the aftermath of the hurricane.

ANOTHER AMAZING FRIENDS OF SCOUTING LUNCHEON

$2.015 millon raised | 1,000+ attendees

HONORING: FRANK HOLDING, JR. of First Citizens Bank
GUEST SPEAKER: RICHARD PETTY, KYLE PETTY & DALE INMAN
CHAIR: LARRY ROBBINS of Wyrick Robbins

THANK YOU to our sponsors, volunteers, participants, and committee members for helping in the success of our 2024 fundraising efforts!

A YEAR OF PHILANTHROPY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

IN 2024, OUR PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE SECURED $1.3 MILLION IN NEW ENDOWMENT GIFTS, WHICH RANKED US 2ND AMONG 236 SCOUTING AMERICA COUNCILS ACROSS THE NATION.

We hosted several other fundraising events. Our Sporting Clays Classic, chaired by Tom Fritsch of CBRE, raised $91,000, while the Thomas Crowder Memorial Golf Classic, benefiting Exploring and co-chaired by Johnathan Talley of NCEMC, Jonathan Perry of Perry Planning Group & Martin Lucas of Operation 36 Golf Academy brought in $68,000. We held three Distinguished Citizen Award Dinners:

Moore County honoring Bill Eastman, SVP at Stifel | Pinehurst Financial Group | Secured $96,500

Cumberland County honoring Mike Nagowski, CEO of Cape Fear Valley Health | Secured $63,000

Harnett County honoring Jerry Milton, President of Southeastern Interior | Secured $55,000

These events continue to strengthen our mission, deepen community engagement, and expand our impact across the region.

2024 SCOUTREACH ENDOWMENT AUCTION

$257,000 raised | 270+ attendees

ANGUS BARN PAVILION

Thank you to all auction attendees and those who bid on items from afar for helping us exceed our goal!

Your bids, paddle raises, and overwhelming generosity will benefit under-served youth in our council for years to come.

Thanks to the efforts of the Auction Committee lead by Co-Chairs Morgan Gojanovich & Trevor Chambers of Olde Raleigh Financial Group, the Scoutreach Endowment Auction raising a record of $257,000! To date, our Endowment Auction has raised over $1 million.

A SCOUT IS MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE THAN NON-SCOUTS.

SEE OUR 2024 HIGHLIGHTS VIDEO:
go.ocscouts.org/2024-achievements

SCOUTS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY THAN NON-SCOUTS TO EMBRACE OTHER-ORIENTED VALUES, INCLUDING HELPING OTHERS AND DOING THE RIGHT THING.

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