



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BLACK SWAMP AREA COUNCIL



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca, Van Wert and Williams counties.



Dear Friends,

Scouting is alive and well in Northwest and West Central Ohio. The Black Swamp Area Council had another great year in bringing the world's best youth development program to the youth of our 13 county service area.

At Camp Berry we celebrated 100 years of camping on Eagle Creek and **dedicated the new Yammine Lodge. At Camp Lakota,** final plans were made for the start of the **long-awaited Cooper Lodge with Keith Hubbard Dining Hall and Armed Forces Memorial Parade Field.**

This past summer our council sent a **contingent of Scouts, including a patrol of female Scouts BSA members, to the 2023 National Jamboree.** At Camp Berry we conducted our **third summer of Adventure Camp.** This is a program that has been growing by leaps and bounds.

As a council we had **11% growth in the number of new Scouts that joined Cub Scouts.** The council also had a **retention rate of 74.41%** year over year. As we look forward to 2024, the excitement of the construction of Cooper Lodge, growth of new Cub Scout families, and expansion of our Exploring (work force development) program are on the horizon.

Your support, effort, and dedication to our youth development program make the difference.

Yours in Scouting,



Matthew M Black
Matt Black
Council President



Michelle Waggoner
Michelle Waggoner
Council Commissioner



Marc Kogan
Marc Kogan
Scout Executive

Thank you.

ABOUT US



100+

Years Scouting has served Northwest Ohio

13

Counties we serve

2

Camps

CAMP BERRY Findlay, OH

CAMP LAKOTA Defiance, OH

2

Service Centers & Scout Shops

FINDLAY SERVICE CENTER

LIMA SERVICE CENTER

5

Service Areas

ARROWWOOD Hancock & Seneca

CHINQUAPIN Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding & Williams

GREAT OAKS Allen, Hardin & Putnam

OLD SYCAMORE Auglaize, Mercer & Van Wert

EXPLORING Workforce Development serving all 13 counties!

Our Vision

The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

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.

Our Mission

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

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.



2,784

Youth

1,381

Volunteers

72

Scouts BSA Troops

63

Cub Scout Packs

4

Venturing Crews

8

Exploring Posts

321

Adventure Campers

1,551

Youth earned rank advancement

4,528

Cub Scout Adventures

3,477

Merit Badges earned

*All data above as of Dec. 31, 2023

OUR PROGRAMS

CUB SCOUTS

(Ages 5-10)

A program designed to meet the needs of young boys and girls and their families through fun and challenging activities that promote education, character and physical development.



SCOUTS BSA

(Ages 11-17)

An outdoor program created to develop character, citizenship and fitness in young men and women.



VENTURING

(Ages 14-20)

A program for young men and women designed to help them grow into responsible and caring adults through education and recreational experiences.



EXPLORING

(Ages 10-20)

A career education program for young men and women to partner with local business entities to gain practical knowledge and career experience.



CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

The Scouting and Exploring* programs are delivered through civic, faith-based, and educational organizations called chartered organizations, which operate units to deliver the programs to their youth members, as well as the community.

Chartered organizations provide quality leadership and meeting facilities for the youth, as well as appoint a dedicated representative to coordinate all unit operations within the organization.

Thank you to those that volunteer and lead!

Ada Citizen Scouting Committee
American Legion Post #571
American Legion Post 109
American Legion Post 265
American Legion Post 307
American Legion Post 316
American Legion Post 345
American Legion Post 373
American Legion Post 382
American Legion Post 387
American Legion Post 404
American Legion Post 470
American Legion Post 648
American Legion-Harry Reynolds Post 191
American Township Fire Department
Arcadia Lions Club
Archbold Lions Club
Auglaize County Sheriff's Office*
Bath Parent-Teacher Society
Bath Township Fire Department*
Bert G Taylor Post 300 American Legion
Black Swamp Area Council
Catholic War Veterans Post 306
Churches of God, General Conference
Clinton Twp Volunteer Fire Department
College First Church Of God
Convoy Lions Club
Cottrell Boylan Post #253 American Legion
Cridersville Volunteer Fire Co. INC.
Defiance Police Department*
Defiance Rotary Club
Delaware Twp Volunteer Fire Department
Doty Dental*
Ebenezer Mennonite Church
Edgerton United Methodist Church
Edward Grine American Legion Post 354
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Fraternal Order of Police Associates #8
Ft Recovery American Legion Post 345
Fulton County Sheriff's Office*
Giltz Brown American Legion Post 341
Good Hope Lutheran Church
Harrod Fire Department
Henry County Sportsmens Club
Hicksville Foe #2556
Highland Twp Fire Department Association

Holy Trinity Parish
Immaculate Conception Church
Kalida Fish And Game Club
Kiwanis Club Of Lima
Knights Of St John
Lafayette United Methodist Church
Lima Memorial Health System*
Marathon Petroleum Co LLC*
Mercy Health Tiffin Hospital*
Metamora Amboy Volunteer Fire Department
Middle Point United Methodist Church
Minster Civic Association
Moose Lodge 872
Mt Victory United Methodist Church
New Bremen American Legion Post 241
Optimist Club Of Delphos
Hancock County Sheriff's Office*
Ottawa Kiwanis Club
Ottoville Immaculate Conception Church
Pastoral Ministries Inc
Pioneer United Methodist Church
Republic United Church Of Christ
Rockford United Methodist Church
Saint Nicholas Catholic Church
Shawnee Alliance Church
St Andrews United Methodist Church
St John Lutheran PTL
St Johns Catholic Church
St Johns Evangelical Church
St Johns Lutheran Church
St Johns Roman Catholic Church
St Joseph Catholic Church
St Josephs Catholic Church
St Marks United Methodist Church
St Martins Lutheran Church
St Mary Catholic Church
St Marys Catholic Church
St Marys Roman Catholic Church
St Michaels Catholic Church
St Patrick Catholic Church
St Paul United Church Of Christ
St Pauls Evangelical Lutheran Church
St Pauls United Church Of Christ
St Rose Catholic Church
St Wendelin Roman Catholic Church
The Trinity United Methodist
Tiffin Elks Lodge #94
Trinity Lutheran Church
Trinity United Church of Christ
Twin Oaks United Methodist Church
Van Buren Lions Club
Van Wert County Sheriff's Office*
Veteran of Foreign Wars
VFW Bowersock Brothers Post 6772
VFW Post 587
VFW Post 8445
Wayne Street Church
Whittier/Wilson Vance PTO
Zion Lutheran Church
Zion United Methodist Church

FINANCIALS

Revenue	2023	Pct.
Activities/Special Events	\$261,809	12.39%
Camping/Program	\$439,880	20.82%
Investments (Endowment)	\$645,036	30.52%
Product Sales (Popcorn)	\$92,996	4.40%
Annual Gifts (FOS)	\$317,234	15.01%
United Ways	\$67,922	3.21%
Store Sales, Other	\$81,688	3.87%
Foundations/Grants	\$206,593	9.78%
*Unaudited	\$2,113,158	100.0%

Expenses	2023	Pct.
Management	\$89,683	4.25%
Programs	\$1,660,424	78.61%
Fundraising	\$362,037	17.14%
*Unaudited	\$2,112,144	100.0%

Our Council saw an incredible 11% growth in Cub Scout membership this past year!

BSAC had a retention rate of 74.41% in 2023!
The National average is 69.76%

MEMBERSHIP

Membership	2023
Cub Scouts	1,561
Scouts BSA	1,092
Venturing	44
Exploring	87
Total	2,784

*as of Dec. 31, 2023

Units	2023
Packs	63
Troops	72
Crews	4
Posts	8
Total	147

*as of Dec. 31, 2023

Cooper Lodge Update

Progress continues to be made on Cooper Lodge with Hubbard Dining Hall and Armed Forces Memorial Parade Field at Camp Lakota in Defiance, Ohio. In the fall, the project went to bid, and groundbreaking occurred in the first couple of weeks of 2024.

Over the summer, the Defiance Area Foundation granted \$40,000 towards the project and the Bryan Area Foundation awarded an additional \$25,000 thanks to the Field of Interest Walter and Esther Jackson Faben Memorial Fund.

Several alumni of Troop 75 Defiance worked on raising funds to build a shelter house connected to Cooper Lodge to honor their long-term Scoutmaster Charlie Duerk. Charlie Duerk spent over 55 years as Scoutmaster of Troop 75 in Defiance, Ohio chartered by St. John Lutheran Church. Under his leadership over 100 youth reached the rank of Eagle Scout and many more benefitted from his passion and guidance following the Scout Oath and Law.

In addition, the Over-the-Top Brick Campaign raised funds for the Cooper Lodge. Individuals, units, and organizations purchased bricks throughout the year, which will be placed in a paver area as part of Cooper Lodge. Securing a brick at Camp Lakota is a way for an individual to inscribe their legacy on Camp Lakota.

We look forward to welcoming the community to Cooper Lodge, Hubbard Dining Hall, and Armed Forces Memorial Parade Field once complete.



ADVENTURE CAMP

Adventure Camp 2023 gave a true Cub Scout experience to every camper! Campers engaged in saying the Oath and Law daily, worked on completing Bobcat requirements, and had fun exploring many different Cub Scout Adventures each week. This year, each week had a different theme, allowing several families to attend multiple weeks of the summer. Additionally, our dedicated staff provided beads to recognize Scout character, create den/team relationships, and encourage campers to try new things throughout their camp week. Staff took LOTS of pictures and shared these moments with families who loved seeing their camper's experience! On our survey, one parent said, "Thank you for providing a wonderful experience that exercises children's mind, bodies, and emotions." Several families said their goodbyes the last week of camp with "We will be back EVERY week next summer!"



Overall from the year prior to 2023, we improved the program to keep campers and staff feeling good! Improvements included our own range and target sports separate from Scouts BSA, a morning "home base" for stations, and improved facilities and communication. Setting up our own Cub shooting ranges and having 3 trained rangemasters gave our schedule some added flexibility to accommodate staffing needs as well as scorching days. Utilizing Seneca Sam as a centralized homebase kept little kids from walking their legs off as we kept all morning stations under canopies in that area while still having access to running water and restroom facilities. Changing tents, walkie radios, snack storage bins, and canopies outside Seneca Sam cabin made camp easier and more comfortable for everyone! Staff who were walking with campers as "Trail Leaders" greatly appreciated being given a built-in mental health time each day without camper responsibilities. Program directors worked together to manage and maintain much of the program (ex., a clean facility, keep fishing gear more organized, ordering and organizing program materials, etc.) as independently as possible, greatly reducing the need for outside assistance. These improvements benefitted both staff and campers.

NATIONAL JAMBOREE

On July 20th, 2023, 60 Scouts BSA members and adult leaders from the Black Swamp Area Council and Erie Schores Council departed Camp Berry for the National Scout Jamboree! This year's Jamboree was hosted at the gorgeous Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia for the first time since 2017. Traditionally, the National Scout Jamboree is held every 4 years, but had to be delayed by 2 years due to COVID.

As one of the BSA's National High Adventure bases, the Summit was built specifically for the Jamboree as well as other high adventure programs such as ziplining, white-water rafting, rock climbing, ATV experiences, backpacking 50+ miles via kayak or bike, hiking, trekking, shooting sports, and more!

Our Scouts spent 10 days camping with Scouts from all across the country as they celebrated Scouting's flagship event. With tens of thousands of Scouts, Leaders, and Jamborees Service Team members in attendance, the event showcases everything great about the Boy Scouts of America.



SCOUTING SUCCESSES



Class of '22 Eagle Scout Celebration

The Black Swamp Area Council celebrated 99 Eagle Scouts on March 11, 2023 at the University of Northwestern Ohio Event Center in Lima. The speaker for the evening was Frank LaRose, Secretary of State for Ohio. A former Eagle Scout, Secretary LaRose shared encouraging words with the values he learned from his Scouting Experience. Robert Cupp served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Jonathon Wank, Eagle Scout from Troop 224 in Leipsic, was awarded the Paul Gillmor Family Scholarship for recognition of his Eagle Scout Project. He led a team of volunteers to construct a Press Box for the Miller City Soccer Field. In attendance, there were over 200 guests and Eagle Sponsors to celebrate the achievements of all the Eagle Scouts.

First Female in Arrowwood District Achieves Eagle Rank: Lydia Eckleberry, Troop 308

Lydia Eckleberry of Troop 308 achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout on May 18, 2023. She is the second Eagle Scout for Black Swamp Area Council, but the first for Arrowwood District. For Lydia's Eagle project, she and her volunteers

put in over 300 hundred hours of service and retired a total of 1,460 flags.

Congratulations to Lydia on your Eagle Rank Achievement!



Founding Venturing Crew Member Receives 2023 Summit Award: Logan Matthewson, Venturing Crew 310



The highest rank of Venturing, the Summit Rank, goes to those Venturers who have matured in their personal direction, skills, and life competencies, and who have accepted the responsibility to mentor others and serve their communities in a lasting way. Logan spent time earning his Eagle Scout as well as being active in the Order of the Arrow. He has also achieved many honors at the Apollo Career Center

including being a member of National Technical Honor Society and a Shawnee Optimist Club Student of Honor and Achievement Award. Logan is a founding Advisor of the Venturing Crew 310. **Congratulations to Logan on your Summit Rank Achievement!**

You can read more success stories about Scouting's impact on local youth at BlackSwampBSA.org. Thank you for making a difference!





As a workforce development program dedicated to connecting students with professionals in their community, Exploring works to help students enter the chosen career fields confident that it's what they want to commit their time and energy to. Students, regardless if they're a Scout, are invited to take part in monthly meetings with partners throughout their community to learn more about the career(s) they are interested in, or even ones they'd never considered before but may be more inclined to succeed in!

13
Counties we serve

8
Partnerships

87
Registered Members



Top Popcorn Sellers

The Annual Fall Popcorn Sale allows youth to fund their Scouting year, with 70% of the proceeds from their sales going to the Scout, and half of into their local Unit treasury. Youth can earn funds to pay for Summer Camp, Activities, Uniforms and any Scouting related fees. The sale promotes leadership and responsibility within our Scouts.

Scout

1. **Riley B., \$7,335** Troop 914 - OS
2. **Trevor B., \$6,931** Troop 914 - OS
3. **Connor V., \$6,590** Troop 777 - GO
4. **Spencer M., \$5,720** Troop 4 - OS
5. **Macie B., \$4,904** Pack 3914 - OS
6. **Tytus M., \$4,130** Troop 777 - GO
7. **Christopher S., \$4,038** Troop 75 - CH
8. **Paxton C., \$3,857** Pack 3075 - CH
9. **Wesley Jr. (Scotty) C., \$3,857** Pack 3075 - CH
10. **Patrick S., \$3,337** Pack 3191 - CH

Unit

1. **Pack 3319 - AW, \$36,194**
2. **Troop 777 - GO, \$18,137**
3. **Pack 3075 - CH, \$17,696**
4. **Troop 914 - OS, \$17,328**
5. **Pack 3309 - AW, \$15,603**
6. **Troop 8 - CH, \$14,840**
7. **Pack 3029 - CH, \$13,426**
8. **Pack 3191 - CH, \$11,630**
9. **Troop 75 - CH, \$10,994**
10. **Pack 3096 - OS, \$10,879**

2023 Silver Beaver Award Recipients

The Silver Beaver is the highest award that a local council can present to a Scouting volunteer for service to youth. We are pleased to announce the 2023 recipients!

Pamela Ganser
Old Sycamore District

Harry "Wishbone" Colvin
Arrowwood District

Rose King
Chinquapin District

MILESTONES

100 Years at Camp Berry

On Saturday, July 8, the Black Swamp Area Council invited Scouts and community members to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Scouts Camping on the banks of Eagle Creek, now known as Camp Berry.

Alumni were invited to bring memorabilia to be on display throughout the event and items to place in the time capsule that'll be opened in another 100 years! Guests were invited to tour the personal displays in Donnell Lodge and tour the brand new Yammine Lodge!



In an effort to secure a more permanent summer camp location, the local Boy Scout council leased 10 acres on Eagle Creek in 1925. In 1928 Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Berry purchased 83 acres, which include the original 10 acres for the Scouts to camp. The camp was named after the Berry's son, R. J. Jr. who had died in a streetcar accident on South Main Street, Findlay in 1915.

Yammine Lodge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Black Swamp Area Council officially opened the new Yammine Lodge Welcome Center at Camp Berry on June 20th, with a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Findlay – Hancock County Chamber of Commerce ambassadors.

Bev Yammine and family celebrated the opening of this facility as the main benefactors of the building efforts, honoring Riad Yammine who was a longtime Scout supporter and community supporter. Mr. Yammine, who passed in 2015, accomplished many accolades in his life, including several high-level positions with Marathon and was instrumental in developing Emro Marketing, now known as Speedway, serving as President.

The new building serves the 360 acres just outside the southside of Findlay, where local Scouts and youth have been camping since 1923. The building now hosts the camp office, medical facility and meeting rooms.

Yammine Lodge is located at Camp Berry,
11716 Co Rd 40 Findlay, OH 45840.

Black Swamp Area Council

Executive Committee Members

Matt Black, Council President
Michelle Waggoner, Council Commissioner
Keith Eiden, Treasurer
Mark Miller, VP Strategic Plan/Admin
Cheryl Parson, VP Membership
Sherri Garner Brumbaugh, VP Development
Dave Thompson, Executive VP
Karl Heminger, VP District Operations

Chase Hatfield, VP Exploring
David Thompson, VP Program
Dr. Stan Doty, VP Endowment
Dr. Phil Havens, VP Properties
Jeffrey Whitman, Attorney
Grant Russel, VP Alumni
Dr. Dan Meffley, Past President
Marc Kogan, Scout Executive

Executive Board Members

Dr. Don Alexander
Karim Baroudi
Curtis Brookhart
Chad Bryan
Patrick Coward
Chuck Clapper
Judy Crawford

Robert Cupp
Dr. Bill Finnerty
Richard Flowers
Scott Gray
Brendan Greaney
Dave Huckeriede
Jeff Iten

Dale Laws
John Love
Matthew Ludwig
Tom Masterson
Mike Metzger
Fa. Chris Mileski
Walter Poffenbaugh

Doug Saul
Mike Saxton
Shane Stechschulte
Daniel Vennekotter
Tina Verhoff
Mike Yammine

District Chairs

Brook Edwards, Arrowwood
Vacant, Great Oaks
Jeff Justus, Chinquapin
Roger Frese, Old Sycamore

Youth Representative

Justin Scheifer,
Order of the Arrow Lodge Chief

Council Staff

Marc Kogan, Scout Executive
Jim Mason, Assistant Scout Executive
Drew Demull, Programs Director
Rochelle Manley, Arrowwood DE
Logan Gigante, Old Sycamore DE
Erika Dutcher, Chinquapin DE
Jim Mason, Great Oaks
Alexandra Patterson, Exploring Executive

Nancy Rex, Lima Scout Shop Manager
Jennifer Treece, Development Director
Mary Houtz, Accounting Specialist
Mandy Meadows, Registrar/Admin Assistant
Linda Weyer, Financial Admin Assistant
Kathy Weber, Administrative Support
Pat Bohn, Camp Lakota Ranger
Lance Kraft, Camp Berry Ranger

Thank you to the Professional and Community Leaders who put forth their time and effort to better Scouting in Northwest and West Central Ohio

2023 Package Gift Sponsors

John Swearingen

John Love

Richard Flowers

**DOTY
DENTAL**

AARON W. DOTY, DDS
STAN K. DOTY, DDS



Thank you to these supporters for helping keep the foundation of Scouting strong through support of multiple events and activities in Black Swamp Area Council this year!

Black Swamp Area Council
Boy Scouts of America
2100 Broad Ave.
Findlay, OH 45840

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Take a look inside for the impact our community has had on Scouting in 2023!



**BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®**

BLACK SWAMP AREA COUNCIL

