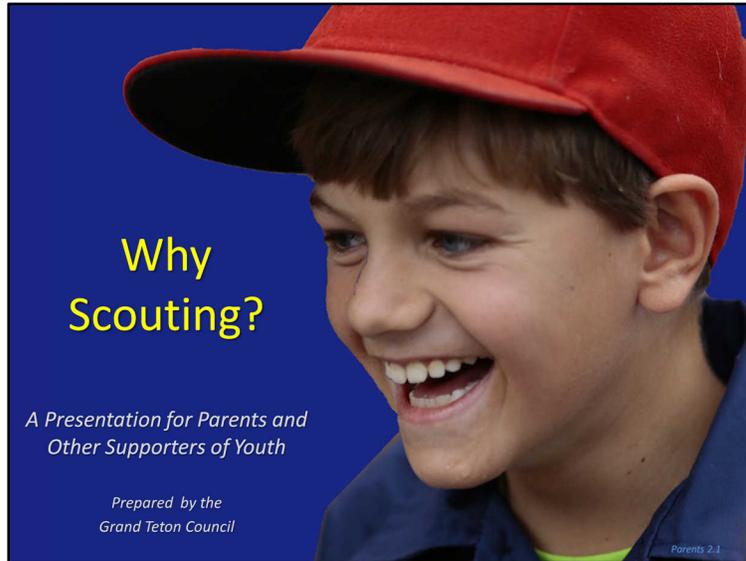


# Instructions to Presenters

- The intended audience for this presentation is parents and other supporters of youth. This is particularly appropriate for those who are not necessarily already engaged in the Scouting program as leaders, but are in a position to support the program. This might include parents of existing and potential Scouts, and those involved in Friends of Scouting.
- It is recommended that the slides be presented in Slide Show mode while reading from a printout of the text contained in the accompanying Notes.
- To print the Notes for presenting, print slides 2-17, Notes pages.
- If you wish to print a participant Handout (which is recommended), print slides 18-29, 6 Slides Horizontal, Frame Slides, Scale to fit paper, two sided, grayscale. This will come to one piece of paper per handout.
- It should take about 6 minutes to present the material in the slides.

---Ben Call, Grand Teton Council  
bencall@scouting.org

Parents 2.1



Welcome to this presentation entitled “Why Scouting?”  
The purpose of this is to present evidence from recent research showing  
that Scouting changes the lives of boys in powerful ways.

<CLICK>

Parents 2.1



First we shall examine the Tufts CAMP Study. Here researchers at Tufts University looked at character change in a group of Cub Scouts.

<CLICK>

**The Tufts CAMP Study**  
Study Design

- 1,800 Cub Scouts aged 6-12
- 400 carefully matched non-Scouts from Philadelphia area
- Duration 2½ years, starting in 2012
- Development was measured in 9 key areas
  - Hopefulness
  - Helpfulness
  - Obedience
  - Thriftiness
  - Trustworthiness
  - Cheerfulness
  - Kindness
  - Hopeful Future Expectations
  - Religious Reverence
- In the beginning, there were **no significant differences** between the two groups.
- By the end however, the differences were **striking**.

Funded by the John Templeton Foundation

About 1,800 Cub Scouts aged 6-12 were compared with 400 carefully matched non-Scouts.

Their characteristics were measured regularly over a 2½ year period of time.

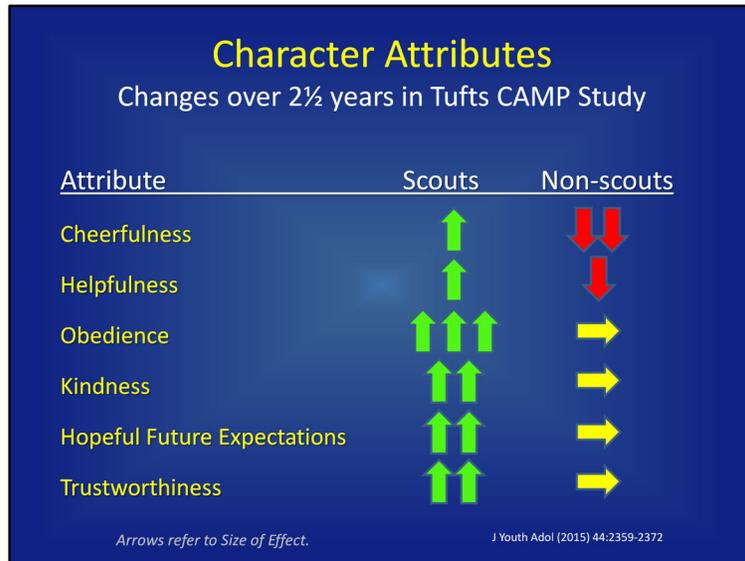
Character development was measured in multiple areas.

<CLICK>

In the beginning, there were no significant differences between the two groups.

By the end however, the differences were striking.

<CLICK>



- Let's look at some findings. First,
- <CLICK>
- Cheerfulness –
  - Scouts showed a small tendency toward greater Cheerfulness
    - That is, one up arrow
  - Non-Scouts showed a moderate tendency toward less Cheerfulness
    - That is, two down arrows.
- <CLICK>
- Helpfulness
  - <CLICK>
- Obedience
  - <CLICK>
- Kindness
  - <CLICK>
- Hopeful future expectations, and
  - <CLICK>
- Trustworthiness

- Scouts made growth in every area
  - while non-Scouts stayed the same, or even lost some ground.  
<CLICK>



Scouts showed other differences.

<CLICK>

When asked to prioritize goals in their life, Scouts were more likely than non-Scouts to embrace Prosocial Values.

<CLICK>

For example Scouts placed higher value on Doing the Right Thing, and Helping Others, while

<CLICK>

non-Scouts placed more value on Being Smart, Being the Best, and Playing Sports

<CLICK>

## Regular Attendance Matters

*Scouts who were more active in Scouting*  
*Scouts who were less active in Scouting*

*Greater activity in Scouting*  
*predicted improvement in multiple areas*

Academic success  
Connection to nature  
Thriftiness  
Intentional Self Regulation

Am J Comm Psychol (2016) 57:73-86

Here they looked at Scouts who regularly attended their meetings, and compared them with Scouts who attended infrequently.

The results:

<CLICK>

Greater activity in Scouting predicted improvement in multiple areas including Academic success.

Connection to nature

Thriftiness, and

Intentional Self Regulation.

This is the ability to make plans and carry them out.

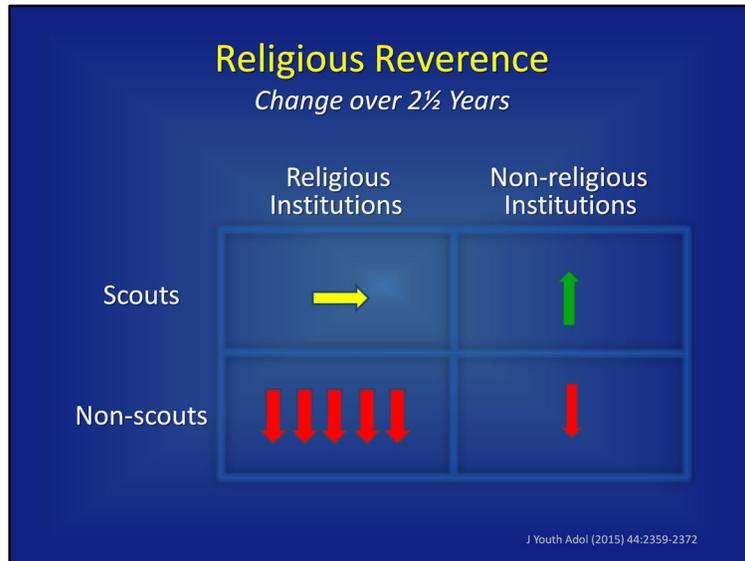
<CLICK>



Another remarkable finding was the effect of Scouting on Religious Reverence.

This is the name given to expressions from Scouts such as "I pray", and "I like to read stories from my religion".

<CLICK>



The study looked at changes in Religious Reverence in a number of groups. In some groups the differences between Scouts and non-Scouts were minimal. In one of the groups however, remarkable findings emerged. In just 2 ½ years, non-Scouts coming from religious institutions showed a <CLICK> major decline in their desire to pray and read stories from their religion. These boys might be comparable to boys in our church-based units who do not participate in the Scouting program. This is expected to be a big deal over the course of these boy’s lives. <CLICK>

## What About Sports?

- Over 80% of American youth are now or have previously participated in a sports program.
- American youth spend more time in sports programs than any other organized out-of-school activity.



What about sports?

Over 80% of American youth at some time will participate in a sports program.

They spend more time in sports than in any other organized out-of-school activity.

<CLICK>

## Sports and Youth Development

### *The Good and the Bad*

#### *The Good*

- Improve grades in school
- Feel better about themselves
- Show leadership

#### *The Bad*

- Increase aggressive behavior
- Reduce ability to see right and wrong
- Increase chances for risky behavior

*When kids do nothing but sports, the overall effect on their character development is negative.*

What do we know about the effect of participation in Sports programs?

The news is good and bad.

<CLICK>

Some studies say that sports do good things for kids by helping them improve grades in school, feel better about themselves, and show leadership.

<CLICK>

Other research says that sports programs are not so great for kids because they increase aggressive behavior, reduce the ability to see right and wrong, and increase the chances for risky behavior.

<CLICK>

In fact, when a kid does nothing but sports, the research suggests that the overall effect on their character development is negative.

<CLICK>

## What about Sports *in Combination* with a Good Program like Scouting?

- Kids active in both programs show the highest
  - Positive individual functioning
  - Contribution to family and community.

**Scouting and Sports make a great partnership.**

However, if kids combine sports and a good program like Scouting, the results are very different.

Kids active in both sports and Scouting show the highest levels of positive individual functioning as well as contribution to family and community.

With its strong emphasis on character development and the value of every individual,

Scouting and Sports make a great partnership.

<CLICK>

## Is Participation in Scouting Associated with Prosocial Behavior in Adulthood?

### “Eagle Scouts—Merit Beyond the Badge”

*Baylor University, Institute for Studies of Religion*

*Nationwide Survey*

*Average Age of Respondent—47 years*

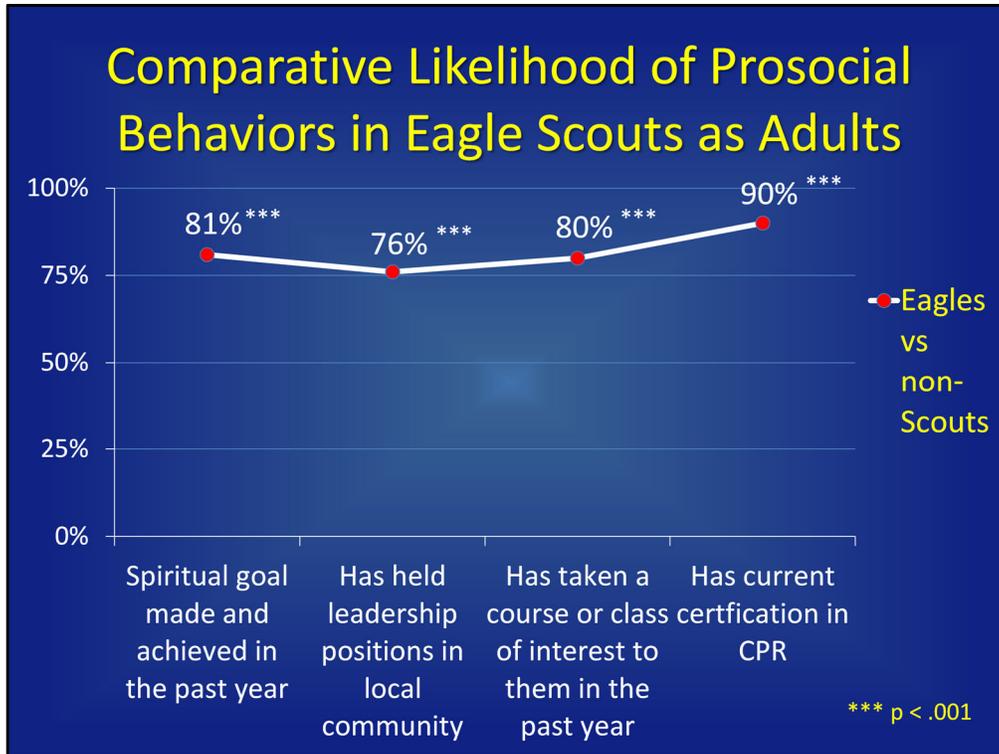
Eagle Scouts	134
Scouts (Not Eagle)	853
Non Scouts	1,502
Total	2,512

Next question: “Is there any evidence that activity in Scouting as a youth yields benefits as an adult?”

Researchers at Baylor University examined this in a nationwide poll of adult men.

The average age of these men was 47 years, just about 30 years older than the age of a Scout.

<CLICK>



The results:

Compared to those who had never been involved in Scouting, Eagle Scouts were 81% more likely to have made and achieved a spiritual goal within the past year. They were also more likely to have held a leadership position in their local community, taken a course of interest to them in the past year, and currently be certified in CPR.

When compared to non-Scouts, Eagle Scouts exhibited significantly higher levels of service and leadership, goal orientation, planning and preparedness, and character.

Recall that these men's Scouting experience was 30 years before. The fact that their activity in Scouting would make this difference three decades later says much about the power of Scouting to create lasting change in the lives of young men.

<CLICK>

## In Summary

### *Scouting and Character Development*

- ✓ Scouting leads to the development of multiple positive character attributes.
- ✓ Scouting sustains Religious Reverence.
- ✓ Scouting is a strong partner with sports programs in building positive character.
- ✓ The positive effect of Scouting persists for decades.

In Summary,

Activity in Scouting leads to the development of multiple positive character attributes.

<CLICK>

Scouting activity sustains Religious Reverence.

<CLICK>

Scouting is a strong partner with sports programs in building positive character. And,

<CLICK>

The positive effect of participation in Scouting persists for decades.

<CLICK>

Scouting is a  
powerful tool for  
creating positive change  
in the lives of boys.

In Short...

Scouting is a  
powerful tool for  
creating positive change  
in the lives of boys.

<CLICK>

**Why Scouting?**  
*Scouting Changes Boy's Lives*

The value of Scouting comes not from the great things that boys do in Scouting, but from the great things that Scouting does to boys.

*Scouting provides a solid foundation for boys to become men of character and honor.*



Why Scouting? The evidence is clear:  
Scouting changes boy's lives.

<CLICK>

The value of Scouting comes  
not from the great things that boys do in Scouting,  
but from the great things that Scouting does to boys.

Scouting is valuable not because it entertains, or even that it teaches a  
valuable skill.

The lasting value of Scouting is that

<CLICK>

Scouting provides a solid foundation for boys to become men of  
character and honor.

Thank you.