



### **ScoutReach Mission**

To recruit strong adult leaders and to develop solid relationships with chartered organizations in urban and rural communities nationwide to ensure that culturally diverse youth have the opportunity to join the Scouting program.

### **Core Program**

The ScoutReach Division gives special leadership and emphasis to urban Scouting programs. ScoutReach is the Golden Spread Council's commitment to making sure that all young people have an opportunity to join Scouting, regardless of their circumstances, neighborhood, or ethnic background.

Today, young people are faced with many challenges as they often face fragile families and disintegrating neighborhoods. ScoutReach meets the developmental needs of youth in urban settings and the housing developments. The program also focuses on the U.S. rural population, which constitutes approximately 25 percent of the total U.S. population. Some rural communities are stable and growing, whereas others are characterized by decentralized, low-density populations and/or poverty.

Scouting, by emphasizing ethics and moral values, addresses many of the social concerns of parents and youth in our country. Scouting prepares urban youth to be leaders, to accept responsibility, and to care about principles and causes beyond their own self-interest. Our biggest asset in urban neighborhoods is a well-defined program based on values, learning-by-doing, fun, and positive role models.

### **Program Structure**

In most cases, our Golden Spread Council brings a Cub Scout program to boys in first through fifth grades but also provides a Boy Scout program to older boys as needed. This is a non-traditional Scouting program. Rather than holding meetings by separate grade levels, in uniform, following a specific plan for advancement toward ranks, ScoutReach is more relaxed no uniforms, mixed age groups, a less stringent meeting environment, and less emphasis on advancement toward ranks and more emphasis on life skills and interests and fun group activities.

ScoutReach weekly meetings are staffed by paid professional ScoutReach Specialists. Heavily funded by the United Way and other organizations, all materials are free of charge to the boys. Registration fees are paid for by the council. The program is virtually free to the boys throughout the school year.

Meetings are held after school, for approximately one hour, one day each week. We follow the school calendar. No school; no meeting. Our program begins when school opens in the fall and ends when school is out in the summer.

We also have a summer camp experience available to the boys in the form of a 5 day Day Camp or a 4-day/3-night Resident Camp. There is a fee for the summer camp experience; however, we can work out financial arrangements with each individual family based on individual situations. ScoutReach centers around a well-defined program based on values, learning-by-doing, fun, and positive role models. Ethics and values within a group environment -- discipline, respect, citizenship, self-image, and ethical decisions -- are built in to most activities in a fun and enriching ways.

Programs can include guest speakers from the community, various occupations; visits to police and/or fire stations, hospitals, zoos, parks; field trips to local attractions; athletic and cultural events; and at-home family activities. Along the way, boys are given rewards in the form of pizza parties, refreshments, certificates, badges/patches/ribbons/buttons, in addition to one-on-one individual attention during activities. The program includes physical fitness activities, health/hygiene study, civic issues, citizenship, family values, laws/rules/regulations, our flag, other cultures and many more subjects that build self-esteem and strong personal values.

ScoutReach in Golden Spread Council has been very successful in building informed sound character in young boys who have the opportunity to continue on in the Scouting program and as productive concerned citizens in our local communities.

### **Recognitions**

#### **Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award**

This national award is used by Councils to recognize outstanding service by an adult individual or by an organization in the development of Scouting for rural or low-income urban youth. Sometimes this award helps councils recognize “unsung heroes”—people who might not otherwise receive recognition for exceptional service to disadvantaged youth

#### **The Spirit of Scouting Award**

The Spirit of Scouting Award is designed for presentation to a noteworthy individual who has performed exceptional and unusual service to young people in urban and rural America over a long period. The award is presented to individuals at the unit level and to people of all races and income levels.

#### **Scouting—Vale la Pena Service Award**

The Scouting—Vale la Pena Service Award is used by councils to recognize Scouting volunteers, community leaders, or corporations that have had a positive impact in the service of Hispanic American/Latino youth in urban and rural communities.

#### **Asian American Spirit of Scouting Service Award**

The Asian American Spirit of Scouting Service Award is used by councils to recognize Scouting volunteers, community leaders, or corporations that have had a positive impact in the service of Asian American youth in urban and rural communities.