

## LIMITLESS POTENTIAL



## BOUNDLESS GROWTH



## TIMELESS ADVENTURE



# 2024 CAPITOL AREA COUNCIL YEAR IN REVIEW



# NEW NAME. NEW LOOK. **SAME MISSION.**

In 2024, the Boy Scouts of America announced it would rebrand to Scouting America, reflecting the organization's ongoing commitment to welcome every youth and family in America to experience the benefits of Scouting.

Although the name is new, the mission remains unchanged: we are committed to helping teach boys and girls how to be strong, brave, mentally sharp, and service-oriented. In short, how to be Prepared. For Life.

Locally, we echo Scouting's invitation to all families. Our council's new brand identity maintains the familiarity of the national logo while honoring the Texas Hill Country, our unique Lost Pines region, the multicultural makeup of our membership, and the outdoor adventure of our program.

Together, we offer young people confidence without arrogance and skills without screens for the world beyond school and sports. We can help them be ready for emergencies, challenges, or whatever the world throws their way. We do this by honing what they have in their heads and hearts, encouraging what they can do themselves, and emphasizing what they can do working with others. We provide social without the media, a way to experience the real world in real safety, and a place to explore the world and imagine all that's possible.

We enter the 115th year of serving our nation and its families with full hearts, steadfast resolve, and the spirit of adventure to come.



SCOUTING AMERICA  
**CAPITOL AREA  
COUNCIL** 





# LIMITLESS POTENTIAL



Most Eagle Scout service projects help a local school, church, or community. Skylar and Griffin Moore decided to act globally as well as locally, and collected and donated resources to the "baby houses" or orphanages in Kazakhstan from which they were adopted as infants.

The two first visited their baby homes in 2019 with their mother, Susan, and got the chance to meet the caregivers and doctors who cared for them. While there, the two said they noticed several needs, including the fact that the cribs were the same ones Griffin slept in as a baby more than a decade ago.

The two Scouts started planning separate fundraisers to purchase cribs and other needed items. Griffin organized a fun run at Camp Mabry while Skylar hosted a garage sale at home with more than 1,000 items donated by friends and neighbors. Together, the events raised \$3,700.

With funds in hand, Griffin and Skylar and their mom made the 6,800 mile flight back to Kazakhstan. With the help of a translator, the siblings worked with the baby homes to find out exactly what resources they needed. Skylar used her funds to buy new clothes, developmental games, monitors for the staff members, and musical instruments for the children. Griffin bought 20 new beds, including ten cribs for the infants. **"I actually got to see a baby sleeping in one of the cribs that I had provided them with. So that was pretty cool,"** Griffin said with a smile.

Griffin is a member of Scouts BSA Troop 5 and Skylar is a member of Scouts BSA Troop 50. Our council is proud to support both units as their chartering organization.





# BOUNDLESS GROWTH



Scouting's adventure knows no bounds. Neither does First Class Scout Finley McKeag of Scouts BSA Troop 280.

"... he's the only one [in his troop] with a physical disability," Finley's mother Dawn McKeag said. "At the same time, we don't let that stop him."

12-year-old Finley has a condition that impacts his ability to walk. But he has gone kayaking, scuba diving, and enjoyed other outdoor activities the same as any of his friends in the troop. He recently earned Camping Merit Badge, something that's required on the trail to earn the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. The merit badge requires several challenges, including a five-mile hike. But with the use of a special wheelchair, Finley was able to complete the task.

Ask Finley what he enjoys most about Scouting and he'll give you several answers, not the least of which are the opportunities for adventure and friendship. **"I'm just happy I get to explore at an early age so that I can figure out what I want to do with my life,"** Finley said.

In addition to being active in Scouting, Finley has competed in rugby, basketball, tennis, and track and field. "My hope will probably be to become a Paralympian," Finley said. "But for now, I'm just doing all these different sports so that I can get that experience."

Our council is proud to support Scouts BSA Troop 280 as its chartering organization.



Josh Haney is a Den Leader with Cub Scout Pack 82. But more than that, he's a proud Scouting parent. He shared this story about how Scouting has helped his son grow a lot in a short period of time:

"I never thought I would say that (besides therapy) Cub Scouts has been amazing for my kiddo. Boy, have we been putting the work in to manage my kiddo's selective mutism [anxiety disorder where a person is unable to speak in certain social situations] since he was three and half years old. Therapy and follow ups and practice and 504 plans and so, so, so much mental capacity and energy going into making sure my son would thrive as he grew.

He joined Cub Scouts last year because we were hoping for some hyperlocal relationships because socialization and speaking to kids was hard. We didn't do popcorn sales because, well, you have to speak to people, and we just weren't ready yet.

This year, [my son's] second year in Scouts (age 6) he decided he wanted to sell popcorn. I smiled while thinking, 'this is going to be a disaster that will set us back a year in progress.'

But he marched into his therapist's office and asked me to sit in the waiting room. He said he wanted to learn how to be brave and sell popcorn and it was easier for Dr. An to help him if I wasn't there...

At the end of an hour where they popped a bag of popcorn and walked around the building practicing with strangers by pretending to sell, I pulled his therapist aside out of earshot and she said this was amazing. He wanted to work through his anxiety, recognized the challenge, and was motivated. I asked her what to do if it went horribly. She said that I do it again then, obviously. 'Cool, cool. This is going to be awful,' I thought.

Three weeks ago we did our first storefront. He was scared and barely audible. He got a lot of 'no.' But he got some 'yes' and slowly got louder. And then he wanted to do it again and again. After ten hours of selling popcorn, he can walk up and loudly speak to strangers, sort of carry a conversation, handle 'no's, celebrate successes, and is becoming confident in voice.

Our family is exhausted but we are going out to sell popcorn again this weekend because Aiden wants to hit his goal. And we love hearing him grow into his voice.

I just wanted to share a surprising source of motivation that has made such a big change on our anxiety journey. And a big plug for Scouts... because in a little over a year, it has made all the difference."

Our council is proud to support Cub Scout Pack 82 as its chartering organization.





# TIMELESS ADVENTURE



**Members of Scouts BSA Troop 218 get to know the native inhabitants of Palmetto State Park near Gonzales. Troop 218 is chartered by Buda's St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church.**



**More than 200 Cub Scouts and adults built and flew their own kites and rockets at our Smilin V Scout Ranch in Liberty Hill.**



**Nearly 100 Scouts and adults took part in Hill Country District's fishing day at Inks Lake Federal Fish Hatchery. The champion youth angler landed a nine-pound catfish!**



**Members of Cub Scout Pack 182 enjoyed a weekend of hiking and camping at Pedernales State Park. Pack 182 is chartered by St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Elgin.**



**A member of Cub Scout Pack 967 works (with adult supervision) on designing and building his Pinewood Derby car. The Derby has been a Cub Scout tradition since 1953. Pack 967 is chartered by Buda United Methodist Church.**





Members of Scouts BSA Troop 358 enjoyed adventure above and under the water at Scouting America's Sea Base. Sea Base operates 18 different High Adventure programs for Scouts out of five locations: two in the Florida Keys, one in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and one in Marsh Harbour, Bahamas. Scouts spent two nights on a liveaboard sailboat learning nautical basics, then three more days/nights kayaking, paddle boarding, and snorkeling. Our council is proud to support Troop 358 as its chartering organization.

Scouts BSA Troops 142 (Lexington) and 204 (La Grange) took part in a 70 mile backpacking trek at Scouting America's Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Philmont is the world's largest Scout camp, covering more than 140,000 acres in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. Troop 142 is chartered by Lexington United Methodist Church. Our council is proud to support Troop 204 as its chartering organization.



Members of Scouts BSA Troop 151 put their canoe back in the water during their summer trek through the boundary waters at Northern Tier High Adventure Base. Scouting America's three wilderness canoe bases cover millions of acres of pristine lakes, meandering rivers, dense forests and wetlands in Northern Minnesota, Northwest Ontario, and Northeast Manitoba. Trips range in length from 6-14 days and usually include between 50-150 miles of wilderness travel. Troop 151 is chartered by American Legion Post 174 in Georgetown.

# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

(TOTALS AS OF DECEMBER 3)



**3,558**

RANKS EARNED



**2,643**

RANKS EARNED



**17**

RANKS EARNED



**294**

EARNED THE  
EAGLE RANK



SCOUTS EARNED

**11,663**

MERIT BADGES

**1,422**

YOUTH/ADULTS  
TRAINED

**6,166**

DAY/WEEKEND  
PARTICIPANTS

**1,853**

SUMMER/WINTER  
CAMPERS

**629**

HIGH ADVENTURE  
CAMPERS



For the fifth year in a row, our summer camp program earned its National Camp Accreditation with a perfect score.



Summer camp Nat-E-Con Director Ed Harmon received the 2024 \$5,000 Lost Pines Staff Association Scholarship.



## 2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

### Duty to God Award

Ronda Motl  
Misty Williamson

### Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award

Ruth Narvaiz  
Dr. Elmer Avellaneda

### ¡Scouting... Vale la Pena! Service Award

Dr. David Brown

### Sea Scout Leadership Award

Dave Aronson  
Monica Greenhalgh  
Liberty Mitchell

### Silver Beaver Award

Herb Keirstead  
Heather Spencer  
David Stroud  
Kerri Thompson  
Sylvia Velasquez  
Dr. Larry Wallace

### Torch of Gold Award

Suzanne Johnson

### Venturing Leadership Award

Joaquin Campos  
Christy Cochran  
Shea Goltzman  
Sadie Henderson  
Kim Lanicek  
Sarah Lanicek  
Cory Tondre

### William H. Spurgeon Award

Vincent Wrencher

### Byron Lockhart Eagle Scout Scholarship

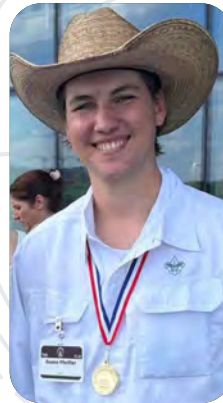
Joaquin Campos  
Rylie Shieh  
Austin Tharp



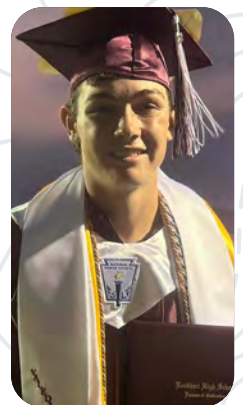
Eagle Scout Declan Howell of Scouts BSA Troop 550 earned Scouting's National Medal for Outdoor Achievement.



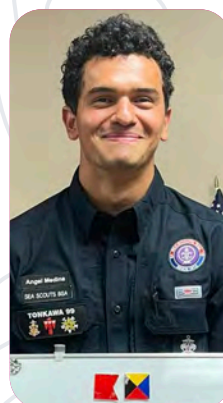
Eagle Scout Caroline Newby of Scouts BSA Troop 72 earned all 138 merit badges.



Duane Pfeiffer of Sea Scout Ship 1407 earned the Congressional Gold Award.



Eagle Scout Cole Frey of Scouts BSA Troop 109 was Lockhart ISD Valedictorian.



Angel Medina became the first member of Sea Scouts Ship 405 to earn the rank of Quartermaster – the highest rank in the Sea Scouting program.



# TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE



**Eagle Scout John Vecera of Scouts BSA Troop 61 led his fellow Scouts in building a shade structure at Emma Long Park for his Eagle service project. Troop 61 is chartered by Austin Ridge Bible Church Southwest.**



**Members of Scouts BSA Troops 472 and 473 and Cub Scout Pack 471 placed flags at Elgin's Westbrook Cemetery to honor the veterans buried there. All three units are chartered by VFW Post 6115.**

**Sea Scouts Sea Ship 1407 divers did conservation work along the Comal River. Scouts collected trash, along with four phones, a drivers license, and nearly two dozen pair of sunglasses. They were able to return one phone and the license to their owners and donated the sunglasses. Ship 1407 is chartered by US Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 081-07.**



**Members of Cub Scout Pack 125 cleaned up trash on the grounds at St. Anthony Marie de Claret Catholic Church in Kyle. Our council is proud to support Pack 125 as its chartering organization.**

**Cub Scout Pack 135 in Fredericksburg collected new blankets as part of a donation drive for people hit hard by Hurricane Helene. Our council is proud to support Pack 135 as its chartering organization.**

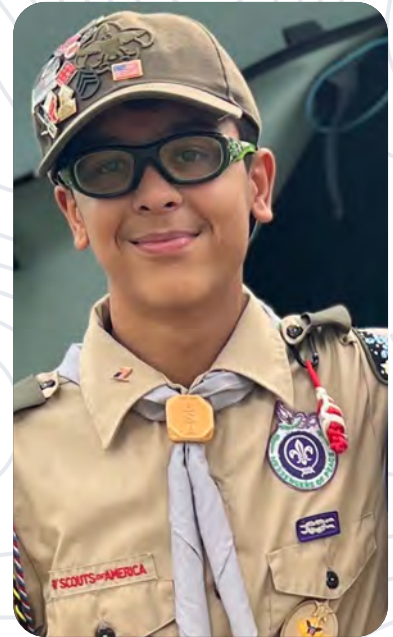




# AT ALL TIMES



**Members of Scouts BSA Troop 410 helped Scout Charlie Presnell with his Eagle Scout service project: building benches for Cerebral Palsy Awareness Transition Hope or CPATH - a nonprofit organization to support individuals with cerebral palsy. Troop 410 is chartered by Highland Park Baptist Church.**



**Joaquin Diaz of Scouts BSA Troop 405 gave a presentation at the Florence library about native bees. Afterwards, he showed kids how to make bee water stations so the bees wouldn't drown when drinking. Troop 405 is chartered by Christ Lutheran Church in Georgetown.**



**Eagle Scout Warner Erwin Jr. of Scouts BSA Troop 967 (and long-snapper for Johnson High School) took part in Kohl's Champions Kick It for Cancer. Funds raised during the season were donated to childhood cancer research and support. Troop 967 is chartered by Buda United Methodist Church.**



**Cub Scout Pack 125 spread Scout and holiday spirit by caroling at an assisted living facility in Kyle. Our council is proud to support Pack 125 as its chartering organization.**



**Colton Debish of Scouts BSA Troop 280 led a team that planned and built a covered parking area for the Burke Center for Youth in Dripping Springs. Our council is proud to support Troop 280 as its chartering organization.**



# SCOUTING IS



**Dane Louvier serves as Cubmaster of Cub Scout Pack 471, Assistant Scoutmaster of Scouts BSA Troop 182, and a Committee Member of Scouts BSA Troop 473. He comes from a long line of Eagle Scouts and is a third generation Eagle Scout. His daughter, Lorelei, and son, Paxton, are quickly following in his footsteps. Scouting is a family lifestyle for the Louviers and they love what the program brings to the community and their life.**



**"One of the things I enjoy most about Scouting is the opportunity to spend meaningful time with my daughters away from all the distractions of normal life. It's extremely gratifying to share with them so many of the same experiences I had as a Scout."**

**Nate Carty  
Assistant Scoutmaster, Scouts BSA Troop 19  
Assistant Cubmaster, Cub Scout Pack 12**



**Families from Cub Scout Pack 12 stop mid-hike for a selfie during the pack's fall campout at Goliad State Park. Pack 12 is chartered by the Circle C Homeowners Association.**



# A LIFETIME FAMILY



**Billy Mikesch was named our council's 2024 BSA Alumni Association Council Alumnus of the Year. The award was presented by Executive Board member Jack Gindler and Scout Executive Jon C. Yates during our council's June Executive Board meeting. The award was established to recognize Scouting alumni who, over a sustained period of time, have used the skills and values they learned through their association with Scouting to make significant and long-lasting contributions to their local communities through their careers, avocations, and Scouting.**

**If you've ever been to Camp Green Dickson, you owe Billy a debt of gratitude. For decades, he has personally invested himself in improving and maintaining our council's camp property between Gonzales and Shiner. He is largely responsible for the construction of literally every structure at the camp. His leadership and dedication have helped build Camp Green Dickson into a tremendous asset for unit camping and our annual National Youth Leadership Training program.**



# GRATITUDE FOR GIVING



Scouting doesn't happen without incredible people who volunteer their time to serve as leaders at the unit, district, and council levels. Our council was fortunate this year to have the time and talent of thousands of volunteers, including Tiffany Dunckel, Den Leader of Pack 82, Wolf Den 6. Tiffany has been volunteering in this position for a little more than a year, and she's done a phenomenal job teaching Scouts to "Do Their Best." Her support for the Scouts can be seen in the time and effort she puts into their various adventures and the growth they have made after one full year of Scouting. We are thankful for her guidance and leadership. Our council is proud to support Pack 82 as its chartering organization.

We're grateful for everyone who supports our Scouts through the annual fall popcorn sale. This fundraiser helps Scouts learn to set and reach goals. Our units use the sale to raise funds for their year-long activities, like this Cub Scout Pack did as part of planning for a group trip to Sea World in San Antonio.



The impact of some giving, like a James E. West Fellowship gift, can be felt for years to come. During our June Executive Board meeting, VP-Endowment Ron Garland had the pleasure of recognizing Kurt Lemke and Bob Rauner for their James E. West Fellowship gifts this year to Scouting in Central Texas. A James E. West gift helps build our council's endowment fund, ensuring the long-term success of Scouting through an ongoing source of re-investment into our camping properties and unit support structure.



# IN MEMORIAM



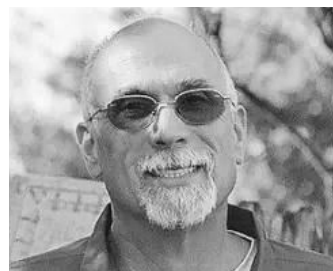
Elliott Andrews



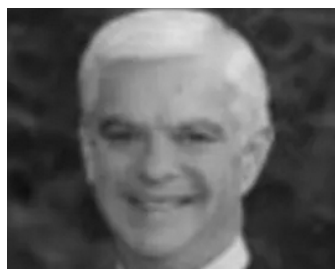
Jasper Augustine



Marion Baethge



Phillip Chappell



Homer Garrison, III



Ruthie Gates



Howard Harris



Laura Hernandez



Phil Hogan



Jim Holden



Nathaniel Kinney



Aaron McFarland



George McGonigle



Jennie Sue McLellan Motheral



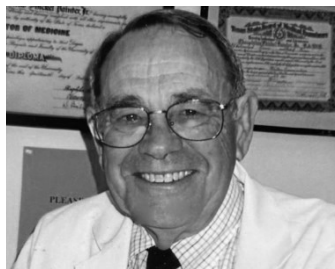
Col. Andrew McVeigh



Virginia Morales



Nancy Pacl



Dr. Theo Painter, Jr.



Albert Provence



William Renfro



John Stayton, Jr.



Jeff Wiginton



Pete Winstead





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