

PREPARED FOR LIFE. PREPARED TO LEAD!

Dear Friends of Scouting,

2014 was a great for Scouting in Minsi Trails Council thanks to our many dedicated volunteer leaders, chartered organization partners, generous donors, and committed parents. Through their help Minsi Trails provided the character, leadership and achievement programs that prepare today’s Scouts to become tomorrow’s leaders.

Minsi Trails Council by the numbers...

- Serving nearly 11,000 youth
- Leading youth through nearly 5,000 volunteer adult leaders
- Serving youth in 6 counties - Carbon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, and Warren, from the Anthracite Region and Pocono Mountains to the Lehigh Valley and Western New Jersey

Another successful year for Scouting in Minsi Trails Council ...

- Completed new three-year strategic plan for 2014-2016
- Achieved national accreditation for our three camps, all consistently receiving high satisfaction scores
- Continued strong emphasis on growing our Urban Scouting (Scoutreach) program for underserved, at-risk youth
- Demonstrated solid financial performance and had a 2014 operating surplus
- Grew the Minsi Trails Endowment Fund by nearly 1 million dollars to help secure Scouting’s future in our area
- Renewed focus on growing our co-ed Scouting programs: Exploring (career-based) and Venturing (outdoor adventure)
- Experienced membership growth in both Exploring and Venturing and recruited more Cub Scouts than the previous year
- 207 Scouts attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 2014
- Led the country in percent of trained leaders at 84%

Scouting is about building character, teaching responsibility, instilling leadership skills and achieving success, while having fun in a great outdoor experience. With a solid mission and vision for the future, Minsi Trails Council is making a positive difference for our youth. We continue our commitment to youth development that prepares today’s youth to be tomorrow’s leaders. Minsi Trails Scouts are Prepared For Life and Prepared to Lead!

Sincerely,

Robert Rupel
Council President

Eric Chiles
Council Commissioner

Craig Poland
Scout Executive & CEO

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
For more information on Scouting, our youth leadership skills programs, and volunteering opportunities, please contact us: BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL, 991 Postal Road, Allentown, PA 18109, www.minsitrails.com
Mail: P.O. Box 20624, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0624, Phone: 610-264-8551, Fax: 610-465-4500



SCOUTING PROGRAMS

CUB SCOUTS (ages 6-10) is a year-round youth program designed to meet the needs of younger boys and their families through fun hands-on activities and outdoor adventures that promote learning, character development and self-reliance.

BOY SCOUTS (ages 11-17) is a fun and adventure based, outdoor program that develops character, leadership, and achievement in young men.

VENTURING (ages 14-20) is a co-ed program that helps teens grow into responsible young adults through high-adventure activities and other common interests shared by today's teenagers.

EXPLORING (ages 14-20) is a co-ed program for young people focused on learning about specific career interests by mentoring with local businesses, professionals, and industry leaders through worksite-based programs.

SCOUTREACH (Urban Scouting) is an after-school Scouting outreach effort of Minsi Trails Council that helps bring the character and leadership development benefits of Scouting to disadvantaged, at-risk youth. Scoutreach helps ensure that Scouting is available to all youth regardless of economic ability and provides a safe environment for young people to participate right in their own schools.

CAMPING Minsi Trails Council has three resident camps with more than 2,000 acres in the beautiful Pocono Mountains. With a strong focus on outdoor experience, more than 10,000 Scouts participated in camping programs last year. Camping is about having fun in the great outdoors while learning new skills, leading teams, and growing self-confidence and self-esteem.

EAGLE SCOUT is the highest rank a Scout can achieve, taking years of dedication and hard work. Nationally, only about 5% of Scouts earn the Eagle rank. During 2014, Minsi Trails Council had 207 Scouts, nearly 6%, achieve the Eagle Scout rank.



SCOUTING PRODUCES POSITIVE RESULTS

Character, Leadership and Achievement

Scouting helps prepare youth for life and is more relevant now than ever. Studies show that participation in Scouting leads to:

Success in school

- Increased academic success
- Higher participation in sports and extra curricular activities
- Increased high school graduation rates
- Higher college graduation rates

Personal success as a youth

- Rating personal physical fitness as excellent
- Higher self confidence
- Better prepared to handle emergencies
- Leadership among peers



Simply stated, Scouting helps build character, leadership, achievement, communities, and families.

Scouting Helps Strengthen Communities

Scouting volunteers make a significant, positive difference in the communities in which they live. The Scouts and leaders of Minsi Trails Council contributed an estimated 1,000,000 hours in local volunteer service during 2014 including nearly 47,000 by our 2014 Eagle Scout Class alone. Last year over 5,500 local Scouts and volunteers collected over 230,000 pounds of food serving over 80 local food banks.

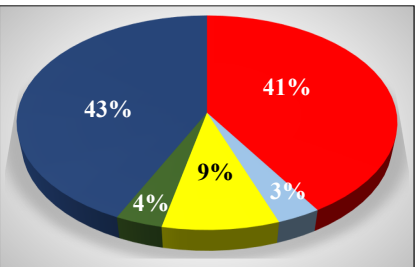


INVESTING IN SCOUTING

Fundraising

The Minsi Trails Council *Friends of Scouting* fundraising campaign benefited from tremendous community support throughout the year and we thank all the individuals, organizations, companies, and foundations that supported our Scouting programs. During 2014, over 3,500 contributors through our Friends of Scouting campaigns generated significant support for quality Scouting programs in our Council. Additionally, fundraising events honored a number of outstanding community leaders for their dedicated service and support of local Scouting. More than 50% of the annual budget relies on fundraising each year and its only through generous support that local Scouting remains strong.

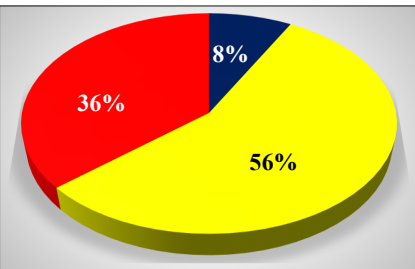
REVENUE



Total Revenue \$3,531,874*

- Fundraising \$1,446,911
- Investment Income \$120,087
- Popcorn Sales \$322,394
- United Way \$129,690
- Program Revenue \$1,512,792

EXPENSE



Total Expense \$3,520,857*

- Fundraising \$276,370
- Unit Service \$1,972,123
- Camping, Training, Activities \$1,272,364

Operating Surplus \$11,017

* Unaudited 2014 financials

Endowment and Planned Giving

Many individuals made a positive difference for local Scouting through their *Endowment and Planned Giving* gifts. Scouting's founder, Lord Baden Powell said *"We only have a short time to live, so we must do things that are worthwhile and do them now."* Please contact our council office to discuss making a planned gift or adding Scouting to your estate plan or will to help ensure Scouting's future.

