All Scouting is local and provided through dedicated volunteer leaders delivering a quality program of character development, leadership, citizenship, and achievement. In Minsi Trails Council, Scouting is much more than something you do ... it’s about building youth with strong character who will develop self-confidence and teamwork to become tomorrow’s leaders.

You can help our local Scouting grow by becoming a Friend of Scouting. All gifts given locally stay here in our area to make local Scouting happen. Make a positive difference for our youth through your gift today ... visit Minstrails.org/give.

SCOUTING BY THE NUMBERS

LOCAL SCOUTING heritage dates back to 1910

1969 COUNCIL FORMED

9,395 YOUTH MEMBERS

9,260 MERIT BADGES earned

214 EAGLE SCOUTS

48,386 COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS accumulated in Eagle Projects

3,654 ADULT LEADERS

CAMKELAND CAMPS

MINSI SETTLERS

10,847 CAMPERS attended camps in our council last year

150,000 pounds of food collected annually for area food banks as part of Scouting for Food

92 UNITS completed

18,961 SERVICE HOURS

For more information on Scouting, our youth character development and leadership skills programs, or volunteering opportunities, please contact us:

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL
www.minisitrails.org  610.264.8551

991 Postal Road
Allentown, PA 18109

Mail: P.O. Box 20624
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0624

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL
Annual REPORT
2018 - 2019
DEAR FRIENDS OF SCOUTING,

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and Scout families, Miniis Trails Council continues to make a positive difference in the lives of our area’s youth. Here are a few ways we are developing our next generation of leaders of character.

Scout Success: The success of a Scout council is best measured by the success of its Scouts. Last year our Scouts earned nearly 9,300 merit badges — that means Scouts had the opportunity to learn new skills, develop new interests, and try out new potential career choices. Also, 214 Scouts achieved their Eagle Scout rank and gave back more than 48,000 hours in community service through completion of their Eagle Projects. That’s success, and that’s community service, delivered by the future leaders of tomorrow.

Camps: Our camps provide a great outdoor experience for thousands of area Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Venturers, and saw increased attendance in 2018. Camper satisfaction continued the trend of high satisfaction scores during 2018.

Membership: For 2018, we served nearly 9,400 youth in our six counties, down 7% from the prior year. This is certainly a trend we need to reverse. Two bright spots were the older-youth, co-ed Venturing and Exploring programs where we saw growth. Last fall girls were welcomed into Cub Scouts, giving today’s busy families more family-time together. Girls are not new to Scouting programs since they’ve been part of our Venturing and Exploring programs for decades.

Balanced Operations: Last year Miniis Trails Council achieved Gold level for the fifth consecutive year in the BSA’s Journey to Excellence (JTE) balanced operating program. JTE looks at all aspects of our program delivery and achieving Gold level means our council is recognized among the top 10% of Scout councils across the country.

So, here’s what’s in store for 2019:

Scouts BSA: Beginning February 1st, older girls were welcomed into the Scouts BSA program, where they will be able to form all-girl Scout BSA troops under the umbrella. Scouting will now truly be serving the entire family through all its programs, meaning more youth and families to serve.

50th Anniversary: In 2019, our council celebrates its 50th anniversary. This will be a great opportunity to look ahead at what we can be, while recognizing our area’s strong Scouting Heritage dating back to 1919. We have a terrific story to tell, not only about our Scouting heritage, but where we are going.

Strategic Plan: Volunteer committees are currently working on the 2019-2021 strategic plan in the areas of membership program, unit service leadership & governance, and finance. The new plan will set our pathway forward to ensure local Scouting remains strong in our area, our membership grows, our operations are solid, and most importantly, we continue to provide quality Scouting for our Scouts and families.

Local, Independent and Strong: Some say that all Scouting is local, and when it comes to serving youth, families, and communities, we certainly agree. Here are some important Miniis Trails Council facts to remember:

- Miniis Trails Council operates as a financially independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit incorporated in Pennsylvania that is separate from the national BSA organization.
- All gifts, donations, and in-kind support made to support our local Scouting programs stay right here in our council. So, all gifts made local... stay local.
- Miniis Trails Council is locally led by an independent Executive Board and nearly 3,700 local volunteer leaders.
- Our finances remain strong, ending 2018 with a small surplus for reinvestment in program. The Executive Board has approved a balanced budget for 2019.

In short, Scouting is alive and well. Here in Miniis Trails Council, Scouting is strong, and we are extremely optimistic about our future serving the youth of our area.

We could not provide Scouting for local youth without strong support from people like you and the many companies and organizations who support Scouting. When you support Scouting, you help make a positive difference for our area youth.

Therefore, your leadership, guidance, and support will continue to provide a quality Scouting program for today’s youth and families. Thank you for all you do for Scouting!

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

James Deutsch
Council President

Lowe Dryfoos
Council Commissioner

Rick Christ
Scout Executive & CEO

INVEST IN SCOUTING

Last year saw strong support from annual Friends of Scouting fundraising campaigns. Families see firsthand the benefits Scouting provides for their children, and over 42% of families donate to Scouting. Community fundraising efforts saw similar widespread support and attracted over 2,900 supporters while honoring some great community leaders. During 2018, we also saw growth in our annual Scout Popcorn sale. These efforts helped Miniis Trails Council achieve 100% of its fundraising goal and finish 2018 with an operating surplus to reinvest into our programs and camps.

ABOUT SCOUTING

CUB SCOUTS (ages 5-11) is designed to meet the needs of younger children and their families through fun, hands-on activities and outdoor adventures that promote learning, character development, and self-reliance.

SCOUTS BSA (ages 11-17) is a fun and adventure based, outdoor program that develops character, leadership skills, and achievement in young men and women. Through learning life skills, Scouting helps youth be Prepared For Life!

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 work-based programs.

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

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/OFFICERS

President: James Deutsch
Vice President: Lew Dryfoos, III
Immediate Past President: Dave Zinkler

Commissioner: Robert A. Oster, CPA

Executive Director: Betsy Dziedzic

Finance: John B. Kropf

Marketing: Timothy S. Fallon

Legal Counsel: Dolores Laputka, JD

Treasurer: David Freeman

Assistant Treasurer: Pamela Buda

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Roger G. Bau
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Michael Callfey
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Dr. Edward Salgado
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Kirby Upright
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ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

TOTAL REVENUE $3,697,125
- Fundraising $1,614,125
- Endowment Income $122,707
- Paul Bogan Sales $288,767
- Limited Way $86,166

TOTAL EXPENSE $3,622,800
- Fundraising $185,015
- Unit Service $2,059,991
- Camping, Training, Activities, Other $337,012

Operating Surplus $7,315