



NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Council Facts

Mission Statement

To prepare young people to be leaders and individuals of strong character by helping them discover the principles of Scouting.

Working Vision

Northern Star Council is a positive influence in the lives of 100% of the youth in the communities we serve.

Scouting's Goals, Objectives, and Impact

As part of the council's strategic planning process, specific focus areas have been identified to fulfill Scouting's objectives for young people and to meet the needs and demands of the youth and families in our community.

Partnerships

More than 1,100 community organizations, representing educational, religious, non-profit, civic, and business organizations join in partnership with Northern Star Council by chartering 1,296 Scouting units (including 483 Cub Scout packs, 441 Boy Scout troops, 16 Varsity teams, 221 Venture crews, 2 ships, 131 Explorer and Special Needs posts, and 2 Learning for Life groups).

Service Area

Northern Star Council serves 25 counties across central Minnesota (Anoka, Carver, Chippewa, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, McLeod, Meeker, Ramsey, Renville, Rice, Scott, Washington, Wright, and Yellow Medicine, and portions of Stearns and Swift), and Wisconsin (Pierce, St. Croix, Polk, and Burnett).

Camps/Properties

Northern Star Council operates two council service centers located in Golden Valley and in Saint Paul, MN. It operates eight different camp properties located in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Young people can choose from eight camp programs including day, introductory, high adventure, summer and winter weekend and resident camps for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, and families.

Leadership and Staff

The Northern Star Council is led by a volunteer board of directors that has 66 members, who come from education, businesses, corporations, other non-profits, and community organizations. Youth and volunteers are supported by 84 full-time paid staff and 34 part-time paid staff. Additionally, nearly 600 seasonal employees deliver camping programs and outdoor adventure in the summer and winter months.

Budget

Northern Star Council operates its programs and properties on a 2014 budget of \$13,193,244.

Population Served

Northern Star Council supports nearly 20,000 volunteers who develop and enrich the lives of nearly 70,000 boys and girls, ages 6 through 20, over the course of a year. The council provides volunteers a wide range of youth and adult training opportunities, including online courses, training videos, and district and council events. This represents a year-long market share of 19.1% across all programs.

The council's membership is comprised of youth and adults representing all racial, ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds, physical and mental abilities, and educational experiences.

All Programs

In 2013, 63,186 youth participated in our traditional programs of Cub Scouting (boys, grades 1-5), Boy Scouting (boys, grades 6-12), and Venturing (girls and boys, ages 14-20). Another 6,588 boys and girls participated in Exploring and classroom programs. (69,774 total youth served.)

Special Programs

Juvenile Diversion: The Juvenile Diversion program targets first-time non-violent youth offenders. In 2013, 1,012 youth were referred by its program partners (16 police departments). More than 586 youth participated in groups with 92% completing the program. 80% of those who complete the program do not commit another offense up to two years after the program. Juvenile Diversion also started a new program this year with Brooklyn Center High School, working with youth who are to be suspended.

Exploring: A work site-based program that provides young men and women ages 14-20, with semi-monthly, hands-on educational opportunities to learn about careers and trades from adult mentors who are professionals in the student's career area of interest. In 2013, 5,397 young men and women were served through 103 posts sponsored by workplace partners.

Polaris: The Polaris program brings both traditional Scouting and Learning for Life programs to physically and developmentally challenged boys, girls, and adults (with cognitive challenges). In 2013, 2,135 individuals were served through 112 traditional and Learning for Life units sponsored by educational and community partners. Polaris saw an increase of 4.8% youth served in 2013.

For More Information

The council website address is www.northernstarbsa.org or call 763-231-7201.



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2013 Selected Achievements

- 7 districts or divisions earned Gold, 8 earned Silver, and 8 earned Bronze in the Journey to Excellence quality assessment, and overall we are a Silver Council.
- 25% of available youth in our service area were registered in Cub Scouting or Boy Scouting during 2013.
- Nearly 3% of all children in our market were served with non-Scouting programs at Base Camp.
- We generated a less than 1% operating budget surplus.
- Very few councils had growth in Boy Scouting, Venturing, and Exploring; we had growth in all but Cub Scouts.
- Total positive Scouting media impressions in print and online increased by 6% to over 38 million, representing 60% of total coverage during a controversial year for the BSA.
- Awarded \$104,888 in academic scholarships, and \$133,690 in camperships to youth.
- 738 Boy Scouts achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, 12 Venturers earned the Silver Award, and 1,863 Webelos earned Arrow of Light.
- Our national BSA pilot – Lion Cubs – Scouting for kindergarten boys has been expanded to a few other councils nationwide.
- In 2013, we had 352,880 visits to our main council website (northernstarbsa.org) and 864,182 pageviews.
- Universities of Scouting (Spring and Fall) delivered training to 1,650 attendees – a new record in 2013.
- Demonstrated the fun and adventure of Scouting to those attending the State Fair with a new \$65,000 climbing/ropes course reaching nearly 5,000 participants, generating media coverage on WCCO television and inviting young people to join Scouting via the event and follow-up email.
- The Sam Foust Dining Pavilion was dedicated at Stearns Scout Camp, which provided a wonderful dining space for the Cub resident camp participants in 2013.
- In 2013, 534 of our units (packs, troops, teams, crews, and posts) logged over 160,836 Community Service hours! These community service hours were carried out by 25,870 youth and adults. This is an average of over 6 hours of service performed by each of these members.
- Huron district doubled the youth served in Minneapolis middle schools due to their new after school Boy Scout program module.
- The council achieved a 73% retention rate, an increase of 2.1%.
- Direct contact leaders trained increased 12% over last year.
- Over 300 youth participated in Grey Wolf (NYLT) one of the largest programs of its kind in the country.
- Scoutreach showed a 30% increase in youth attending long-term camp and achieved membership growth in each of the districts.
- All Districts in the Scoutreach Division achieved overall FOS goal in June, and increased funds raised by 6%.
- Retention in the Scoutreach Division was up by 20%.
- Scoutreach Division showed a 20% increase in advancements and had over 275 Merit Badges earned.
- Seven youth from the Scoutreach Division attended the Summit Bechtel Reserve National Jamboree with the help of local and National scholarships.
- 9047 Boy Scouts camped for a week at Many Point Scout Camp or Tomahawk Scout Reservation during the summer.
- The \$15 million Leaders. For Life. Capital campaign was announced in May, gifts began coming in October, and at year-end we were at 52% of goal.
- Increased our annual popcorn sale and currently we are the second largest popcorn sale in the country. The Popcorn Sale benefited our units by infusing over \$1,000,000 into unit treasuries.
- For the third year in a row, we reached our goal of raising \$1,000,000 through our Million Dollar Day for Scouting efforts. However, this is the first year we reached our goal the day of our second event, making it a “True” Million Dollar Day for Scouting.
- In October, Base Camp celebrated three full years of operation. This anniversary coincided with the 100,000th Base Camp participant. Tens of thousands of participants attend annually.
- The Margaret A. Cargill Camping Initiative, a program designed to create camping opportunities for urban youth, provided 790 individual experiences to youth with barriers to outdoor programming.
- Northern Star Council pioneered COPE and Climbing Instructor Level 2 Certifications at the council level, held at Base Camp. This training was previously provided by the national office.
- Upper Mississippi Academy, a new MN Charter School to be developed at Fort Snelling, is operating on Base Camp’s grounds while renovations are made to their future site.
- Base Camp has partnered with La Semana; a week-long culture day-camp for children adopted from Latin America in elementary through high school and their family members.
- 3696 Cubs and Webelos attended Akela, Kiwanis, Stearns and Navajo camps, spending at least two nights with parents.
- 415 Scouts participated in week long high adventure programs that included whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, ATV’s, jet skis, COPE and SCUBA activities at Many Point Scout Camp and Tomahawk Scout Reservation.
- Many Point Scout Camp finished construction of a new Nature Lodge at Buckskin camp. The project was a testament to the power of volunteers who contributed over 1500 hours of labor to bring the structure to completion.
- \$392,000 was spent on camp maintenance including facility improvements, utility repairs and equipment replacement at our eight properties.
- 1509 Scouts successfully spent a night outside in negative or near zero degree conditions (and enjoyed it!) due to the expert training and equipment at our Snow Base and North Wind camps.
- Northern Star Council sent 270 youth, 30 adults in 7.5 contingent troops and crews to the 2013 National Jamboree at the brand new permanent site. All Scouts participated in a “Day of Service” providing just over 2400 hours in volunteer service to the communities of West Virginia. Along with the 300 youth and adults with the contingent, 73 Scouters from Northern Star Council served on staff.
- Increased Scouting visibility through an electronic billboard campaign, as a digital sponsor of KARE 11 and on Clear Channel Radio in support of fall youth recruitment with over 17.2 million impressions.