



BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA®

CONNECTICUT YANKEE COUNCIL

## Annual Report 2013



**Program Tested. Mission Driven.**





# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## CONNECTICUT YANKEE COUNCIL

### Expanding Capacity to Deliver High Quality Scouting Programs

Since 1911, dedicated volunteers throughout our council's territory have devoted countless hours and personal resources to ensuring that Scouting continues to build character, citizenship, self confidence, and a love of God and country in the more than 12,850 young people we have the privilege to serve.

Scouting teaches honesty, the importance of service to others, and skills that help define one's personal value system. Scouting is one of the few remaining youth development programs that reinforce these values through demonstration on a weekly basis. Where else does a youth pledge his duty to God and his country? Where else does a boy pledge *on his honor* to "keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight?"

As your Council Key Three, we are proud to serve with over 4,500 committed volunteers who seek to instill these positive values in young people through Scouting. Although 2013 was a challenging year, we achieved several superlatives and offered a high quality Scouting program to the communities we serve. We increased our capacity to serve more youth and are optimistic about the future of Scouting in the Connecticut Yankee Council. We are a success due to the support and caliber of our volunteer adult leaders who are at the forefront of this council's accomplishments!

As we look forward to the coming year we must continue to focus our collective attention on providing the best Scouting opportunity to the youth of our community. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of young people as volunteers and investors in our Scouting programs.

Sincerely,



**Charles L. Flowers**  
Scout Executive / CEO



**Michael Abrahamson**  
Council President



**Ray Moncevicus**  
Council Commissioner

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Michael Abrahamson
- Commissioner**  
Ray Moncevicus
- Scout Executive**  
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The **Connecticut Yankee Council, Boy Scouts of America** is committed to the ideal of providing a quality Scouting program to all youth within its geographical boundaries. We offer a variety of programs and services designed to strengthen a young person's overall development as they mature into productive citizens.

### Cub Scouts

The best way to find out what you do best is to try it. Swing a bat. Pitch a tent. Build a Pinewood Derby Car. Cub Scouts are at that magical age where everything is new and possible and most importantly, fun. They live in a world of "firsts" — first home run, first campfire, first checkered flag — where their game plan is their imagination. Their most valuable reward, the friends they make for life and a parent's proud smile. These are invaluable experiences that can be had in Scouting. These are life lessons that transform today's Cub Scouts into tomorrow's Boy Scouts. **5,337 boys participated with their parents in 200 Cub Scout Packs in 2013.**



### Boy Scouts

Most boys avoid obstacles. Boy Scouts seek them. They live for any opportunity to display their abilities while learning new skills. Camping is fun; but surviving a downpour in the middle of the night, that's an adventure! Cooking over a campfire is fun; learning which wild berries are edible is survival. Spending a weekend in the woods is fun; breaking camp without leaving a trace is admirable. These are invaluable experiences that can be had in Scouting. These are life lessons that transform today's Boy Scouts into tomorrow's leaders. **4,069 Boy Scouts participated in 142 Troops and Teams in 2013.**

### Owaneco Lodge #313

The Order of the Arrow is the National Honor Camping program of the Boy Scouts of America, which recognizes Scouts and Scouters who exemplify the virtues of cheerful service, camping and leadership. Owaneco Lodge #313 earned the Journey to Excellence GOLD designation. 436 Scouts and Scouters took their Ordeals, and contributed more than 3,500 service hours to our camps. One noteworthy project was done at Deer Lake where they re-graded the hill in front of the John Andres' Shower House to make it wheelchair accessible.



### Venturing

What did you do this weekend? For Venturers, it may be rappelling a cliff, shooting the rapids, leading their peers, or serving others. Working as a team, Venturing Crews and Sea Scout Ships welcome the opportunity to pass these trials. Venturing provides exciting activities that help co-ed teens pursue their special interests and hobbies while growing and developing leadership skills. **1,643 youth participated in 54 Crews and Ships in 2013.**

### Exploring

Exploring is a unique career exploration program for teenage young men and women providing an introduction to a variety of careers and opportunities to learn life skills, behaviors and values necessary to choose a career, prepare for it, and excel once on the job. **433 young adults participated in 20 Explorer Posts in 2013.**

### Volunteers

Volunteers join Scouting to make a positive difference in the lives of young people. Through the dedication of these many volunteers, we remain the foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training in America. **Nearly 4,600 trained adults gave leadership and mentoring to all our programs in 2013.**



### Camping

The outdoors provide the ideal framework for overcoming challenges, while offering a scenic backdrop for spiritual growth. Life in camp fosters the development of strong values such as responsibility, self reliance, an appreciation for nature, and a healthy respect for others through shared responsibilities, communal living and group activities. We are fortunate to own five exceptional camping facilities — **Camp Sequassen, Deer Lake Scout Reservation, Hoyt Scout Reservation, Camp Wah Wah Taysee, and Camp Pomperaug.** These camping facilities provide excellent opportunities for Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, and Venturing Crews to conduct quality weekend camping experiences for their youth throughout the year. **More than 2,600 Scouts had a weeklong experience at our summer camps in 2013.**

### Advancement

Advancement provides a source of personal pride and a measuring stick of a youth's success in Scouting. Not only did 274 young men earn their Eagle rank, but countless youth earned advancement such as merit badges, rank, and special recognitions throughout our council territory in 2013. **In fact, 2,130 Boy Scout rank advancements and 4,643 Cub Scouts rank advancements were awarded in 2013.**



### Training

Every youth deserves a trained leader! Adult volunteer leader training is the first step to a quality Scouting program. **1,694 adults took this first step toward a quality program by getting trained in 2013.** We offered two dynamic youth leadership training opportunities through the National Youth Leader Training courses (NYLT), as well as Wood Badge and an entire catalog of skill-based trainings for leaders of all levels.



*"I've learned to lead different groups effectively as well as what it takes to be a respected leader. Scouting has taught me to test my limits ... how to adapt outside of my comfort zone. Venturing is a close-knit group of friends and a family I can depend on."*



Crew 424 in Branford has a dynamic program giving young people the opportunity to seek truth and adventure in their world through Venturing.

**Marisa Kaplita, Alyssa Mason and Stacy Burke** have been at the center of the Crew's leadership from the beginning. **Marisa** started as the treasurer and secretary, and has become involved with the Council's Venturing Officer's

Association. She was active in orchestra and was the editor of her high school newspaper while maintaining high honors in school. She attends UConn where she majors in environmental science. She earned Venturing's Gold Award in December. **Alyssa** leads

the crew as president, while skating on a nationally-ranked synchronized skating team and maintaining high honors in school. She has served as a den chief for Pack 424 and has earned Venturing's Silver Award while in her first year as a chemical engineering student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. **Stacy** is the Crew's Quartermaster and earned all five Bronze Awards during her junior and senior years in high school where she was on the sailing team, a member of Main Street singers, and active in the Interact club, all while maintaining high honors.

She is pursuing a double major in criminal justice and history with a minor in Arabic at Florida State University where she is in the top 5 percent of her class. Over the last two years she has earned her Ranger Award, Gold Award, Shooting Award, Conservation, Trust, Quest, and God and Life. For a more detailed profile of Crew 424, visit [www.ctyankee.org](http://www.ctyankee.org).



*"I joined Cub Scouts because my dad thought it would be good for me, and it actually was. People can rely on me when I wear my uniform."*

Service to the community is at the very core of what Scouting is. At every level – from the young Tiger Cub joining with his mom or dad through Eagle Scout and into Venturing – young people selflessly give their time and talent making the community a better place. It

becomes not something you need to do, but something the Scouts want to do.

Each fall, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts in Milford organize a **"Thanks for Giving"** campaign collecting more than 232 frozen turkeys and all the fixins' on Wasson Field to fill the shelves at local food banks. The Scouts collect food over a 24 hour period as they pitch their tents and cheerfully campout in the middle of town. Sleeping Giant District's **Scouting for Food** drive has successfully collected more

than 36,446 pounds of food with 660 volunteers. In spring 2014, the Council will expand this drive area-wide in a major community service effort.



# Prepared. For Life.®

## Cub Scout Promise

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people, and to obey the law of the Pack.

## Boy Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

## Scout Law

A Scout is:

Trustworthy, Loyal,  
Helpful, Friendly,  
Courteous, Kind,  
Obedient, Cheerful,  
Thrifty, Brave, Clean  
and Reverent.

## Venturing Oath

As a Venturer, I promise to do my duty to God and help strengthen America, to help others, and to seek truth, fairness, and adventure in our world.

*Through the dedication and support of our volunteers, we achieved the following in 2013...*

We collaborated with over **250** community-based organizations to charter **346** Scouting units in **37** communities and serve **12,850** youth with high quality programs. Adult volunteers collectively spent over **210,000** hours leading, mentoring, training and guiding our Scouts.

We qualified as a **GOLD** Lodge in the Order of the Arrow's Journey to Excellence.

**274** boys earned the rank of Eagle Scout, giving direct leadership to over **57,944** hours of community service projects in achievement of this goal. We also reconnected with over **200** adult Eagle Scouts through Eagle Scout After-Hours.

Our Scouts and volunteers performed over **200,000** hours of community service collecting food, cleaning parks and sidewalks, shoveling snow, repairing trails and more.



**9,134** career and hobby-based Merit Badges were earned. We partnered with Sikorsky Aircraft and the Connecticut Building Trades to offer **372** Boy Scouts the opportunity to earn STEM-related merit badges taught by skilled instructors.

We sent one of the largest contingents to the National Scout Jamboree with **341** Boy Scouts and Venturers supported by **42** volunteers. Everyone of them had a mountaintop experience they won't forget. Our Marvel c-themed patches were among the most desired.

Over **2,650** Cub Scouts and their parents spent quality time together having fun at our annual Fishing Derby, Scout Day at Lime Rock and Cub Scout Fright Night at Deer Lake.

**76** Boy Scouts and Venturers took Scouting's premier Youth Leadership Training, and **45** adult volunteers completed Wood Badge, Scouting's top adult leader training.

**1,486** youth from **84** troops enjoyed a weeklong summer camp experience at Camp Sequassen. Many returned for a second week. **701** boys from **99** packs came home smiling, tired, dirty and sweaty each day from our Cub Scout Day camps. **300** boys spent three or more nights together with their parents at Cub Scout resident camp.



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