



**CHARACTER.**  
**COMMUNITY.**  
**LEADERSHIP.**

Del-Mar-Va Council  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Dear Community Builder,

April 2024

It has long been my belief that Scouting leaves a lifelong impact on all those who participate. Boys and girls today have many extracurricular activities, including baseball, soccer, lacrosse, football and martial arts, music, and art classes. With so many things competing for kids' time, some parents wonder if youth development programs such as Scouting are worth pursuing. **So just how beneficial is Scouting for today's youth?**

Tufts University researcher Richard Lerner looked at the effects of Cub Scouting on youth by comparing them to non-Scout youth over a two-and-a-half-year period. Dr. Lerner discovered that **Scouts were considerably more hopeful, obedient, cheerful, trustworthy, and reverent than their non-Scout counterparts.** He also found that Scouts were far more likely to demonstrate pro-social values like doing the right thing and helping others.

In my life, Scouting was a life-changing adventure. I learned respect for myself and others. I found terrific role models in both older Scouts and leaders. The program fostered a sense of independence as well as pride of belonging to a unit or a team. **Scouting taught me to be a self-starter and to love learning.** My mind was engaged and I was encouraged to work with my hands. **The boys I came to rely on in Scouting are some of the best men I have ever met.**

**Scouting is the best investment you can make in the lives of youth.** Scouting is a time-tested, effective program that grows **Community**, develops exceptional **Character**, and builds strong **Leadership** skills.

We are going to reach the ambitious goals set forth in this plan. We are going to provide the best Scouting has to offer for every child on the Del-Mar-Va peninsula. We are going to change lives, and we want you to be a part of it. We can't do this without you!

*Brian D. Some* - President Del-Mar-Va Council, Boy Scouts of America



# CHARACTER. COMMUNITY. LEADERSHIP.



Scouting builds **character**, **community**, and **leadership** by providing young people with a platform to develop essential life skills, embrace diversity, and foster a sense of growth and belonging in a safe environment. Del-Mar-Va Council is uniquely positioned to be the catalyst for building stronger **communities** where people live happy and productive lives. We see a future where entire communities don't need to lock their doors at night because participation in Scouting programs creates citizens of strong moral **character**, who possess extraordinary **leadership** skills.

Scouts discover their place in the world, become capable leaders, and achieve more by 18 than many do in a lifetime. With the mentorship of adult leaders, Scouts learn vital life skills and values. They are prepared for a lifelong journey filled with integrity, responsibility, initiative, empathy, and a deep commitment to their communities and country.



Since 1925,  
Del-Mar-Va Council,  
Boy Scouts of America,  
has been a registered  
non-profit serving  
**boys and girls**  
5-21 years of age,  
with an independent  
board of directors,  
governed by a set  
of bylaws.

# HISTORY & MISSION

Del-Mar-Va Council has served the entire Delmarva peninsula since incorporation in 1925, originating from the Wilmington Council chartered by the National BSA in 1917. Rodney Scout Reservation – named for Delaware Revolutionary War hero Caesar Rodney – opened in 1923 on the Chesapeake Bay in Cecil County, MD. During the peak BSA membership years of the late 1950's Del-Mar-Va Council purchased

Nanticoke Scout Reservation – later renamed for Salisbury aviator Richard A. Henson – at the confluence of the Nanticoke and Marshyhope rivers in Dorchester County, MD. Due to growing demand for more centrally located Cub Scout camping facilities, a third Council property – Akridge Scout Reservation – was purchased in 2011. This site is named in honor of Easton, MD Eagle Scout John “Chip” Akridge’s mother.

Del-Mar-Va Council supports more than:

**4,000** youth members

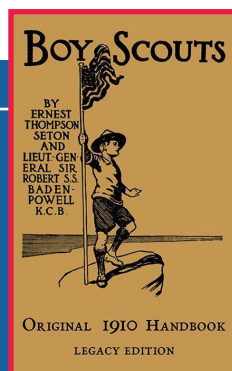
**1,250** registered volunteer leaders

**202** packs, troops, crews, ships & posts

**12,000** campers served annually at our three camps

Each of these unit types is chartered to a key community partner including churches, fraternal organizations, and other community institutions. Scouting programs across the country have helped mold the character of millions of great Americans like Michael Bloomberg, Rex Tillerson, Donald Rumsfeld, Bill Gates, Steven Spielberg, Gerald Ford, Shane Victorino, and Sam Walton.

## OUR HISTORY



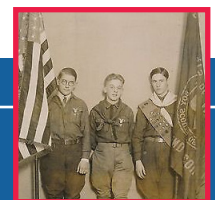
**1910**

Boy Scouts of America forms



**1916**

First Council Scout camp at Granogue Estate, Wilmington, DE



**1921**

Austin Culver is the first Scout to earn Eagle rank in Wilmington Council



The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Scouting helps young people build character, develop leadership skills, and positively impact their communities. Scouts learn about teamwork, communication, decision-making, and responsibility, all essential skills for success in leadership roles. These traits and skills are essential to a better America – now more than ever!

The pandemic caused what the U.S. Surgeon General called a mental health epidemic among children.

**10%** increase in the teen suicide attempt rate nationally.

**67%** of fourth graders on the peninsula are not proficient in reading.

**39%** of Delmarva children live in single-parent families.

**38%** of children and teens are overweight or obese.

**The Scouting program addresses all these societal needs and is more relevant and necessary than ever before.**



**1923**

Camp Caesar Rodney established at Bull Mountain location in Cecil County, MD by Gen. T. Coleman du Pont family in memory of son Eleuthere



**1963**

Nanticoke Scout Reservation purchased in Dorchester County, MD



**1989**

Nanticoke Scout Reservation renamed Henson Scout Reservation, Camp Nanticoke in honor of famous aviator Richard A. Henson

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

## Aiden O'Connor

Eagle Scout, Troop 24  
Wyoming Methodist Church, Dover, DE  
Air Force Academy pilot training  
Fourth generation USAF pilot

"I look forward to putting the leadership skills I have learned in Scouting and at the Air Force Academy to use in the next chapter of my life as a United States Air Force pilot."



## Mahlon Dyer

Eagle Scout  
Nentego Lodge Order of the Arrow Chief  
Camden, DE  
Campbell University

"Out of all organizations and programs that I have been involved with as a youth, not one has left a bigger impact on my life than Scouting. Whether it is lifelong friends across the world, preparedness for many scenarios in life, or leadership skills that I will carry forever. I know that because of Scouting, I am entering my adult life prepared to take on the world and its challenges."



**2011**

Akridge Scout Reservation opened named in honor of Ruth Akridge, mother of Easton, MD Eagle Scout John "Chip" Akridge



**2016**

Del-Mar-Va Council youth membership reaches almost 10,000 youth



**2019**

BSA accepts girls into Scouts BSA program

# Jenna Scalia

Troop 1496  
Kent Island Elks Lodge, Stevensville, MD  
Mount St. Mary's University Communications

“In the summer of 2019 at Camp Rodney, I was the ASPL and all the girls were bickering and not getting along, the night before one of the girls broke her wrist tripping over a nylon cord. The Scoutmaster had to go home with her daughter who broke her arm. I went to chapel service that evening and stayed after to speak with the Chaplain. He asked me if I was going to get my Eagle and I told him I was not sure yet. The Chaplain stopped me mid sentence and asked if he could pray for me. I have never had anyone ask me that before and I accepted his offer. Everything improved after that!”



# Jacob Massey

Eagle Scout  
Troop 281  
Ocean View, DE

During the completion of Jacob's Eagle project he had to overcome some obstacles of poor product quality, extended production time, difficult physical labor, and management of personnel to complete the actual work. He determined “that his position as a leader was not above his workers, not behind his workers, but with his workers, to get the job done.”



**2021**

Scarlett Helmecki becomes the first female eagle scout in Del-Mar-Va Council



**2024**

Del-Mar-Va Council begins campaign to grow membership to over 10,000 youth within three years

# FUTURE VISION

**CHARACTER.** Scouting builds young adults with strong moral and ethical character.

**COMMUNITY.** Scouting values help create communities where people can live and work safely and happily.

**LEADERSHIP.** Scouting teaches ethics and leadership skills necessary for a productive society.

We know that Scouting today is safer than any other youth-serving organization in America. Vigorous BSA procedures including adult criminal background checks, youth protection training, and barriers-to-abuse policies have become the model for other youth-serving agencies to emulate. We also know that we need to significantly upgrade and build modern toilet and shower facilities at all of our camps to make them safer and more comfortable for all to use. With significant membership growth, primarily at the Cub Scout age level for the next several years, we will also need to dramatically increase the number and quality of Cub Scout camping facilities available to our members. We will continue to build out Akridge Scout Reservation to provide world-class, year-round camping and program opportunities, including additional lodges, pavilion, bike park, playground facilities and to improve facilities at both Rodney and Henson Scout Reservations for Cub Scouts and their families. **Capital projects to improve safety and program quality expense \$6.1M.**

Scouting builds strong communities where people live and work a happy and safe life. There should be Scouting programs at every elementary school. Each school should support a cub scout pack for elementary students who feed into both a Scouts BSA troop for boys, and a Scouts BSA troop for girls. Every community should have engaged chartered partners supporting these units such as churches, fraternal and veteran organization, and service clubs, that utilize the

Scouting program to extend the youth mission of their own organizations.

We will achieve this unprecedented growth with additional professional staff and volunteers working together to create over 200 new Scouting units. These units will primarily be at the elementary level. We will also improve program delivery at all program levels to increase the retention of current members. **Additional operating expense to create new units and retain staff \$850,000.**

We will grow the Council endowment fund to provide long-term financial stability and investment revenues to support growing operations and membership. **Legacy and planned giving endowment growth \$2M.**



## Brayan Morales

Eagle Scout  
Troop 190  
Easton, MD

Brayan Morales matriculated from Cub Scout Pack 3 Chesapeake Multi-Cultural Resource Center to reach the highest leadership rank in the Boy Scouts of America.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT CAMPAIGN BUDGET

| Creating New Units and Retaining Staff | Year 1           | Year 2           | Year 3           |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| +2 Additional Field Staff Members      | \$184,000        |                  |                  |
| +1 More Field Staff Member             |                  | \$286,000        |                  |
| +1 Additional Program Staff Member     |                  |                  | \$380,000        |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                          | <b>\$184,000</b> | <b>\$286,000</b> | <b>\$380,000</b> |

| Capital Project to Improve Safety & Program Quality | Year 1           | Year 2             | Year 3             |
|---|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Akridge Campsite Restroom Facility                  | \$350,000        |                    |                    |
| Akridge Lodging Facilities                          | \$150,000        | \$500,000          | \$500,000          |
| Akridge Program Facilities & Equipment              |                  | \$225,000          | \$530,000          |
| Akridge Maintenance Equipment                       |                  |                    | \$150,000          |
| Henson Swimming Pool Refinishing                    | \$150,000        |                    |                    |
| Henson Restroom Remodeling & Improvements           |                  | \$200,000          | \$350,000          |
| Henson Program Facilities & Equipment               |                  | \$150,000          | \$194,000          |
| Rodney Restroom Remodeling & Improvements           | \$25,000         | \$400,000          | \$615,000          |
| Rodney Lodging Facilities                           | \$25,000         | \$385,000          | \$450,000          |
| Rodney Program Facilities & Equipment               |                  | \$300,000          | \$451,000          |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                                       | <b>\$700,000</b> | <b>\$2,160,000</b> | <b>\$1,250,000</b> |

| Legacy Planned Giving to Improve Financial Stability | Year 1    | Year 2    | Year 3      |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Donations/Fundraisers                                | \$250,000 | \$500,000 | \$1,250,000 |

| Three-Year Campaign Projects              | TOTALS      |
|---|-------------|
| Staff Positions & Competitive Salaries    | \$850,000   |
| Akridge Cub Scout Resident Camp Build Out | \$2,405,000 |
| Henson Camp Improvements                  | \$1,194,000 |
| Rodney Camp Improvements                  | \$2,651,000 |
| Total Legacy Planned Giving/Endowment     | \$2,000,000 |

**CAMPAIGN  
TOTAL:**

**\$8,950,000**

# COMMUNITY SERVICE ACHIEVEMENTS

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AS YOUTH MAKES BETTER ADULT CITIZENS.** In 2023 alone, Scouts on the Delmarva peninsula recorded 29,979 service hours in their home communities. Independentsector.org estimates the value of those hours in financial impact to our communities is \$953,332! We believe community service is a learned trait that becomes ingrained in our Scouts through repeated practice as a youth, and carries on into their adult lives.

These are just a few of the 146 community organizations that were direct beneficiaries of Scout service projects in 2023:

## **DUCKS UNLIMITED**

Wood Duck Habitat Project  
Giovanni DeCapua, Troop 301, Summit United Methodist

## **ASHLAND NATURE CENTER**

Reforestation Project  
Cole Hamstead, Troop 2, Independence School

## **PLUMPTON PARK ZOO**

Black Bear Platform Project  
Nicholas Gibbons, Troop 131, Lions Club of North East

## **CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE CHURCH**

Eagle Trail Project  
Robert Shaw, Troop 902, Christ the Cornerstone Church

## **VILLAGE OF ARDEN, DELAWARE**

Gaga Pit Project  
Margaret Clarke-Fields, Troop 1923, St. Barnabas Episcopal

## **URBAN PROMISE WILMINGTON**

Brick Pathway Project  
Gabriel Teather, Troop 22, VFW Post 8175

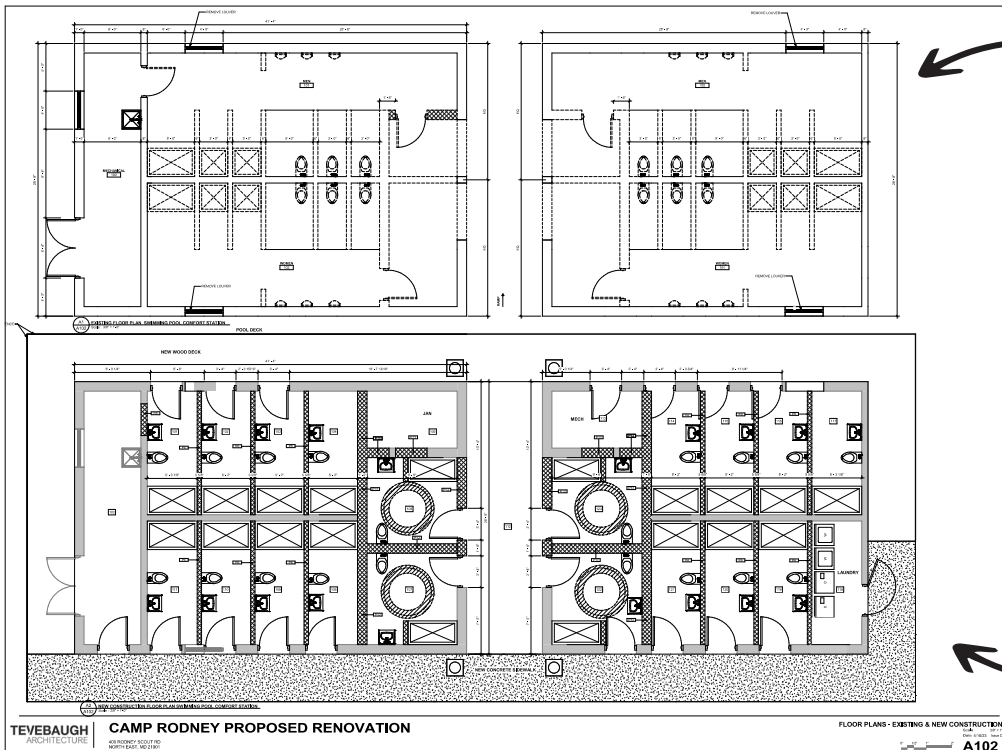
## **TOWN OF OXFORD, MARYLAND**

Baseball Park Renovation  
Robert Norbury, Troop 190, Friends of Troop 190



# CAMP IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

It is necessary to renovate camp restroom facilities designed primarily for single gender programs. Camper expectations also require new facilities to meet the needs of growing family participation in Scouting programs. Camp improvements will include additional lodging facilities, swimming pool renovations, staff housing, utility upgrades, maintenance equipment, additional site pavilions, and several new program areas.



Existing “open room” floor plan of typical restroom & shower facilities

Planned individual private restroom spaces in the same footprint of existing facilities. Each user space will have a private shower, restroom and toilet.

*above:* Rodney and Henson Scout Reservations modern single-person facilities through reuse and renovation of existing facilities

*right:* Akridge Scout Reservation Restroom Facility

*below:* Akridge Scout Reservation Multi-Purpose Leadership Lodge



# CHARACTER. COMMUNITY. LEADERSHIP.

## HOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Richard J. Bodorff**  
Weily Rein LLP

**Dr. Mark T. Brainard**  
Delaware Technical Community  
College

**Robert Buccini**  
Buccini Pollin Group

**Randy Day**  
Perdue Farms

**Phillip E. DeDominicis**  
Menke & Associates

**Brian DiSabatino**  
EDIS

**Christopher D. Eccleston**  
Delmarva Veteran Builders

**Howard & Elizabeth Freedlander**  
Retired Maryland Deputy  
Treasurer

**Craig & Diane Fuller**  
The Fuller Company

**Vernita Dorsey**  
WSFS Bank

**Robbie & Jennifer Gill**  
YMCA Chesapeake

**Kristen Greenaway**  
Chesapeake Bay Maritime  
Museum

**Robert V. Harra Jr.**  
Retired Wilmington Trust

**James P. Harris**  
Exxon Mobil, Retired

**Tom & Beth Hershey**  
Delmarby's

**Thomas E. Hill**  
Morgan Stanley Advisors

**Jonathon Holloway**  
Holloway Funeral Homes

**Thomas W. Horne**  
JPMorgan Chase Bank

**Rabbi Peter Hyman**  
Temple B'Nai Israel

**Vance Kershner**  
Labware

**Roger D. Kirtley**  
The Safeguard Group

**Ronald "Pete" Leshner**  
Chesapeake Bay Maritime  
Museum

**Rodger Levenson**  
WSFS Bank

**Alan B. Levin**  
Sodel Concepts

**Bradley & Gail Lundberg**  
Lundberg Builders

**Maria Matos**  
Latin American Community  
Center

**Paul McConnell**  
McConnell Development  
Corporation

**Thomas D. Mears**  
Shore United Bank

**Donald K. Morris**  
PNC Bank

**Matthew R. Peters**  
Chesapeake Multicultural  
Resource Center

**Patrick G. Press**  
JPMorgan Chase Bank

**Fred C. Sears**  
Retired Delaware Community  
Foundation

**Kenan "Ken" Sklenar**  
Easter Seals Delaware

**Brian D. Tome**  
Reilly, McDevitt, Henrich

**James D. Warmkessel**  
CAI