

Why Boy Scouts at CPC?

Why does Cherokee Presbyterian Church sponsor a Boy Scout Troop as well as a Cub Scout Pack and a Venture Crew? Aren't these secular activities?

We occasionally hear the news media touting the credentials of a serial killer such as "Eagle Scout Arthur Gary Bishop" or gleefully applying the moniker "Eagle Scout" to Marion Barry, the crack-smoking mayor of Washington, D.C. to show the hypocrisy of these men, but also by implication to paint all Eagle Scouts with the same brush of hypocrisy.

While it is true that a total of 14 Eagle Scouts have been convicted serial killers, murderers, and rapists, and numerous others have brought shame to the name "Eagle Scout" as pedophiles, homosexuals, and religious heretics, the vast majority have been salt and light to our society. Usually you won't hear the media telling you that Sam Walton (founder of the world's largest corporation: Wal-Mart), Donald Rumsfeld (Secretary of Defense), Steven Spielberg (producer, director, screen writer), or Ross Perot (Billionaire) were Eagle Scouts because they are the most successful men of our day.

Eagle Scouts are the best of the best, but lets consider Scouting in general. Surveys indicate that on average the following is true:

For every 100 boys that join Scouting,
28 will continue lifelong hobbies started in Scouting
17 will become Scout volunteers
12 will receive their first religious contact
8 will enter a career based on a Merit Badge they've completed
5 will earn their religious emblem
2 will enter the clergy
1 will use Scouting skills to save the life of another person
1 will use Scouting skills to save his own life
and only 2 will attain the rank of Eagle

Who are Boy Scouts?

63% of Air Force Academy graduates
68% of West Point graduates
70% of Annapolis graduates
72% of Rhodes Scholars
65% of the U.S. Congress
65% of college graduates
85% of FBI agents
85% of airline pilots
89% of senior class presidents
26 of the first 29 astronauts were Boy Scouts
11 of the 12 who walked on the moon were Scouts
108 of 172 astronauts were Boy Scouts (more than 50% attained Star, Life, or Eagle)



Statistics would indicate that your son's success in life may indeed correlate with his affiliation (or lack thereof) with the Scouting program. Could it be said that 72% of Rhodes Scholars or 65% of U.S. Congressmen were members of a school band or played on a sports team? Perhaps, but none of these extra-curricular activities teach leadership and life skills to the degree that Scouting does, and certainly none emphasize morality and openly espouse belief in God as part of their documented tenants.

Does Scouting really have an effect? Persecution by the ACLU would indicate that it is felt to be a threat to liberalism. Scouting is banned by all totalitarian governments, which see the traditional Scouting movement as unacceptably pro-democracy. However, these same totalitarian governments recognize the power of Scouting and have incorporated at least some Scouting methods into their own youth organizations.

Prior to World War II, the Soviet Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Hungary, and Romania disbanded Scouting. Germany created the Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth) organization; Mussolini had a fascist youth organization, the Balilla; and Romania under the Iron Guard had the Strajoria. In parts of Europe existed the socialist Red Falcons. The Communist Young Pioneers still exist in some fashion in the People's Republic of China, Cuba, North Korea, and Vietnam, and have been turned into a nationalist movement in Tajikistan, the "King Somoni Inheritance".

Not only does Scouting in this country hold to Christian principals (see the Scout Oath and Laws), it has stood firmly against evil and oppression since its inception. Scouts have literally given their lives for the sake of others.

For example, in 1944, because all able-bodied men were manning guns on the firing line, the Polish Boy Scouts volunteered for the task of delivering mail – even under direct machine gun fire. ... *"The mail delivery system functioned in Central Warsaw, Czerniakow, Mokotow..."* The mail often reached to parts of the Warsaw District under complete domination of the Nazi forces. Mail delivery personnel (composed entirely of Polish Boy Scouts) functioned valiantly and efficiently as letters mailed in Central Warsaw were reaching addresses the same day, and to Mokotow in two or three days. *"To the men who fought with the 'AK' (Polish 'AK' Volunteer Army) during the Warsaw Uprising, the Polish Boy Scouts will always be worthy of highest regard and military honors, because of 70 Boy Scouts, 85% perished in performance of [their] duties either by direct Nazi fire or from collapsing walls of bombarded Warsaw."* (Ref: "Robotnik" (Worker), September 3, 1944; "First stamps of the 'AK' Army")

Another example is a French Boy Scout who was caught by Germans in the Vosges. When asked where the French partisans were, he refused to say... the boy did not deny he knew the French were there. A German writer describes what followed, *"A traitor has been shot. He went with firm step to a telegraph pole and stood against it, with the vineyard at his back and received the volley of the firing-party with a smile on his face. Infatuated wretch! It was a pity to see such wasted courage."* (Ref: German 'Kriegs Chronik').

Thankfully the United States has not needed to employ her Scouts on the actual battlefield. Those Boy Scouts in Great Britain, France, Poland, and elsewhere during World War II were not playing at soldier; they were doing soldiers' work in very deadly earnest. Their previous training stood them in good stead. They could pitch and strike their own tents, receive and send signals, navigate with only map and compass, patrol the ground, take every advantage of cover, and detect suspicious characters or movements. They were trained to do everything for themselves, even to hunt and cook.

Not all, of course, were engaged in battle duties. In Great Britain large numbers of Scouts served at the various Government offices, on recruiting staffs, at the hospitals, and Red Cross Society offices, so that hundreds of men who would otherwise have been tied up, were released for service at the front. Few would have guessed that about 50,000 boys were thus serving their King and country. Yet such was the case.

(Ref: German 'Kriegs Chronik')



“In spite of the war (perhaps, indeed, because of it), the Boy Scout Movement made the greatest advance in its history. Let it be remembered that the movement was only some six years old. and in the nature of things had not yet had sufficient time to prove its true value. It would have been small wonder, indeed, if under a severe test it had shown signs of weakness, or perhaps had failed outright. Yet under the sternest test of all - the test of war - the movement has risen victorious.”

“The way has been shown by the Boy Scouts. Had the boys not been trained to ‘Be Prepared’ they would not have been able to play the part they have done. Further, it may be said that the principle upon which the training proceeds is that of being prepared not merely for what is probable - any one might think of doing that - but for what is possible. In this there is no scare-mongering, but simply the knowledge that any danger prepared for can always be met with the best chance of success.” (Ref: G. Herbert Russell, Assistant County Commissioner of Scouts Associations, “Boy Scouts in War-Time”, Victory Adventure Book, ca 1945?)

The same can be said for our times. With the threat of terrorism lurking at each morning’s awakening, and the high probability that the United States will be hit again and in a more devastating manner, the Boy Scouts may once again be called to serve in a capacity akin to that of their forefathers.

It is a mistaken notion that a powerful and prepared nation will forever survive attacks from asymmetric threats. There may indeed come a day, and perhaps soon, that our nation, your family, or your boys themselves will rely on the leadership and survival skills learned from Scouting. Kipling rightly summed up the position of war-tested Scouts in the following lines:

“Cleansed of servile panic, Slow to dread or despise; Humble because of knowledge, Mighty - by Sacrifice”.

Those who think that Scouting is all about ‘doing good deeds’ and ‘helping little old ladies across the street’ are misguided. Peers who disparage Scouting as not being ‘cool’ or being ‘gay’ are destined to be our Nation’s next generation of losers. Are your sons prepared to survive in the 21st century or is their skill limited to surviving the next level of a video game? Are they going to be the next leaders or are they going to be led. *“Like arrows in the hand of a warrior. So are the children of one’s youth”* (Psalm 127:4). Are your arrows straight? You only have them for 18 years but your influence on their character diminishes with every passing day. For many, time is running out to make those arrows straight before they are set on the bow string. For some, it is too late; the shot has been loosed.

Frankly, I fear for the future of my sons because they are entering a society in which stray and crooked arrows are flying everywhere. The masses are not only unprepared for disaster, but they are unprepared for peace. They have no heart for service and expect reward for mediocrity. They will become disillusioned and turn to acts of desperation. The seeds are sown already. A majority of U.S. households carry maximum credit card debt, they have no savings, they expect Social Security to be their retirement plan. They have not followed the Boy Scout Motto: “Be Prepared”. Its not just a motto, its a life precept, and its taught in Scripture. Meanwhile, Godless India and China will overtake the United States economically in the life time of our children. What are you doing? What were you thinking? Don’t abandon your children to their own “wisdom”.

Why does Cherokee Presbyterian Church sponsor a Boy Scout Troop as well as a Cub Scout Pack and a Venture Crew? It is to assist the body and the surrounding community in creating the next generation of Godly leaders who are prepared to engage and reform a 21st century filled with video zombies who worship sports heroes and rock stars.

Boy Scout Venturing Code

**As a Venturer, I believe that America’s strength lies in our trust in God and in the courage, strength, and traditions of our people.
I will, therefore, be faithful in my religious duties and will maintain a personal sense of honor in my own life.
I will treasure my American heritage and will do all I can to preserve and enrich it.
I will recognize the dignity and worth of all humanity and will use fair play and goodwill in my daily life.
I will acquire the Venturing attitude that seeks the truth in all things and adventure on the frontiers of our changing world.**