



Northern Star Council- Boy Scouts of America

2012-2013 program outcome results

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 3

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Contents

Summary	1
Background	4
Program overview	4
Evaluation	6
Leader survey	6
Parent and youth interviews	6
Findings.....	8
Leader survey	8
Characteristics of leaders	8
Parent and youth interviews	9
Characteristics of youth	10
Program outcomes	12
Outcome 1: Scouts will participate on a consistent, ongoing basis (75% or more of the time).....	13
Outcome 2: Scouts will improve or maintain a positive attitude toward school	13
Outcome 3: Scouts will improve or maintain positive behaviors/social skills within the program	15
Outcome 4: Scouts will demonstrate a sense of mastery	16
Outcome 5: Scouts will improve or maintain satisfactory school attendance	19
Other findings	20
Parent involvement in their child’s Scouting activities	20
Positive aspects of Scouting program	21
Suggestions for improvement	22
Appendix.....	23
Open-ended responses	23
Parent Interview	29
Youth Interview	35
Leader Survey	39

Figures

1. Data sources by outcome	7
2. Surveys completed by group: leader survey	8
3. Length of time as a leader	8
4. County/City where Scout meetings are held.....	9
5. Surveys completed by group: parent and youth interviews	9
6. Characteristics of youth participants in 2012-2013	10
7. Characteristics of youth participants in 2012-2013	11
8. Participation in Scouting activities in a typical month	13
9. Percent of Scouts maintained or improved on school attitude and behaviors	14
10. Percent of Scouts improved or maintained positive behaviors and social skills	15
11. Mastery in core Scouting areas	16
12. Rank advancements for Scout participants	17
13. Achievements and requirements met in the past 12 months.....	18
14. Youth leadership skills.....	18
15. Percent of Scouts maintained or improved on school attendance.....	19
16. Parent involvement in Scouting activities.....	20

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Summary

The Northern Star Council-Boys Scouts of America worked with Wilder Research to assess the Scouts' progress during 2012-2013 in achieving their program outcomes. These outcomes are:

- Scouts will participate on a consistent and ongoing basis
- Scouts will improve or maintain a positive attitude toward school
- Scouts will improve or maintain positive behaviors and social skills within the program
- Scouts will demonstrate a sense of mastery in core Scouting areas of citizenship, fitness, and character
- Scouts will improve or maintain satisfactory school attendance

The Council is also interested in gathering information for future program planning and improvement, especially for improving training for leaders and leadership skills for leaders and youth and reaching out to more participants, including low-income youth participants and parent volunteers.

Wilder Research conducted an online survey with leaders and telephone interviews with youth and parents to obtain information about participants and assess the degree to which the program was having an impact on these outcomes. A total of 166 unit leaders completed the online survey and 102 parents and 62 youth participated in the telephone interviews.

Results from the leader survey and youth and parent interviews are positive. Overall, the findings in 2012-2013 show that:

- 70 percent of Scouts participated on a consistent and ongoing basis
- 60-73 percent of Scouts and 58-69 percent of parents reported that Scouts improved or maintained a positive attitude toward school
- 69-79 percent of Scouts and 62-77 percent of parents reported that Scouts improved or maintained positive behaviors and social skills within the program
- 64 percent of Scouts demonstrated a sense of mastery in core Scouting areas of citizenship, fitness, and character, and 77 percent of Scouts advanced at least one rank requirement
- 68 percent of Scouts and 57 percent of parents reported that Scouts improved or maintained satisfactory school attendance

Youth, parents, and leaders also described many positive aspects of the program. According to youth, the most positive aspects of being a scout are exposure to nature, often through camping and hiking; spending time with other children; playing games or sports; attending meetings; and working in teams during activities.

Similarly, parents described many benefits of Scouting for their children, which include developing responsibility; being more confident or outgoing; experiencing nature or going camping or hiking; developing social skills; spending time with other children; developing teamwork or cooperation; and experiencing new things or visiting new places.

Leaders reported that the most positive aspects of being a Scout leader were teaching youth and watching them mature, grow, and develop; spending time with youth; teaching youth outdoor or camping skills; helping youth build leadership skills and self-confidence; and teaching value and life skills.

Parents and leaders gave suggestions that can be taken into consideration in the future planning of the Northern Star Council-Boy Scouts of America programs. We also included recommendations for data collection methods in future evaluations.

Better communication with parents and leaders

Leaders wished to have better ways on sharing available information and make descriptions of activities, time, and location better or clearer. A few parents specified that they want the Scouting program to inform them of or invite them to events via e-mail and phone calls.

Better schedules for training and meeting

Leaders and parents wished to have better meeting and training schedules. Some wished to have the meetings on different days or on weekends; others would prefer a different location or length of time. Although it is difficult to accommodate all families and leaders, it could be helpful for the Council to seek input from leaders and the programs seek input from parents for the best times, length, and locations and provide alternatives or options to participate (e.g., through webinar that can be viewed during the meeting or training or at a later time).

Share ideas across units

Several leaders wanted to do more sharing of ideas across units, both for meeting topics and activities for youth. Also, as suggested by some leaders, it may be beneficial for youth across different units to work together in more team building activities to develop youth leadership skills.

More or better training for leaders

Some leaders wished to have more training to be an effective leader. Others wanted to expand their teaching skills, particularly with respect to helping youth improve their outdoor skills and achieve rank requirements. Some had an interest in expanding their teaching skills to work with special needs youth or English Language Learners. Others had an interest in practical skills, such as methods to recruit volunteers. A few parents also wished for more parent volunteers and better training for leaders, including on how to work with youth from various cultures and backgrounds.

Reduce costs and provide supplies and transportation

The Council is commended on their efforts to reach out to low-income youth and their parents. During their interviews, some parents requested reduced cost Scouting activities and suggested that the Council provide supplies, uniforms, or badges at a free or reduced rate. Several parents suggested that the Council provide transportation for participants. Similarly, leaders in the survey reported that 18 percent of the youth in their pack, troop, or crew had difficulty affording program expenses (e.g., they received camp scholarships, assistance buying uniforms, or help with registration or activity fees). The Council may want to seek input from leaders for providing and expanding these supports to appropriate families.

Offer meetings in Spanish

Many of the parents interviewed are of Hispanic descent. Several of them suggested holding activities or meetings in Spanish or recruiting Scout leaders with a Hispanic background.

Data collection method

In addition to the leader survey, telephone interviews were used to collect information for this report, and the results reflect in-depth opinions from parents and youth. However, interviews are time-consuming and costly. Data cannot be compared to studies from previous years because of the different methodology and questions. Moving forward, the Council can determine the methods suitable for the purpose of the project and the available budget. A mixed method approach for collecting information from parents and youth can be considered. Wilder Research would be happy to work with the Council on this.

Background

The Northern Star Council of the Boys Scouts of America contracted with Wilder Research to assist them in measuring the Scouts' progress during 2012-2013 in achieving the following outcomes:

- Scouts will participate on a consistent and ongoing basis
- Scouts will improve or maintain a positive attitude toward school
- Scouts will improve or maintain positive behaviors and social skills within the program
- Scouts will demonstrate a sense of mastery in core Scouting areas of citizenship, fitness, and character
- Scouts will improve or maintain satisfactory school attendance

These outcome goals were identified by the Greater Twin Cities United Way, one of the primary funders of the Northern Star Council Boys Scouts of America. In addition, the Council is interested in gathering information for future program planning and improvement, especially to improve training for leaders, to expand leadership skills for leaders and youth, and to reach out to more participants, including low-income youth participants and parent volunteers.

In collaboration with Council staff, Wilder Research designed several data collection instruments to obtain information about participants and assess the degree to which the program was having an impact on these outcome areas.

Program overview

The Northern Star Council Boy Scouts of America, headquartered in the Twin Cities, serves 72,000 young people (as of 12/31/2012) in 25 counties across central Minnesota and western Wisconsin, which includes approximately 11,300 low-income youth. The mission of the Northern Star Council is to lead youth to be healthy, contributing citizens and leaders in their families, communities, and the world.

Scouting offers a range of programs designed for boys age 5 to 20 and girls age 14 to 20. The programs provide opportunities for youth to engage in fun activities that help build leadership, teamwork, physical and mental fitness, and a spirit of service. The overall goal is to help youth grow into competent and caring adults. The Scout Law and Oath provide a foundation for Scouting programs.

Scout Law

A Scout is: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

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 alert, and morally straight.

Cub Scouts – boys in grades K-5

The goal of Cub Scouts is to help youth develop a sense of responsibility, confidence, and service. The program is neighborhood- and family-centered, with weekly or bi-weekly meetings in homes or other community locations led by volunteer den leaders, and monthly in pack meetings with families and other dens. Cub Scouts work on award requirements at meetings and with their families, and take part in field trips and special Cub Camps.

Boy Scouts – boys in grades 6-12

To develop boys' responsibility and leadership, the Boy Scout program provides leadership experiences, camping, outdoor activities, service projects, and an individualized advancement program mentored by adult volunteers. Weekly meetings are led and run by the Scouts, with adult guidance. Members are introduced to over 100 hobby and career choices through merit badges and gain achievements through an awards program.

Venturing – boys and girls in grades 9-12

Venturing is a youth development program for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Venturing crew members share a sense of belonging in a group where they explore their interests and learn more about teamwork, leadership, respect, and responsibilities through bi-monthly meetings and adventure activities.

Evaluation

In order to measure progress toward meeting the program outcomes, Wilder Research worked with Council staff to design a unit leader web survey and parent and youth telephone interviews.

Leader survey

In August 2013, all 699 unit leaders identified by the Council as serving low-income youth were invited to participate in an online survey. Leaders received an email notification from the Northern Star Council staff inviting them to participate, which included a link to the online survey.

Parent and youth interviews

Wilder also conducted parent and youth telephone interviews from late August through the middle of October 2013. We targeted low-income youth participants and attempted to complete 100 parent and up to 100 youth interviews within the same households. The targets were based on the budget available for telephone interviews.

The Council provided Wilder a list of youth participants and their contact information. Wilder selected participants from low-income districts and other districts with some potentially low-income participants who were registered during the 2012-2013 school year. We then excluded youth that participated in Juvenile Diversion, a Scouting program for first-time juvenile offenders, because this program differs so greatly from the more common Scouting programs. Participation in Juvenile Diversion is generally an alternative to juvenile detention; youth usually only participate for three months.

Interviewers from Wilder made contact with 404 families out of the 532 sampled (of the 1450 eligible youth in the Council list with a telephone number). Of these, 102 parents and 62 youth completed interviews. Meanwhile, 145 households did not have a working phone number, and 139 of the households contacted were ineligible for the survey. Households were deemed ineligible if the parent said their child did not participate in Boy Scout or Venturer programs, or if the child had participated fewer than three months. Twelve parents had a language barrier that prevented them from taking the survey in English, Spanish, or Hmong; six other parents refused to be interviewed.

Figure 1 below identifies the data source used to inform each outcome area.

1. Data sources by outcome

Outcome	Data source		
	Cub Scouts	Boy Scouts	Venturer
Consistent participation	Leader survey	Leader survey	Leader survey
Positive school attitudes	Parent and youth interview*	Parent and youth interview	Parent and youth interview
Positive behaviors/ social skills	Parent and youth interview*	Parent and youth interview	Parent and youth interview
Sense of mastery	Leader survey	Leader survey	Leader survey
Satisfactory school attendance	Parent and youth interview*	Parent and youth interview	Parent and youth interview

* For younger participants (Cub Scouts grade 3 and below), we only interviewed parents.

Findings

Leader survey

The leader survey was completed by leaders of 166 units, including 103 Cub Scout Packs, 59 Boy Scouts Troops, and 4 Venturing Crews, representing 24 percent of the total 699 units in 2012-2013 (Figure 2). Some leaders led more than one unit (for example, a Pack and a Troop) and received more than one survey (for example, one for the Pack and one for the Troop).

2. Surveys completed by group: leader survey

	Cub Scout Packs	Boy Scout Troops	Venturing Crews	Total
Number of leader surveys completed (online)	103	59	4	166

Source of data: Unit Leader Survey

Characteristics of leaders

Leaders were asked the length of time they served as a Pack, Troop, and/or Crew leader. These data reflect 159 leaders who led one or more units. Results show that most leaders (81%) had served as a leader for two years or more, including almost 60 percent who had been a Scout leader for more than three years.

3. Length of time as a leader

	N	Percent
One year or less	16	10%
More than one year, but less than two years	14	9%
Two years to three years	35	22%
More than three years	94	59%

Source of data: Unit Leader Survey

Unit leaders were asked to report the city or county in which they held most of their group meetings. In 2012-2013, about one-third of the units met in Ramsey County (34%) and another one-third of the units met in Hennepin County (32%), including the city and suburbs. Almost 20 percent of the units met in Dakota County.

Compared to the 2011 and 2010 surveys, the 2012 evaluation had greater representation from suburban leaders. In 2011, two out of three units (66%) met in Hennepin County and about a quarter of units (23%) met in Ramsey; meanwhile, none of the leaders reported holding unit meetings in Dakota County (Figure 4).

4. County/City where Scout meetings are held

	2012 ^a	2011	2010
	Unit N=166	Unit N=35	Unit N=29
Ramsey (St. Paul)	20%	23%	48%
Ramsey suburbs	14%	0%	0%
Dakota	19%	0%	0%
Hennepin (Minneapolis)	11%	66%	24%
Hennepin (western suburbs)	11%	0%	0%
Hennepin (southwest suburbs)	5%	0%	3%
Hennepin (northwest suburbs)	5%	0%	3%
Scott	6%	0%	0%
Washington	5%	0%	0%
Anoka	2%	0%	10%
Chisago	1%	3%	7%
Carver	0%	3%	3%
Isanti	0%	3%	0%

Source of data: Unit Leader Survey

^a 2012-2013 year

Parent and youth interviews

Parent interviews were completed by 102 parents, including parents of 51 Cub Scouts, 43 Boy Scouts, and 8 Venturers. Youth interviews were completed by 17 Cub Scouts, 36 Boy Scouts, and 9 Venturers, for a total of 62 interviews.

5. Surveys completed by group: parent and youth interviews

	Cub Scouts	Boy Scouts	Venturers	Total
Number of parent interviews	51	43	8	102
Number of youth interviews	17	36	9	62

Source of data: Parent and youth interviews

Characteristics of youth

Data on youth characteristics in Figure 6 are taken from parent interviews and Council data. As mentioned previously, a total of 102 parents participating in the interviews had children in Cub Scouts (50%), Boy Scouts (42%), or Venturing (8%). Their children attended meetings in El Sol (36%), Zulu (23%), Silver Maple (19%), and other districts (22%), and most of their children are boys (96%) (Figure 6).

Overall, parents in the interviews reported that their child, on average, has been involved in Scouting for two years. Among the groups, Boy Scout parents said that their child has been involved for three and a half years on average, higher than those of the Cub Scouts and Venturers (one and two years, respectively). Parents also reported that their child regularly attended their scheduled activities, with 23 percent of parents reporting that their child attended “all the scheduled activities” and 49 percent of parents reporting that their child attended “most of the scheduled activities.”

Parents reported that their children came from diverse cultural backgrounds. The largest racial or ethnic group was Hispanic (33%), followed by Black or African American (20%), Asian and White or Caucasian (19% each), and Multiracial (10%). More than half of the parents (56%) reported that their household income was less than \$40,000 (Figure 6).

6. Characteristics of youth participants in 2012-2013

	Percent N=102
Group	
Cub Scouts	50%
Boy Scouts	42%
Venturers	8%
Districts	
El Sol	36%
Zulu	23%
Silver Maple	19%
Others	22%
Gender	
Male	96%
Female	4%

6. Characteristics of youth participants (continued)

	Percent
Race	
Hispanic or Latino	33%
Black or African American	20%
Asian	19%
White or Caucasian	19%
Multiracial/biracial	10%
Family income level ^a	
Less than \$30,000	32%
Over \$30,000 under \$40,000	24%
Over \$40,000 under \$50,000	17%
Over \$50,000 under \$60,000	6%
More than \$60,000	21%

Source of data: Parent interview (race and family income) and Council data (gender and district)

^a N=91

Leaders in the survey were asked the number of youth participants in their Packs, Troops, and Crews. The leaders of the 166 units reported that they led a total of 4,004 Scouting youth. Leaders said that 739 of these youth (18%) had difficulty affording program expenses (e.g., they received camp scholarships, assistance buying uniforms, or financial help with registration or activity fees) (Figure 7).

7. Characteristics of youth participants in 2012-2013

	Cub Scouts N=2136	Boy Scouts N=1790	Venturers N=78	Total N=4004
Had difficulty affording program expenses	18%	19%	10%	18%

Source of data: Unit Leader Survey

Program outcomes

The following section addresses the program progress toward meeting its outcome goals.

Overall, the findings in 2012-2013 show that:

- 70 percent of Scouts participated on a consistent and ongoing basis
- 60-73 percent of Scouts and 58-69 percent of parents reported that Scouts improved or maintained a positive attitude toward school
- 69-79 percent of Scouts and 62-77 percent of parents reported that Scouts improved or maintained positive behaviors and social skills within the program
- 64 percent of Scouts demonstrated a sense of mastery in core Scouting areas of citizenship, fitness, and character, and 77 percent of Scouts advanced at least one rank requirement
- 68 percent of Scouts and 57 percent of parents reported that Scouts improved or maintained satisfactory school attendance

Outcome 1: Scouts will participate on a consistent, ongoing basis (75% or more of the time)

Unit leaders reported that in a typical month, 70 percent of the youth in their units attended at least 75 percent of the scheduled Scouting activities (Figure 8). The participation rate is similar to that reported in the leader survey in 2011 (72 percent of youth participated in at least 75 percent of the scheduled activities) and slightly lower than that reported in 2010 (74%). It should be noted that there were more leader surveys completed in 2012-2013 than in the previous two years. Furthermore, leaders' opinions refer to participants in that year as a whole, and these participants change from year to year.

8. Participation in Scouting activities in a typical month

	Cub Scouts N=2136	Boy Scouts N=1790	Venturers N=78	Total 2012 ^a N=4004	Total 2011 N=510	Total 2010 N=363
All of scheduled activities (100%)	42%	25%	65%	35%	57%	40%
Most of the scheduled activities (75-99%)	33%	37%	12%	35%	15%	34%
Some of the scheduled activities (50-74%)	15%	24%	15%	19%	8%	22%
Few of the scheduled activities (<50%)	10%	14%	8%	11%	7%	3%
None of the scheduled activities	-	-	-	-	13%	1%

Source of data: Unit Leader Survey

^a 2012-2013 year

Outcome 2: Scouts will improve or maintain a positive attitude toward school

Parents and youth were asked their opinions about changes in youth school attitude and behaviors since enrolling in the Scouting programs. Results show that the majority of Cub Scout and Boy Scout parents felt that their child had improved or maintained their positive attitude and behaviors in school since joining the program. Half or more of Venturer parents (50-63%) also felt that their children have improved or maintained positive behaviors in school, motivation to learn, and that their children have tried their best at school. Fewer Venturer parents indicated that their child maintained or improved their academic performance (38%) or attentiveness in class (25%). Parent views on Venturing crew outcomes should be interpreted with caution, because only eight Venturer parents participated in the interview (Figure 9).

Similar to parents, youth participating in Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs felt they had improved or maintained positive attitudes and behaviors in school since joining. Almost 60 percent to more than 80 percent of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts reported that they have “always done well” or “improved” on being attentive in class, having positive behaviors, motivation to learn, good grades, and trying to be the best at school. Only nine Venturers participated in the interviews. Four to five (44-56%) of the Venturers reported that they have maintained or improved their attitude and behaviors in school (Figure 9).

Among the items, academic performance received the lowest ratings from youth and parents. Parents reported that 58 percent of their children improved or maintained academic performance, compared to greater percentages (61-69%) of children that improved or maintained skills in the other areas identified in Figure 9. Youth reported improvement or maintenance of skills on between 68 and 73 percent of all other items, while only 60 percent said they had improved or maintained their grades. This is not surprising, since the focus of Scouting is to encourage positive attitudes toward learning, and improving academic performance or grades is the long-term outcome of this goal.

9. Percent of Scouts maintained or improved on school attitude and behaviors

	Youth ^a				Parents ^b			
	Cub Scouts N=17	Boy Scouts N=36	Venturers N=9	Total N=62	Cub Scouts N=50-51	Boy Scouts N=43	Venturers N=8	Total N=101-102
Attentiveness in class	82%	67%	44%	68%	74%	54%	25%	61%
Behaviors in school	76%	67%	56%	68%	75%	58%	63%	67%
Motivation to learn	71%	78%	44%	71%	80%	56%	50%	68%
Academic performance ^c	59%	64%	44%	60%	67%	51%	38%	58%
Trying to be the best at school	71%	78%	56%	73%	78%	61%	63%	69%

Source of data: Parent and youth interviews

^a Youth select the response options: “you have always done this well,” “is better,” “about the same,” or “worse.” Percent “you have always done this well” and “is better” are reported.

^b Parents select the response options: “child has always done this well,” “improved,” “stayed about the same,” or “declined.” Percent “child has always done this well” and “improved” are reported.

^c Youth are asked about their grades.

Outcome 3: Scouts will improve or maintain positive behaviors/social skills within the program

Parents and youth were also asked their opinions about changes in youth behaviors and social skills since youth enrolled in the Scouting programs. Overall, the results show that most parents (62-77%) reported that their child had improved or maintained their positive behaviors and social skills since participating in the programs. Similarly, most youths (69-79%) felt they had improved or maintained these skills since joining. Among the groups, higher percentages of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts improved or maintained positive behaviors and social skills compared to Venturers; these findings were consistent in both youth and parent interviews. Again, Venturer results should be interpreted with caution due to the small number parent and youth interviews in this group (8-9 surveys) (Figure 10).

10. Percent of Scouts improved or maintained positive behaviors and social skills

	Youth ^a				Parents ^b			
	Cub Scouts N=17	Boy Scouts N=36	Venturers N=9	Total N=62	Cub Scouts N=50-51	Boy Scouts N=43	Venturers N=8	Total N=101-102
Gets along with parent, Scout leader, or other adults	76%	86%	56%	79%	75%	74%	87%	76%
Gets along with other youth	82%	64%	67%	69%	84%	63%	75%	74%
Solves problems on his or her own	76%	89%	44%	79%	76%	62%	50%	68%
Carries out responsibilities	65%	78%	56%	71%	63%	63%	50%	62%
Makes good decisions	82%	81%	33%	74%	63%	60%	75%	63%
Works well as a team member	88%	72%	78%	77%	80%	74%	63%	77%
Willingness to help others	76%	78%	78%	77%	84%	67%	63%	76%

Source of data: Parent and youth interviews

^a Youth select the response options: "you have always done this well," "is better," "about the same," or "worse." Percent "you have always done this well" and "is better" are reported.

^b Parents select the response options: "child has always done this well," "improved," "stayed about the same," or "declined." Percent "child has always done this well" and "improved" are reported.

Results for Outcomes 2 and 3 in 2012-2013 cannot be compared to those from the previous years because data collection method and the interview questions were not the same across all three years. Data from the previous years were collected from leader and youth surveys.

Outcome 4: Scouts will demonstrate a sense of mastery

To address this outcome, leaders in the survey were asked about youth participants' progress in mastering three core Scouting areas: citizenship, fitness, and character. Participants' achievement of rank requirements was also asked.

Growth in core Scouting areas

Unit leaders were asked to report the percentage of Scout participants who demonstrated growth in each of the three core areas of Scouting, as well as the percentage who demonstrated growth *across all three areas*. Leaders in 2012-2013 reported that the majority of the youth participants (64%) demonstrated personal growth across the three core areas of citizenship, fitness, and character. The result is higher than 40 percent of youth in 2011 and 47 percent of youth in 2010 who were rated by their unit leaders as having demonstrated growth across these three core areas (Figure 11). Among the core areas, a slightly higher percentage of participants in 2012-2013 demonstrated growth in citizenship (78%) than in character (75%) and fitness (74%).

Looking at the group, higher percentages of the Venture Crew participants (82-87%) demonstrated personal growth in each of the core areas of Scouting than the Cub Scouts (73-78%) and Boy Scouts (74-77%). Also, 74 percent of Venture Crew participants demonstrated personal growth across all three areas, compared with 64 percent of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

11. Mastery in core Scouting areas

	Cub Scouts N=2136	Boy Scouts N=1790	Venturers N=78	Total 2012 ^a N=4004	Total 2011 N=581	Total 2010 N=403
Citizenship	78%	77%	87%	78%	52%	54%
Fitness	73%	74%	82%	74%	44%	70%
Character	73%	77%	82%	75%	44%	59%
All 3 areas	64%	64%	74%	64%	40%	47%

Source of data: Unit Leader Survey

^a 2012-2013 year

Rank advancement

Pack and Troop Leaders reported that three-quarters (77%) of the Scouts advanced at least one rank in 2012-2013, similar to the rate in 2011. Eighty-seven percent of Cub Scouts and 66 percent of Boy Scouts advanced at least one full rank.¹ Another 17 percent of Boys Scouts and 7 percent of Cub Scouts completed at least half of the requirements to advance a rank (Figure 12).

12. Rank advancements for Scout participants

	Cub Scouts N=2136	Boy Scouts N=1790	Total 2012 ^a N=3926	Total 2011 N=426	Total 2010 N=290
Achieved one or more rank advancements	87%	66%	77%	76%	46%
Completed at least half of the rank requirements to advance a rank	7%	17%	12%	12%	35%
Completed less than half of the rank requirements to advance a rank	5%	10%	7%	8%	18%
Did not complete any rank requirements to advance a rank	2%	7%	4%	4%	1%

Source of data: Unit Leader Survey

^a 2012-2013 year

Additionally, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts in the interviews were asked whether they have moved up a rank in the past 12 months. Youth interviews were completed by 17 Cub Scouts and 36 Boy Scouts. Results show that 5 of 8 responding Cub Scouts and 18 of 33 Boy Scouts reported that they had moved up a rank in the past 12 months; combined, this makes for 23 of 41 Scouts (56%). Four Cub Scouts said that they have made between 1 and 20 achievements toward their next rank in the last 12 months. Twenty-three of 30 responding Boy Scouts said that they have completed requirements toward their next rank, including 18 Boy Scouts who said they have completed between 1 and 12 merit badges and 14 Boy Scouts who said that they have completed between 1 and 30 rank requirements (Figure 13).

¹ Boy Scout ranks have significantly more requirements than those for Cub Scouts and are often completed over multiple years. The Venturing program uses a different form of rank system that is not comparable to other Scouting programs, so rank advancements are not applicable for this group.

13. Achievements and requirements met in the past 12 months

Number	Cub Scouts achievements N=4	Boy Scouts requirements N=14	Boy Scouts merit badges N=18
1-5	3	9	14
6-10	-	3	3
More than 10	1	2	1

Source of data: Youth Interview

Other Scouting achievements

Scouts were given opportunities to develop leadership skills. In the interviews, three-quarter or more of the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers combined reported that they have helped people in the community (82%) and helped with planning activities for their own pack, troop, or crew (75%). Fewer, but still over half, of youth (64%) combined reported that they have led an activity (Figure 14).

14. Youth leadership skills

	Cub Scouts N=14-17	Boy Scouts N=35-36	Venturers N=9	Total 2012 N=59-62
Help with planning activities for own pack/troop/crew	86%	72%	67%	75%
Lead an activity	53%	74%	44%	64%
Help people in the community	88%	75%	100%	82%

Source of data: Youth Interview

^a Youth select the response options: "always," "most of the time," "sometimes," or "never."

Percent "always," "most of the time," and "sometimes" are reported.

Outcome 5: Scouts will improve or maintain satisfactory school attendance

In the interviews, parents and youth were asked their opinions about changes in youth school attendance since youth enrolled in the Scouting programs. Overall, almost 60 percent of parents (57%) indicated that their child improved or did not need to improve on their school attendance. Similarly, almost 70 percent (68%) of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers combined indicated that they improved or did not need to improve on their school attendance (Figure 15).

15. Percent of Scouts maintained or improved on school attendance

	Youth ^a				Parents ^b			
	Cub Scouts N=17	Boy Scouts N=36	Venturers N=9	Total N=62	Cub Scouts N=51	Boy Scouts N=43	Venturers N=8	Total N=102
School attendance	77%	69%	44%	68%	65%	44%	75%	57%

Source of data: Parent and youth interviews

^a Youth select the response options: “you have always done this well,” “is better,” “about the same,” or “worse.” Percent “you have always done this well” and “is better” are reported.

^b Parents select the response options: “child has always done this well,” “improved,” “stayed about the same,” or “declined.” Percent “child has always done this well” and “improved” are reported.

Other findings

Parent involvement in their child's Scouting activities

Overall, findings show that parents were involved in their child's Scouting activities. Across all three groups, 60 percent of parents reported that they have participated in an activity in the past 12 months. Most parents said that they were involved in camping, hiking, sports, or another outdoor activity (57%). About one-quarter of parents (26%) said that they were involved in a one-day family event. Another 17 percent participated in other parent involvement activities, which included preparing for Derby racing, attending meetings, fundraising, and attending merit badge completion celebrations.

Fourteen parents (18%) said that they have led an activity with their child. Most of these parents reported leading a camping, hiking, sports, or other outdoor activity or a merit badge activity. Excluding parents who were leaders themselves, most parents (82%) said that they have spoken with their child's leader in the past 12 months (Figure 16).

16. Parent involvement in Scouting activities

	Cub Scouts N=50	Boy Scouts N=38-43	Venturers N=8	Total N=96-101
Lead a Scouting activities with your child	14%	23%	12%	18%
Participate in a Scouting activity	62%	61%	50%	60%
Talk to your child's Scout leader	86%	82%	63%	82%

Source of data: Parent interview

Parents were asked if the Scouting programs could do anything to make it easier for them lead or participate in Scouting activities or events. Most parents (80%) said that they were too busy, not interested, or that there is nothing that the programs should do differently. A few parents said that they want the Scouting program to inform or invite them to events via emails and phone calls; have activities or meetings in Spanish or have leaders with a Hispanic background; have a meeting schedule; schedule meetings on a different day or on weekends; provide transportation; reduce costs or provide financial assistance; provide supplies, uniforms or badges; be more welcoming and inclusive of GLBT individuals; train staff to be more culturally competent; and have more staff to assist parents.

Positive aspects of Scouting program

The Northern Star Council is interested in improving their programming. Youth and leaders were asked open-ended questions about the most positive aspects of being a Scout and a Scout leader, respectively. Parents were asked about the Scouting benefits for their child. Individual responses were coded into one or more categories.

Youth satisfaction

All youth described many positive aspects of being a Scout (Figure A1). The top five categories included exposure to nature, often through camping and hiking; spending time with other children; playing games or sports; attending meetings; and working in teams during activities.

Parent satisfaction

Similarly, all parents felt that their child has been exposed to positive role adult role models through Scouting, with 96 percent of parents answering “yes, almost always” or “yes, most of the time” and 4 percent of parents answering “yes, occasionally” to this interview question.

When asked about their opinions on their child’s overall response to Scouting, most parents (87%) said it was “very favorable” (39%) and “favorable” (48%). The remaining 13 percent of parents said it was “neutral” (10%) or “unfavorable” (3%).

Parents described many benefits of their child’s participation in Scouting (Figure A2). Among these, the most common parent responses were: developing responsibility; being more confident or outgoing; experiencing nature or going camping or hiking; developing social skills; spending time with other children; developing teamwork or cooperation; and experiencing new things or visiting new places. Most parents (91%) provided an answer to this question.

Leader satisfaction

Leaders described many positive aspects of being a Scout leader (Figure A3). The top five categories included teaching youth and watching them mature, grow, and develop; spending time with youth; teaching youth outdoor or camping skills; helping youth build leadership skills and self-confidence; and teaching value and life skills. All leaders except one (99%) provided an answer to this question.

Suggestions for improvement

Parents were also asked an open-ended question about their suggestions for program improvement. Leaders were asked for their suggestions on activity or training for improving leader trainings and enhancing leadership opportunities for leaders and youth.

Parent suggestions

During their interviews, over ninety parents (91%) gave suggestions for program improvement. The most common answers included everything is good (no changes); more communication; better trained scout leaders; more parents or volunteers in scouting activities; and for the programs to be more organized (Figure A4).

Leader suggestions

Leaders gave suggestions for training or activities to improve their leadership skills. The top five categories, reflecting the opinions for 145 units (87% of leaders), included everything is good (no changes); better ways to share ideas across units on activities, meeting topics, and training; better training in general (including more training, online/ videos, better length, and location and time); more training to be an effective Scout leader; more training to work with special needs youth or English Language Learners; to recruit volunteers; to teach outdoor skills; and understand and help youth with their rank requirements (Figure A5).

Leaders gave suggestions for training or activities to improve youth skills. The top five categories included everything is good (no changes); better ways on sharing available information; provide training on leadership skills and team building; better access to Grey Wolf; teach outdoor skills, teach what it means to be a Scout; and make descriptions of activities, time, and location better or clearer (Figure A6). Most leaders (89%) provided an answer to this question.

Appendix

Open-ended responses

A1. Most positive aspects of being a Scout

	Number of responses			Total
	Cub Scout Packs	Boy Scout Troops	Venturing Crews	
Experiencing nature/going camping or hiking	9	21	2	32
Spending time with other children/meeting new children	6	9	2	17
Experiencing new things/visiting new places	-	10	-	10
Playing games or sports (e.g., soccer, archery)	2	5	1	8
Attending Scouts meeting (unspecified)	2	4	-	6
Working in teams during activities	1	1	3	5
Having creative activities (e.g., arts, skits, Pinewood Derby, press corps)	2	2	-	4
Volunteering/giving to community	2	-	2	4
Spending time with other adults/meeting new adults/role models	-	2	1	3
Feeling included/being comfortable in the group	-	-	2	2
Choosing or leading activities	-	1	1	2
Learning new information (e.g. environmental science)	-	2	-	2
Receiving help/guidance from Scout leaders	-	1	-	1
Completing merit badges/requirements/achievements	-	1	-	1

Source of data: Youth interview.

A2. Scouting benefits for my child

	Number of responses			Total
	Cub Scout Packs	Boy Scout Troops	Venturing Crews	
Developing responsibility	7	7	1	15
Being more confident or outgoing	8	4	2	14
Experiencing nature/going on camping or hiking	6	6	2	14
Developing social skills (e.g., getting along with others in general, having manners and respects)	9	4	-	13
Spending time with other children	7	6	-	13
Developing teamwork/cooperation	9	2	1	12
Experiencing new things/visiting new places	3	7	-	10
Developing initiative (i.e., setting goals or completing projects)	2	7	-	9
Developing leadership skills	3	5	1	9
Spending time with other adults/meeting new adults/role models	4	2	-	6
Volunteering/giving back to the community	3	3	-	6
Developing motivation to succeed/achieving goals	3	2	-	5
Enjoying the program	5	-	-	5
Having better attitudes toward life	2	1	-	3
Strengthening relationship with a parent that participates	2	1	-	3
Spending time with role models from his/her culture	-	2	-	2
Spending time with older Scouts	1	1	-	2
Receiving awards, achievements, or trophies	2	-	-	2
Making improvement in school	-	1	-	1
Providing exposure to new educational or career paths	-	1	-	1

Source of data: Parent interview.

A3. Most positive aspects of being a Scout leader

	Number of responses			Total
	Cub Scout Packs	Boy Scout Troops	Venturing Crews	
Teaching and watching youth mature/grow/develop	36	24	1	61
Spending time with youth (unspecified)	16	9	1	26
Teaching outdoor/camping skills	6	13	-	19
Watching youth gain and accept leaderships skills/creating leaders/older youth teach younger youth	2	14	1	17
Teaching value/life skills	13	3	-	16
Watching youth experience things for the first time	11	2	-	13
Being a positive role model/mentor	5	8	-	13
Forming friendships with youth and their families	7	5	-	12
Spending time with own son/daughter/family	10	2	-	12
Watching the youth having fun in the program	11	1	-	12
Helping youth set goals and reach them/build confidence	7	3	-	10
Helping youth advance in their ranks	2	7	-	9
Enjoying planning and organizing activities or meetings	5	1	-	6
Watching youth grown into active community members/citizens	2	4	-	6
Giving back to the program that I was involved with; Being part of great organization	2	2	1	5
Working with other leaders	4	1	-	5
Learning new things for myself; learning that I can do the job and be successful at it	3	1	-	4
Watching youth form friendship/learn social skills	2	1	1	4
Helping youth and/or myself build positive memories	-	1	1	2
Working with diverse youth	-	1	-	1

Source of data: Leader survey.

A4. Parent suggestions for improving the program

	Number of responses			
	Cub Scout Packs	Boy Scout Troops	Venturing Crews	Total
Nothing	16	15	3	34
Increase communication with parents	3	6	1	10
Have better trained staff/Scout leaders	4	3	1	8
Involve more parents/volunteers in Scouting activities	4	3	-	7
Be more organized	4	-	1	5
Offer more field trips/exposure to community	3	1	-	4
Identify new options for fundraising	3	-	-	3
Provide transportation	3	-	-	3
Offer the program at all age levels/keep program age-appropriate	2	-	1	3
Increase safety for children (i.e. don't send Scouts out with people other than the troop leaders, enforce rule of two)	2	1	-	3
Have more staff to help	-	3	-	3
More physical activities/camping	2	-	-	2
More opportunities for Scouts to lead activities/other students	-	2	-	2
Provide supplies/uniforms/badges	1	1	-	2
Offer a greater variety of activities	2	-	-	2
Provide more opportunities to meet other children	1	-	-	1
Offer less competitive activities	1	-	-	1
Schedule weekend activities earlier	-	1	-	1
Schedule Scouting activities on weekends	1	-	-	1
Reduce costs of participation	1	-	-	1
Recruit more members	-	1	-	1
Be more inclusive of GLBT individuals	1	-	-	1
Be more culturally competent	-	1	-	1
Expand Scouting to new groups of participants (i.e girls)	-	1	-	1
Invite more parents/volunteers to work with the Council	-	1	-	1

Source of data: Parent interview

A5. Leader suggestions for improving leader skills

	Number of responses			Total
	Cub Scout Packs	Boy Scout Troops	Venturing Crews	
Nothing; It is good now	18	6	1	25
Sharing activities, meeting topics, or training ideas across units; training on how to reach out to and work with other units	13	4	-	17
Better training times and locations; longer or shorter meetings; more organized; more training/new training (unspecified)	8	8	1	17
Providing online trainings/training videos	5	6	-	11
Training on how to be an effective Scout leader/basic training	3	5	-	8
Training on how to work with special needs, ELL, and new immigrants	5	3	-	8
Training on how to recruit volunteers	6	1	-	7
Training on outdoor skills	1	6	-	7
Training on rank advancement	6	1	-	7
Training on leadership skills, team building	4	2	-	6
Training on time management, completing paperwork and communicating to parents and youth	4	2	-	6
Sharing ideas across units on how to raise funds/afford activities	4	2	-	6
More meetings that are just an open forum for questions/roundtables/discussing changes	2	3	1	6
More proactive communication from the Council	4	-	-	4
Training on how to recruit or retain youth	2	1	-	3
More events and locations for University of Scouting	1	-	-	1
Lower training costs or free training	1	-	-	1

Source of data: Leader survey.

A6. Leader suggestions for improving youth skills

	Number of responses			Total
	Cub Scout Packs	Boy Scout Troops	Venturing Crews	
Nothing; It is good now	14	5	-	19
Better activities for youth; better ways on sharing available activities	8	5	-	13
Teach leadership skills, team building	4	8	-	12
Better access to/opportunities in Grey Wolf	1	8	-	9
Teach outdoor skills	4	2	-	6
Teach youth what it means to be a Scout	4	2	-	6
Make more clear what or when activities are available	5	-	1	6
Better training times and locations; longer or shorter activities/training	2	2	-	4
More events and locations for University of Scouting	-	2	2	4
Incorporate technology into Scouting	4	-	-	4
Opportunities for leadership training for younger Scouts	1	3	-	4
Offer online trainings	2	1	-	3
Activities for special needs, ELL, and new immigrants	2	1	-	3
Training for leaders on how to recruit volunteers/involve parents	3	-	-	3
Provide information on rank advancement	3	-	-	3
Lower training costs or free training	-	3	-	3
Teach first aids skills	3	-	-	3
Teach youth to help or communicate with other youth	1	2	-	3
Teach project management, time management	-	3	-	3
Offer council wide meetings, big events	-	2	-	2
Teach youth about bullying/how to handle bullying	-	2	-	2
Offer more challenging activities	-	1	1	2
Training for leaders on how to recruit youth from other activities	1	-	-	1
Offer leadership training specifically for Venturing crew participants	-	-	1	1

Source of data: Leader survey.

**NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PARENT INTERVIEW**

Organization Code: 71681

INTRODUCTION:

Hi, this is _____ and I'm calling from Wilder Research on behalf of the Boy Scouts. The Council staff are interested in knowing your opinions about Scouting programs and how they might be improved. I'd like to conduct a phone interview with the parent or guardian who knows the most about (CHILD)'s experience in Scouting. Would that be you or someone else?

The interview is voluntary and confidential and your answers will never be linked to your name in any report or presentation. If there are questions you don't want to answer, just let me know. If this is a convenient time for you, we can get started now?

IF PARENT WILLING TO PARTICIPATE NOW, BEGIN INTERVIEW.

IF NOT A CONVENIENT TIME, ARRANGE CALLBACK.

IF PARENT REFUSES:

We are also interested in knowing (CHILD)'s opinions about the program. Would it be okay to interview (CHILD) over the phone?

Yes 1

No..... 2

IF PARENT GIVES PERMISSION AND CHILD IS AVAILABLE, GO TO YOUTH INTERVIEW, OTHERWISE ARRANGE A CALLBACK.

Is this also the best number to reach (CHILD)?

Yes 1

No..... 2

IF NO, WRITE THE NEW NUMBER IN THE PHONE NUMBER ROW OF THE FACE SHEET, INDICATING THE TYPE OF NUMBER AND APPROPRIATE RESPONDENT (I.E. CELL, CHILD)

IF PARENT DOESN'T WANT CHILD TO BE INTERVIEWED, ASK:

May I ask why you do not want your child to participate? _____

Thank you for your time.

**NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL — BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PARENT INTERVIEW**

We are interested in your overall impressions about (CHILD)'s involvement in Scouting.

1. How long has (CHILD) been involved in Scouting?

_____ Years _____ Months

Refused -7

Don't know -8

2. In a **typical** month during the school year would you say (CHILD) participates in...

All of (his/her) scheduled scouting activities,..... 1

Most of (his/her) scheduled scouting activities,..... 2

Some of (his/her) scheduled scouting activities, or 3

None of (his/her) scheduled scouting activities? 4

Refused 7

Don't know 8

Now we have some questions about school.

3. Since (CHILD) enrolled in Scouting, have you seen a change in...

	Would you say that it has...			
	Improved,	Stayed about the same,	Declined, or	Child has always done this well?
A. Attentiveness in class	1	2	3	9
B. Behavior in school	1	2	3	9
C. Motivation to learn	1	2	3	9
D. Academic performance	1	2	3	9
E. School attendance	1	2	3	9
F. Trying (his/her) best at school	1	2	3	9

The next questions are about social skills and leadership.

4. Since enrolling in Scouting, have you seen a change in how (CHILD)...

	Would you say that it has...			
	Improved,	Stayed about the same,	Declined, or	Child has always done this well?
A. Gets along with you, Scout leaders or other adults	1	2	3	9
B. Gets along with other youth	1	2	3	9
C. Solves problems on his/her own	1	2	3	9
D. Carries out responsibilities	1	2	3	9
E. Makes good decisions	1	2	3	9
F. Works as a team member	1	2	3	9
G. (CHILD)'s willingness to help others	1	2	3	9

5. In your opinion, has (CHILD's) overall response to Scouting been...

- Very favorable, 1
- Favorable,..... 2
- Neutral,..... 3
- Unfavorable, or 4
- Very unfavorable?..... 5
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8

6. Do you feel that your child has been exposed to positive adult role models in (his/her) Scouting experience? Would you say...

- Yes, almost always,..... 1
- Yes, most of the time, 2
- Only occasionally, or 3
- Seldom, if ever? 4
- Refused 7
- Don't know 8

7. What is the **single** most important benefit your child has gotten out of Scouting so far? (PROBE: What is the most positive good that has come out of Scouting for your child? How has it benefitted your child?)

8. What suggestions do you have for improving the Scouting program?

9. During the past 12 months, did you...

	Yes	No	Refused	Don't Know	N/A
A. Lead a Scouting activity with your child? (IF YES, SPECIFY ACTIVITIES): _____ _____	1	2	7	8	X
B. Participate in a Scouting activity or event with your child? (IF YES, SPECIFY ACTIVITIES): _____ _____	1	2	7	8	X
C. Talk to your child's Scout Leader?	1	2	7	8	9

10. Is there anything the Council could do to make it easier for **you** to lead or participate in Scouting activities or events?

Now I have a few questions about you.

11. Which one or more of the following describes you? (AS NEEDED: Some people identify as more than one race, so I need to read all the options.)

Please answer YES or NO . Are you...	Yes	No	REF	DK
a. Black or African American	1	2	7	8
b. Asian or Asian American	1	2	7	8
c. Hispanic or Latino	1	2	7	8
d. American Indian	1	2	7	8
e. White or Caucasian	1	2	7	8
f. Another race or ethnic group (Specify _____)	1	2	7	8

12. What about for (CHILD). Which one or more of the following describes (CHILD)? (AS NEEDED: Some people identify as more than one race, so I need to read all the options.)

Please answer YES or NO . Is {CHILD}...	Yes	No	REF	DK
a. Black or African American	1	2	7	8
b. Asian or Asian American	1	2	7	8
c. Hispanic or Latino	1	2	7	8
d. American Indian	1	2	7	8
e. White or Caucasian	1	2	7	8
f. Another race or ethnic group (Specify _____)	1	2	7	8

13. What was the total income, before taxes, from all sources and all members of your household in 2012? Stop me when I say the correct range. Was it...

Less than \$20,000,	1
\$20,000 to under \$30,000,	2
\$30,000 to under \$40,000,	3
\$40,000 to under \$50,000,	4
\$50,000 to under \$60,000,	5
\$60,000 to under \$70,000,	6
\$70,000 to under \$80,000,	7
\$80,000 to under \$90,000,	8
\$90,000 to under \$100,000,	9
\$100,000 to under \$125,000,	10
\$125,000 to under \$150,000, or	11
\$150,000 or more?	12
Refused	-7
Don't know	-8

14. How many people does this income support?

_____ (# OF PEOPLE)

Thank you for your time. Now, I would like your permission to interview (CHILD), in order to find out (his/her) opinions about Scouting. Is that okay with you?

Yes1

No.....2

IF PARENT GIVES PERMISSION, AND CHILD IS AVAILABLE, GO TO YOUTH INTERVIEW, OTHERWISE, ARRANGE CALLBACK.

IF PARENT DOESN'T WANT CHILD TO BE INTERVIEWED, ASK: May I ask why you do not want your child to participate?

Thanks for your helpful comments and suggestions. The program staff will appreciate your opinions, and use them to improve the program.

Interviewer Name: _____

Date: _____

Interviewer Employee #: _____

**NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL - BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
YOUTH INTERVIEW**

Activity Code: 71681

Before starting youth interview make sure permission is secured from parent/guardian (see checkbox on facesheet).

INTRODUCTION:

Hi, (CHILD). This is _____, and I'm calling from Wilder Research on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America. If it's okay with you, I'd like to ask you a few questions over the phone about your Scout program to learn how you feel about it. It will only take a few minutes and your answers are completely private. None of your friends or Scout leaders will know how you answer, and we can skip any questions you don't want to answer. Would you be willing to participate? If this is a good time for you we can do it now.

IF CHILD IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE NOW, BEGIN INTERVIEW.

IF NOT A CONVENIENT TIME, ARRANGE CALLBACK AND NOTE CALLBACK TIME/DATE ON FACESHEET.

IF CHILD REFUSES TO BE INTERVIEWED NOTE CIRCUMSTANCES ON FACESHEET AND PUT IN REFUSAL FOLDER.

Thank you for your time.

**NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL — BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
YOUTH INTERVIEW**

1A. Are you a...

Cub Scout.....	(GO TO Q. 1B).....	1
Boy Scout, or a.....	(GO TO Q. 1C).....	2
Venturer?.....	(GO TO Q. 2).....	3

1B. Are you currently a...

Tiger,.....	(GO TO Q. 2).....	1
Wolf,.....	(GO TO Q. 2).....	2
Bear, or.....	(GO TO Q. 2).....	3
Webelo?	(GO TO Q. 2).....	4
Don't know	(GO TO Q. 2).....	8

1C. What is your rank now? Is it...

Scout,		1
Tenderfoot,.....		2
Second Class,.....		3
First Class,.....		4
Star,.....		5
Life, or.....		6
Eagle?		7
Don't know		-8

2. What grade are you in school? (If needed: What grade will you be in when you start school this fall?)

_____ Grade

Now we have some questions about school.

3. **Since enrolling in Scouting**, have you changed...

	Would you say this...			
	is better,	about the same,	worse, or	you have always done this well?
A. How much you pay attention in class	1	2	3	9
B. Your behavior in school	1	2	3	9
C. Your motivation to learn	1	2	3	9
D. Your grades	1	2	3	9
E. Your school attendance	1	2	3	9
F. Trying your best at school	1	2	3	9

Next I have some questions about social skills and leadership.

4. **Since enrolling in Scouting**, have you changed how...

	Would you say this...			
	is better,	about the same,	worse, or	you have always done this well?
A. You Get along with your Scout leader, parents, or other adults	1	2	3	9
B. You get along with other kids	1	2	3	9
C. You solve problems on your own	1	2	3	9
D. You carry out responsibilities	1	2	3	9
E. You make good decisions	1	2	3	9
F. Willing you are to help others	1	2	3	9
G. How well you work as a team member	1	2	3	9

5. When you are at Scouting meetings or events, how often...

	Would you say...					
	Always,	Most of the time,	Sometimes, or	Never?	Refused	Don't Know
A. Have you helped with planning activities for your pack/troop/crew	1	2	3	4	7	8
B. Have you had the chance to lead an activity	1	2	3	4	7	8

C. Have you done things that help people in the community	1	2	3	4	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

VENTURE CREW YOUTH SKIP TO Q8.

6. Have you moved up a rank in the last 12 months?

- Yes1
- No.....2
- Don't know8

7. In the last 12 months, have you completed any...

If in Cub Scouts say: achievements or electives towards your next rank?

If in Boy Scouts say: requirements towards your next rank including merit badges?

- Yes1
 - a. Boy Scouts: About how many rank requirements? _____
 - b. Boy Scouts: About how many merit badges? _____
 - c. Cub Scouts: About how many achievements/electives? _____
- No.....2
- Don't know8

8. What is the **one thing** about Scouting that you like the most?

That is the end of the survey. Thanks for your time. We really appreciate your help.

Interviewer Name: _____

Date: _____

Interviewer Employee #: _____

Leader Survey

Scout Leader Survey June 2013

INTRODUCTION:

Wilder Research is working with the Northern Star Council to evaluate its program. We are interested in knowing about how the Scouting program is impacting the youth in your Cub Scout Pack/ Boy Scout Troop/ Venturing Crew and your ideas about improving programming.

The survey is confidential; your answers will never be linked to your name in any reports or presentations. It will only take about 5-10 minutes. It may be helpful to have a roster available as you complete this survey.

- How many youth are in your Cub Scout Pack/ Boy Scout Troop/ Venturing Crew? _____ Number
- We are interested in the frequency with which the youth in your Pack/Troop/Crew participate in Scouting activities. Thinking about a typical month during the school year, please indicate the number of youth who participate at each activity level. The total number should equal the number in Question 1 above.

	Number of youth
a. <u>All</u> (100%) of the scheduled Scouting activities	
b. <u>Most</u> (75-99%) of the scheduled Scouting activities	
c. <u>Some</u> (50-74%) of the scheduled Scouting activities	
d. <u>Few</u> (<50%) of the scheduled Scouting activities	
Total (equals total above)	

- We are interested in whether youth are demonstrating growth in the 3 core Scouting areas: citizenship, fitness, and character. Thinking about the last year (12 months), please indicate the number of youth who have demonstrated personal growth in each core area.

In the last year (12 months) how many youth in your pack/troop/crew have demonstrated growth in the area of...	Number of youth*
a. Citizenship? (e.g. they have engaged in community service, taken on leadership responsibilities, are more willing to help others, participated in a flag ceremony, and/or participated in a community activity)	
b. Fitness? (e.g. they have learned a new outdoor skill, shown greater interest in their physical health, and/or participated in sports)	
c. Character? (e.g. they are more confident, consider the impact their actions have on others, have future goals, know right from wrong, and/or follow through on responsibilities)	
d. Demonstrated growth in <u>all 3 areas</u>	

* The number of youth cannot exceed the total number.

4. We are interested in whether the youth in your troop/pack/crew have worked toward or achieved rank advancements. Thinking about the last year (12 months), please indicate the number of youth who have completed rank requirements at each level.

	Number of youth*
a. Completed <u>all</u> of the rank requirements to advance 1 rank (e.g. they have moved one or more ranks, such as Scout to Tenderfoot or 2 nd Class to Star)	
b. Completed <u>at least half</u> of the rank requirements to advance a rank	
c. Completed <u>less than half</u> of the rank requirements to advance a rank	
d. Did not complete any rank requirements to advance a rank	

* The number of youth cannot exceed the total number.

- 5A. Based on your best estimate, how many youth in your troop/pack/crew have difficulty affording Scouting expenses (e.g. they receive camp scholarships, uniforming assistance, or help with registration/activity fees from your troop/pack/crew or the council)?

- 5B. In which county/city do you hold your regular troop/pack/crew meetings? (select only 1)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anoka | <input type="checkbox"/> Hennepin (northwest suburbs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carver | <input type="checkbox"/> Hennepin (southwest suburbs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chisago | <input type="checkbox"/> Ramsey (St. Paul) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dakota | <input type="checkbox"/> Ramsey (suburbs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isanti | <input type="checkbox"/> Scott |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hennepin (Minneapolis) | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hennepin (western suburbs) | |

- 5C. How long have you been a Scout Leader?

- ¹ One year or less
² More than one year, but less than two years
³ Two years to three years
⁴ More than three years
⁵ Don't know/refused

6. What aspect(s) of being a Scout Leader do you like the most?

7. Northern Star Council is interested in improving training and enhancing leadership opportunities for leaders and youth. What one thing (activity/training) would you suggest the Council offer to you as a leader and to youth?

To you as a leader:

To youth:

THANK YOU.