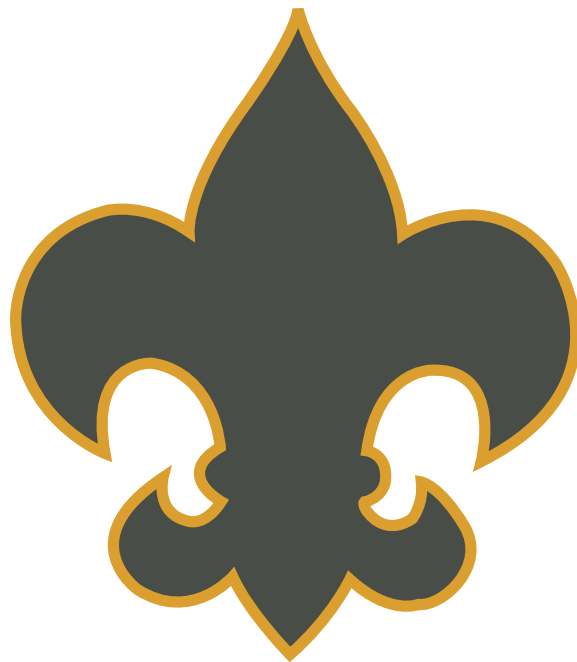


Mid-America Council 2007 Review



Mid-America Council, Boy Scouts of America

Durham Scout Center | 12401 West Maple Road | Omaha, NE 68164

Mid-American Energy Scout Center | 1102 Tri-View Avenue | Sioux City, IA 51103

Background



A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful and friendly. A Scout is courteous, kind, obedient and cheerful. A Scout is thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. These attributes make up the Boy Scout Law, and the Mid-America Council has more than 43,000 Scouts. The Council serves over 33,700 youth through a values-based program with the leadership of over 9,500 adult mentors.

The Mid-America Council provides an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, learn citizenship and to develop personal fitness. History shows that many Scouts go on to become influential leaders and citizens, making significant contributions in your community and our country.

More than 900 units are supported by the Mid-America Council through community-based organizations. These organizations receive national charters to use the Scouting program. These groups, which have goals compatible with those of the Boy Scouts of America, include religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business and labor organizations, governmental bodies, corporations, professional associations and citizens' groups.

Chartered organizations that use the Scouting program provide meeting places and often furnish program materials and other facilities. Youth members help to pay their own way by paying dues to their pack, troop or crew treasuries. They can also participate in approved money-earning projects to earn additional income for their units.



Traditional Scouting



Membership

Cub Scouting is for boys in the first to fifth grade. This program focuses on family and neighborhood involvement through learning activities and fun. Some statistics from 2007:

Total Cub Scouts = 13,078

Webelos = 5,241

Cub Scouts = 5,923

Tiger Cubs = 1,914

The Cub Scout program would be unsuccessful without the help of adult volunteers. In 2007, over 3,588 adult volunteers supported the Cub Scout program.

The Boy Scout program is for boys in sixth through twelfth grade and encourages peer leadership roles, as well as includes numerous outdoor activities. Some statistics from 2007:

Total Boy Scouts = 6,026

Boy Scouts = 5,960

Varsity Scouts = 66

The Boy Scout program would be unsuccessful without the help of volunteers. In 2007, over 3,559 adult volunteers were registered in the Cub Scout program.

Venturing is a co-ed program for those between the ages of 14-20 years. Venturing is a relatively new program, which evolves around high adventure outdoor activities. Some statistics from 2007:

Total Venturing = 2,922

Venturers = 2,908

Sea Scouts = 14

The Venturing program would be unsuccessful without the help of volunteers. In 2007, over 359 adult volunteers were registered in the Venturing program.

Traditional Scouting



Advancement

Youth have the opportunity to advance through the Scouting program. In 2007, 9,240 (over 70%) Cub Scouts advanced. The Mid-America Council had 3,392 (over 56%) Boy Scouts advance. In 2007, 330 young men earned the honorable rank of Eagle Scout. The Council provided support and resources for 16,249 merit badges to be earned. Over 700 Scouts in the Council earned the Life Saving Merit Badge.

Camping

In 2007, 5,212 (over 54%) Cub Scouts camped, and 2,095 Boy Scouts camped at the Council's Camp Cedars. A total of 8,884 Mid-America Council youth camped in 2007. Of those who camped, 3,672 youth camped long-term.

Community Service

The Mid-America Council participated in the annual Scouting for Food drive in 2007, and has for over 25 years. This drive nourishes the lives of thousands of people. More than 350,000 items are donated each year. Through this project and others, the Council's Scouts and volunteers have provided over 90,000 community service hours, which is equivalent to \$1.7 million worth of volunteer time.

Fitness

In 2007, the Mid-America Council made commitment fitness. To help combat the ever-increasing problem of childhood obesity, the Council implemented the fitness initiative. Wayne Sensor, CEO of Alegent Health is the Council fitness chair, to carry out the Fitness Initiative. This initiative will make the Council a leader in promoting fitness in youth and families, meeting the third aim of Scouting: personal fitness.

Scoutreach



The Council provides the Scouting program to underserved inner city and rural youth. In 2007, 1,788 boys who wouldn't normally receive the program were reached through the Mid-America Council Scoutreach program. This program encourages character building, morals, ethics and provides a safe, fun environment for youth. The Mid-America Council encouraged literacy by providing Boys' Life magazine to over 600 underserved youth.

Total Youth = 1,788

Tigers = 68

Cubs = 307

Webelos = 615

Boy Scouts = 404

Venturing = 394

Total units = 64

Packs = 35

Troops = 19

Venture Crews = 10

Commissioners = 30

Committee Members = 65

Unit Scouters = 395

Trained Leaders = 77

Day Camps = 502

Cub Resident Camps = 39

Lock-In = 225

Camping at Cedars = 84

Activity Attendance = 827

Cub Advancement = 462

Scout Advancement = 62

Scoutreach



Today, young people are faced with many challenges as they often live in fragile families and disintegrating neighborhoods. Scoutreach meets the developmental needs of youth in urban settings.

Scouting, by emphasizing ethics and moral values, addresses many of the social concerns of parents and youth in our communities. Scouting prepares urban and rural youth to be leaders, to accept responsibility, and to care about principles and causes beyond their own self-interest.

Our biggest asset in urban and rural neighborhoods is a well-defined program based on values, learning-by-doing, fun and positive role models.

Good partnerships are a top priority in the Mid-America Council. While maintaining long-standing partnerships with religious institutions and civic groups, the Council is also reaching out to a host of other organizations that work with young people. Organizations include: Easter Seals of Nebraska, Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club, Home Depot, Creighton University, Tyson Meats and Salem Baptist Church.

Creighton University adopted four inner-city elementary schools, the Council started Cub Scout packs there—and recruited Creighton students as volunteers.

The Creighton connection is especially meaningful to Scoutreach Chairman John Pierce, who leads the university's diversity and outreach efforts. "We feel very strongly about the need for Scouting," Pierce said. "It gives these kids the opportunity to get involved and build character and do things they wouldn't otherwise do."

The Council's most innovative partnership is with Tyson Meats, which offers Soccer and Scouting—the BSA's signature Hispanic outreach program—to the families of workers at its plants. The company pays for the program and even supplies translators during in-plant recruiting visits, while the Boys and Girls Clubs of Omaha provides free indoor practice facilities. In 2007, 170 boys participated.

Scoutreach





Learning for Life offers programs designed to support schools and community-based organizations in their efforts to prepare youth to successfully handle the complexities of contemporary society and to enhance self-confidence, motivation and self-esteem. The programs focus on character development and career education. Learning for Life programs help youth develop social and life skills, assist in character and career development, and help youth formulate positive personal values. It prepares youth to make ethical decisions that will help them achieve their full potential.

In spring, 2007, 24,403 completed student surveys were returned to the Learning for Life program. Nearly 2,000 students (1939) responded that nursing is their top career choice, while attorney was second, followed by architecture, music and photography. When areas of similar focus are combined, just over 6,900 students responded with an interest in medicine. This includes nursing, pediatrician, surgeon, physical therapy and other related fields. This represents a major change from previous years, when attorney was the top career choice by a sizable margin.

In addition, three schools took advantage of Learning for Life's ability to find and place career speakers. Speakers from local businesses, as well as Metropolitan Community College and Iowa Western Community College, spoke to students on sports management, interior design, municipal management, building trades, law enforcement, nutrition, computers and medical fields. Our volunteer speakers are an invaluable part of our team; without them we would not be able to fully deliver our mission.

The Learning for Life team assisted several schools in job preparation including work fairs and mock interviews. These allow our staff to assist school staffs to more fully prepare students for the workplace as well as giving them more opportunities to learn about career exploring opportunities.

New programs such as Cox Communications, Clarkson College and Omaha Truck allow different career exploring opportunities for our youth. All Alegent campuses have exploring programs that meet in the fall. In 2007, Immanuel and Lakeside hosted over 80 youth at the posts. These attendance numbers reflect that the number one career choice in the 2007-2008 school year was healthcare.



Great partnerships with Girl's Inc. and Girl Scouts allow the Learning for Life program to touch youth from various backgrounds. With these partnerships, the Council can provide direct contact to these youth, rather than asking the youth move to where the program is.

In 2007, the Learning for Life Division held more and better activities than ever before. The highlight of the year was the Exploring the Night activity in November. Ninety youth participated in an overnight activity that included the Henry Doorly Zoo, HDR, John A. Gentleman, Douglas County Sheriff, Lifetime Fitness and Lakeside Hospital. The Dr. CC and Mabel L. Criss Foundation generously sponsored the event.

Other events included an Explore Engineering Day at the Peter Kiewit Institute, Trauma Thursday, with Alegent Health Care, and the Winter Jam ski day at Mount Crescent. Over 200 youth participated in these activities—and were asking for more! Just as important, however, are the volunteers who helped to make these things happen.



Juvenile Diversion

The Mid-America Council Juvenile Diversion Program is a pre-trial program for minors, conducted through the joint efforts of the Omaha Bar Association and the Boy Scouts of America. The purpose of the program is to provide offenders a positive alternative to juvenile court.

Young offenders facing criminal charges have the opportunity to participate in the program, through structured activities that aim to improve attitudes about the legal system, self-image, teach better methods of communication, conflict resolution and prevent a decision to break the law again.

In 2007, the Council had to conclude its Moderate Risk Program. We were disappointed in this decision, but it wasn't cost efficient to continue. This was due to low referrals to the program. However, in 2008 we are striving to find ways to expand the program to meet the needs of today's young offenders.

The 2007 fall law post was a success. Over 50 youth participated in Blackwell Sanders, Fraser Stryker, Erickson Sederstrom, McGrath North and Lamson Dugan law firms to train area high school youth who are interested in the law field. They went through seven weeks of training. Once completed, the youth have the option to transition over into Teen Court

The Mid-America Council Teen Court is a voluntary diversion program that gives participants an alternative to the traditional criminal justice system. The Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center makes referrals. Teen Court is available to individuals who have allegedly committed a misdemeanor offense. By participating in Teen Court, a defendant agrees to be presumed guilty and to have their sentence determined by a panel of teen judges. Upon successfully completing Teen Court, the alleged offense will be dismissed by the County Attorney. However, should a participant not meet such requirements, they will be redirected to the County Attorney for the purpose of prosecution in Juvenile Court. The goal of Teen Court is to intervene in early delinquent, criminal behavior and to prevent future behavior of that nature.

LEARNING FOR LIFE



Mid-America Council



2008 Mid-America Council Key Goals

- Raise enough money to break ground for Cub World Castle
- Improve the quality of district meetings
- Implement a successful new unit plan
- Improve Council operating finances
- Improve manpower recruiting
- Implement fitness initiative
- Continue to improve Great Expectation results by setting district goals
- Achieve Chief Scout Executive Winner's Circle, Friends of Scouting goal and Centennial Council
- Improve Council staff (fewer turnover, higher morale)
- Strengthen district operations