



NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Council Facts

Mission Statement

Northern Star Council leads youth to be healthy, contributing citizens and leaders in their families, communities and the world.

Working Vision

Northern Star Council will be recognized as a positive influence in the lives of 100% of the youth in the communities we serve.

Scouting's Goals, Objectives, and Impact

As part of the council's strategic planning process, specific focus areas have been identified to fulfill Scouting's objectives for young people and to meet the needs and demands of the youth and families in our community.

Long Range Plan Goals:

- § Provide more programs for more young people.
- § Be fiscally more efficient and effective.
- § Identify and pursue ideas that can make the council more relevant to young people and our chartered partners.
- § Provide expanded outreach to parents and their children resulting in more young people becoming members and receiving the benefits of Scouting participation.
- § Expand and increase the level of service to volunteers.

Scouting's Program Goals – Since 1910

- § Providing youth with adult role models and a place where they find acceptance as part of a group.
- § Encouraging civic responsibility through participation in community service projects.
- § Teaching self-discipline and personal responsibility, and encouraging children to make wise choices.
- § Encouraging youth to test new skills and knowledge, and exposing them to exciting outdoor adventures and lifelong hobbies.
- § Helping young people learn to set and achieve their goals, and gain an understanding of where they want to go in the future.
- § Providing opportunities for positive interaction with their peers and adult leaders, and to work as productive team members.
- § Teaching youth skills proficiency and to take on leadership roles that help them prepare to be leaders in life, and to recognize them for their achievements.

Budget

Northern Star Council operates its programs and properties on a 2010 budget of \$13,235,684.

Population Served

Northern Star Council supports nearly 24,000 volunteers who develop and enrich the lives of more than 95,000 boys and girls, ages 6 through 20, over the course of a year. The council provides volunteers a wide range of youth and adult training opportunities, including online courses, training videos, and district and council events.

The council's membership is comprised of youth and adults representing all racial, ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds, physical and mental abilities, and educational experiences.

Partnerships

More than 1,100 community organizations, representing educational, religious, non-profit, civic, and business organizations join in partnership with Northern Star Council by chartering 1,589 Scouting units (including 598 Cub packs, 489 Boy Scout troops, 24 Varsity teams, 240 Venture crews, 3 ships, 210 Explorer posts, and 25 Learning for Life groups).

Service Area

Northern Star Council serves 25 counties across central Minnesota (Anoka, Carver, Chippewa, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, McLeod, Meeker, Ramsey, Renville, Rice, Scott, Washington, Wright, and Yellow Medicine, and portions of Stearns and Swift), and Wisconsin (Pierce, St. Croix, Polk, and Burnett).

Camps/Properties

Northern Star Council operates two council service centers located in Golden Valley and in Saint Paul, MN. It operates eight different camp properties located in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Young people can choose from eight camp programs including day, introductory, high adventure, summer and winter weekend and resident camps for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, and families.

Leadership and Staff

The Northern Star Council is led by a volunteer board of directors that has 63 members, who come from education, businesses, corporations, other non-profits, and community organizations. Youth and volunteers are supported by 81 full-time paid staff and 34 part-time paid staff. Additionally, nearly 550 seasonal employees deliver camping programs and outdoor adventure in the summer and winter months.

For More Information

The council website address is www.northernstarbsa.org or call 763-231-7201.



2009 Selected Achievements

Membership Achievements

Traditional Programs

In 2009, more than 95,000 youth were served in our traditional programs of Cub Scouting (boys, grades 1-5), Boy Scouting (boys, grades 6-12), and Venturing (girls and boys, ages 14-20).

Special Programs

Scoutreach: This program was developed to effectively reach out to at-risk youth and youth of all ethnicities and cultures. In 2009, Scoutreach served 6,659 youth; a 2.3% increase.

Juvenile Diversion: This program targets first-time non-violent youth offenders. In 2009, 1,014 youth were referred by its program partners (20 police departments) – a 30% increase. The referral and program completion spans calendar years but, in 2009, 631 young people participated in groups with 562 completing the program. 80% of those who complete the program do not commit another offense up to two years after the program.

Learning for Life Division: A subsidiary division of the Boy Scouts of America, Learning for Life was created in the 1990's to meet the critical values and school-to-career needs of our nation's schools and communities. In 2009, classroom programs were nearly eliminated due to budget pressures. Learning for Life is delivered through three distinct programs:

- **Exploring:** A work site-based program that provides young men and women, ages 14-20, with semi-monthly, hands-on educational opportunities to learn about career options from adult mentors who are professionals in the student's career area of interest. In 2009, 3,926 young men and women were served through 149 posts sponsored by community partners.
- **Polaris:** This program brings both traditional Scouting and Learning for Life programs to physically and developmentally challenged boys, girls, and adults with cognitive challenges. In 2009, 3,323 individuals were served through 117 Learning for Life units sponsored by educational and community partners.
- **Classroom Learning for Life:** A classroom-based, action learning program designed to support schools in their efforts to help students of all ages formulate positive personal values and develop social and life skills. In 2009, over 19,900 boys and girls (grades K-12) were served through 124 educational partners.

Northern Star Council achieved highest marks on the "Scouting Report Card" among Metro Councils across the Nation, four of the past five years!

Other Selected Achievements

- 781 young men, a council all time record, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders capital campaign reached \$24 million; 96% of our \$25 million goal, and ended the year with a balanced budget, in a tough economy.
- Completed the \$4 million purchase of the hippodrome at Fort Snelling and have renovation is now underway.
- Awarded \$233,000 in scholarships, camperships and membership support
- 10,203 Boy Scouts camped for a week at Many Point Scout Camp, Tomahawk Scout Reservation, and Camp Stearns during the summer. 4,477 Cubs and Webelos attended Akela, Kiwanis, Stearns, and Navajo camps, spending at least two nights. 27% of our Cub Scouts and 92% of our Boy Scouts had a camp experience.
- 12 of 25 Districts and Divisions earned the Quality Centennial District Award or the Distinguished Learning for Life Award.
- The council received the National Good Turn for America Award for the number of council units reporting 612,544 hours of service to the community.
- 297 Boy Scouts completed Grey Wolf, the council's week-long National Youth Leadership Training course at Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp.
- Continued the Scouting Good for Life campaign, designed by GdB and aired TV commercials on KARE-11, reaching over 10.8 million viewer impressions.
- Our national BSA pilot – Lion Cubs – Scouting for kindergarten boys grew by 50%.
- Returned over \$2 million to Scouting (\$1 million to units) through the council popcorn sale.
- Started 28 new after-school Scouting units at Minneapolis schools.
- Started the first Hispanic volunteer-run Venture Crew in the council, with 40 youth attending Many Point.
- In the entire 80 council Central region, our El Sol District, with an emphasis on growing Scouting in the Latino community, was recognized as having the largest percentage growth in youth served (29%); and Zulu, with an emphasis on growing Scouting in the African American community, was recognized as having the 14th largest percentage growth (12%).
- Six of the six Scoutreach Districts achieved Quality District status, achieved 2.3% growth, and earned the Central Region Scoutreach Award.
- 3,417 Webelos and their parents attended a bi-annual super event known as Webelos Experience at Stearns Scout Camp.
- The Berglund Welcome Center capital campaign project was completed, adding a new welcome and history center at Tomahawk Scout Reservation, and two new shower houses were constructed at Many Point Scout Camp – nearly \$2 million in total.
- Joint announcement of local Scout Anthony Thomas as the BSA's 2 millionth Eagle Scout/Groundbreaking at Base Camp.