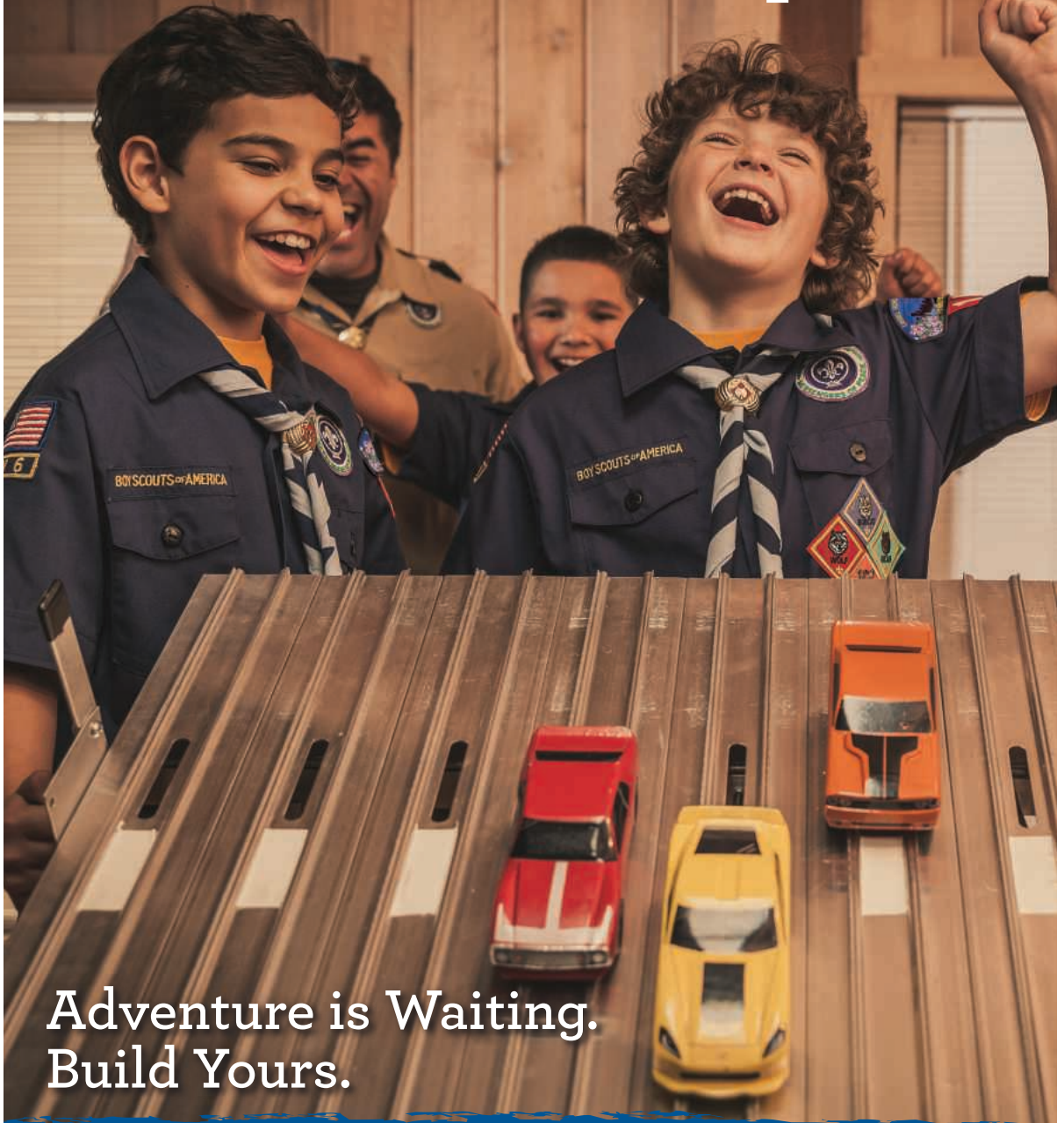




BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
LAUREL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

2017 Annual Report



Adventure is Waiting.
Build Yours.



Prepared. For Life.®

Greetings From Our Council Leadership

DEAR FRIENDS OF SCOUTING,

As we close another year of Scouting in the Laurel Highlands Council, we want to thank you for your service to youth and our communities. It is our mission to build character in young people by preparing them to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Laurel Highlands Council, serves nearly 17,000 youth members with over 5,000 adult volunteer leaders throughout its multi-state footprint in Central and Western Pennsylvania, Western Maryland, and parts of West Virginia.

While this annual report highlights our accomplishments for 2017, they simply would not have been possible without your time, talent, and treasure. We are so grateful to be in partnership with you, as together we build our leaders of tomorrow.

As you move through this report, we are excited to introduce just a few of our Scouts and share some successes that you helped make possible.

Yours in Scouting,



Erich Smith
Council President



Don Scandrol
Council Commissioner



Sharon Moulds
Scout Executive/CEO



Scouting at a Glance

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America, Laurel Highlands Council, is to prepare young people of Western Pennsylvania, Western Maryland, and parts of West Virginia to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

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 awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW

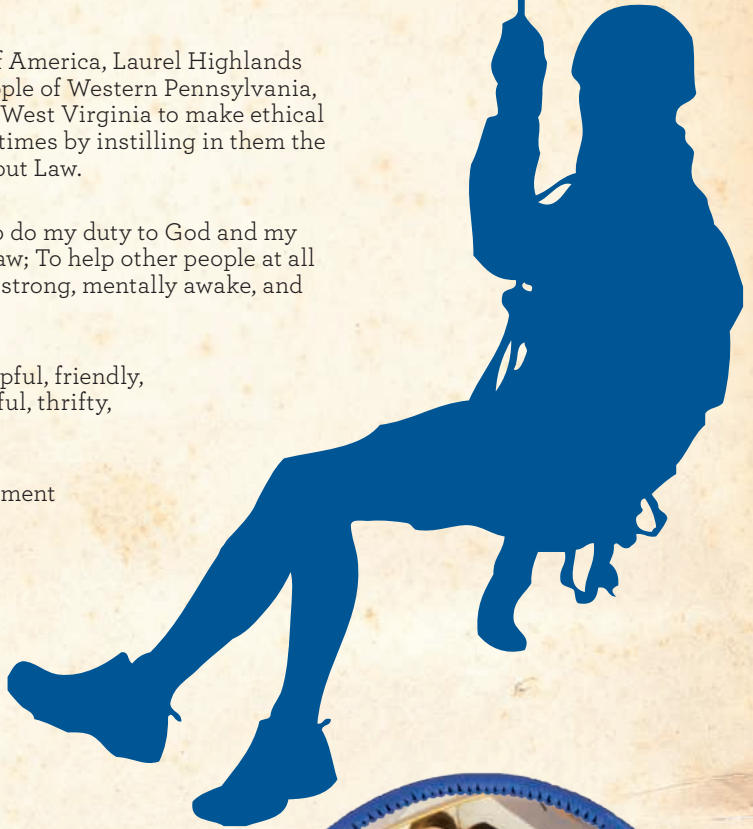
A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

VISION STATEMENT

To be the premier youth development program in our communities by engaging young people to improve the world by inspiring leadership, character, and purpose.

A CULTURE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The Laurel Highlands Council, Boy Scouts of America, fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion that makes it enriching to participate, volunteer and work in the Scouting program. We invite all people to get involved in Scouting, mindful of the importance of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, socio-economic status, religion, physical ability and political belief. We create a positive and welcoming environment for all, valuing backgrounds and experiences that will grow and strengthen our movement and continue to make us a valued contributor to the communities we serve.



Program and Highlights



CUB SCOUTING

A year-round, family-oriented program designed for boys who are in kindergarten through fifth grades. Adult partners work together with their Scout to experience exciting adventures all while promoting character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

Serving 9,819 Cub Scouts in 263 packs with 2,022 volunteers.



BOY SCOUTING

A year-round program for boys ages 11 through 18. Boy Scouts can achieve Scouting's aim through methods that include the ideals of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, outdoor adventures, advancement, personal growth, leadership development, and the uniform.

Serving 5,181 Boy Scouts in 244 troops with 3,193 volunteers.



SCOUTREACH

First introduced in 1995, Scoutreach is the Council's outreach efforts for our area's most disadvantaged youth in underserved neighborhoods and communities. Program aides deliver traditional Scouting programs in school and after school at partner organizations that have limited access to values-based character and educational programming.



VENTURING

A program for young men and women, ages 14 through 20, that prepares young people to be responsible and caring adults by learning to plan and execute projects and make decisions.

Serving 926 Venturers in 49 crews with 40 volunteers.



EXPLORING

A program that offers young men and women, ages 14 to 21, real-world, hands-on career experiences.

Serving 345 youth in 10 posts with 40 volunteers.



TRAILBLAZER

Our innovative program for special needs youth and adults who receive a unique experience through Scouting – the chance to do their best and have fun while taking part in activities along with other Scouts. Scouting provides guidelines for advancement for those with special needs and is flexible, so that they can develop their skill sets to the best of their abilities.



HOOKED ON SCOUTING!

This year, the council hosted multiple fishing derbies for all new Cub Scouts and their families as part of the "Hooked on Scouting" campaign. This gave new Scouts the opportunity to learn more about fishing and to use their new fishing poles. Melissa Draganosky, Pack 111 in the Lackawanna District, is a certified BSA Angler Instructor and took the lead at the North Park Fishing Derby. Melissa created six stations which included a back-yard bass station, fish identification, how to set up your rod, lake and water safety, know your fishing knots, and lastly, a fishing station. The North Park Derby was a huge success, hosting over 200 Scouts plus their adult leader or partner.



Advancement Highlights

The advancement program is one of the methods used in Scouting to give youth the opportunity to grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others. Scouts achieved a total of 9,067 rank advancements in 2017.

BOY SCOUT RANK ADVANCEMENT:

519 Tenderfoot | 406 Second Class | 316 First Class | 337 Star | 407 Life | 389 Eagle

CUB SCOUT RANK ADVANCEMENT:

975 Tiger | 1,942 Bobcat | 1,045 Wolf | 1,021 Bear | 973 Webelos | 737 Arrow of Light

MERIT BADGES EARNED:

15,477 merit badges were earned and the top five merit badges earned were First Aid, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Swimming, and Rifle Shooting.



NATIONAL OUTDOOR AWARD

Devoting six years to earning one prestigious award is no small feat for any Scout. However Jack Geissler made it his mission to earn the National Outdoor Award during his Boy Scout career. Jack, a member of the Seneca District, earned the National Outdoor Award which encompasses camping, aquatics, conservation, hiking, riding, and adventure - all with rigorous requirements.

Any Scout who earns this award has demonstrated their knowledge, comprehension, and attention to detail in all six areas. Along with the award, Jack also earned the National Medal for Outdoor Achievement. This is the second portion of the award and is the highest recognition that a Scout can earn. Jack earned the Silver device in four areas - camping, aquatics, hiking, and riding.

The Laurel Highlands Council presented Jack his award and medal at the 2017 National Jamboree held at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Glen Jean, West Virginia.



Camping and Outdoor Adventure Highlights

Youth join Scouting for the adventure of going to camp and the many exciting opportunities they will experience in the great outdoors. Organized camping is a creative, educational experience that uses the natural surroundings to contribute significantly to physical, mental, spiritual, and social growth.

HERITAGE RESERVATION RIFLE RANGE MAKES THE MARK

“A rifle, like any other precision instrument, is manufactured to perform a specific task and can do so at no risk to the user or others. By earning this badge, Scouts can develop their shooting skills while learning safe practices,” Merit Badge Requirements, Rifle Shooting.

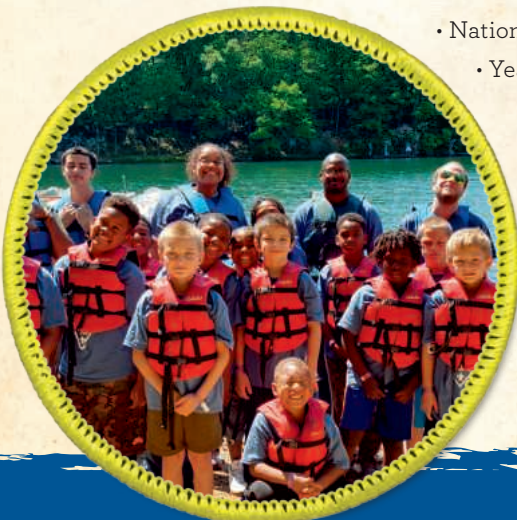
The new shooting sports complex at Heritage Reservation was the highlight of Summer Camp for a majority of Scouts. The complex was designed with flexibility and safety in mind and is set up to allow for eight Scouts to shoot in a group during their merit badge classes.

The roof of the range is constructed of not only plywood, but also sheets of metal in between for safety, as well as security gates that all non-shooters must stand behind until their turn arrives. This beautiful new facility provides the safest and most up-to-date shooting experience for all our Scouts. Shooting Sports Director, Dorian Seibel, raved about the quality of work that went into building this new complex. “The new range gave all of the Scouts, no matter the shooting ability, an equal opportunity to learn about and experience shooting a firearm. They loved the flexibility of the range and all of the different firearms they could shoot.” To earn the Rifle Shooting merit badge, Scouts had to complete 13 steps from the merit badge handbook, from identifying three main parts of a rifle to adjusting the sights to center the group on the target and fire five groups. Scouts will be able to enjoy this shooting sports complex for many years to come, thanks to the generous volunteers and donors, especially, Carl “Buck” Belt. Mr. Belt is an executive board member and owner of Buck Belt Companies who generously contributed his time, talent, and treasure to Scouting and the brand-new shooting sports complex.



CAMPING BY THE NUMBERS

- Community Day Camp - 1,403
- Guyasuta STEM Day Camp - 669
- Cub Scout Resident Camp - 359
- Webelos Resident Camp - 484
- Cub Scout Family Camps - 432
- Boy Scout Resident Camp (Heritage Reservation and Camp Seph Mack) - 3,189
- Eagle Base High Adventure - 72
- National Youth Leadership Training - 119
- National High Adventure - 148
- National Scout Jamboree - 316
- Year Round Camper Days - 110,843



Major Contributors

\$250,000 AND ABOVE

Richard King Mellon Foundation
United Way of Southwest, PA
Weaver Popcorn

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

The Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust
William and Linda Rosner

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

UPMC Health Plan

\$40,000 AND ABOVE

The Pittsburgh Foundation

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\$5,000 AND ABOVE

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*A full list of donors can be found on lhcscouting.org/supporters
Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. To correct any oversights or omissions, please contact Daniel Sullivan at daniel.sullivan@scouting.org or (412) 325-7910.*

Council Financial Statement

SUPPORT & REVENUE

	2017	2016
Friends of Scouting (net)	\$666,947	\$650,720
Project Sales	\$194,913	\$77,723
Special Events (net)	\$414,480	\$475,903
Legacies & Bequests	\$15,849	\$23,154
Foundations & Trusts	\$555,512	\$555,734
Other Direct Contributions	\$75,734	\$36,495
Total Direct Support	\$1,923,435	\$1,819,729
United Way	\$396,896	\$475,060
Indirect Support	\$396,896	\$475,060
Sale of Scouting Supplies	\$58,928	\$39,789
Product Sales (net)	\$534,149	\$689,809
Total Investment Income	\$550,168	\$544,694
Camping Revenue	\$2,385,416	\$2,399,647
Activity Revenue	\$686,604	\$245,892
Other Revenue	\$257,469	\$191,478
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$6,793,066	\$6,406,098

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$5,984,848	\$5,580,241
Management & General	\$201,736	\$188,098
Fundraising	\$537,964	\$501,594
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 6,724,548	\$ 6,269,934

SURPLUS (DEFICIT) UNRESTRICTED

NET REVENUE/EXPENSES **\$ 68,518** **\$ 136,164**

*These financial statements are presented as unaudited. For a copy of the council's audited financial statements, please contact Daniel Sullivan at daniel.sullivan@scouting.org.



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+Denotes Eagle Scout

The Laurel Highlands Council goes to the National Jamboree

This year, thousands of Scouts headed to West Virginia to attend the 2017 National Jamboree! The Laurel Highlands Council contingent sent eight units comprised of almost 350 Scouts. The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve is nestled between the picturesque Blue Ridge and the Shenandoah Valley. The 10,000 plus acres of land was the perfect place for our Laurel Highlands Council Scouts to make Scouting memories they'll never forget. For ten days, our local Scouts and Scouts from all over the country gathered for fun, friendship, and adventure.

Patch trading was an obvious goal for so many Scouts heading to Jamboree. "It's amazing to see how patch trading can bring shy Scouts out of their shell when they have to interact with other Scouts," Dr. Dan Zimmer, from the Seneca District, stated. Dr. Dan was one of the many willing adult volunteers to aid the Laurel Highlands Council contingent this summer. Dr. Dan expressed how he couldn't believe that patch trading allowed even the shyest Scouts a chance to be confident and outgoing. "Whenever you ask a Scout what has been their most memorable Scouting experience, inevitably, it is the Jamboree."

Among the patch trading, the Jamboree offered traditional activities that the LHC contingent enjoyed, including: scuba diving, BMX biking, ziplining on the "Big Zip," and shooting. Andrew, from Troop 496 in Scoutreach stated "Going to jamboree wasn't just fun, it also helped me to grow personally. The practice of being thrust into a group of people I don't really know helped me realize that all Scouts were here together for the same thing, we should work together to help each other achieve our goals."

The National Jamboree gave our Laurel Highlands Council Scouts a once in a life time opportunity to work toward merit badges and community service hours all while learning practical skills, building confidence, and creating new friendships.



Family Scouting

Finding a mother involved in Scouting now is more prominent than one might think. Melissa Draganosky of Pack and Troop 111 in the Lackawanna District knows it is important to be involved in the program, not only for her son but the whole family. Melissa became involved in Scouting when she was a young girl. Knowing the importance of Scouting and following in her father's footsteps, she signed up her son, AJ for Scouts as a Wolf. Melissa believes "if everyone would follow the Scout Oath and Law they would be a better person. I have a copy of the Scout Law on my bulletin board behind my desk at the school to remind me to follow the Law on a daily basis."

As a mom in Scouting, Melissa enjoys the outdoors and she thinks "more mothers need to experience the outdoors" just like she has. She always welcomes new moms into the unit with open arms and guides them into the Scouting program. "I have had other moms who have never camped before come camping with our unit and say they had a great time. It's nice having some other mothers to be a tent partner with now!"

Being a mom in Scouting is not always an easy task to juggle with a busy life, but Melissa knows the importance of family Scouting and is thrilled to be involved.





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

LAUREL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL

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1275 Bedford Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-471-2927

Johnstown Galleria Scout Shop

500 Galleria Drive, Unit 180
Johnstown, PA 15904
814-471-1090

Cumberland Service Center

14416 McMullen Hwy SW
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-729-1300

www.lhscouting.org



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