**Cub Scouts**
First – fifth grade boys. Emphasis on social skills and family relationships.

**Boy Scouts**
Sixth – twelfth grade boys. Outdoor activities with emphasis on character, citizenship and leadership training.

**Venturing**
Boys and girls 14 – 20 years. High adventure activities and advanced leadership training.

**Exploring**

**Learning for Life**
Boys and girls K – 12th grade. In-school character values education with work-to-school emphasis.

**FRIENDS OF SCOUTING™ CAMPAIGN**
SCOUTING
A Program of Merit

**We Need Your Support!**
The success of Scouting depends on those who support it. That includes the work of adult volunteers, the encouragement of parents and the financial assistance of Friends of Scouting. With your generous gift, we can help reach more youth and impact lives.

**SCOUTING FOSTERS SCHOOL SUCCESS**
- **Cooking** = Planning & Self-Sufficiency
- **Orienteering** = Accuracy & Confidence
- **Hiking/Camping** = Foresight & Self-reliance
- **Flag Ceremonies** = Self-Discipline & Respect
- **Patrols & Dens** = Teamwork & Leadership
- **Fire Building** = Using Resources & Perseverance
- **Pioneering/Tying Knots** = Develops Conceptuality Skills
- **Merit Badges** = Reading-Writing-Education
- **Ranks** = Goal Setting & Organization

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNCIL**
Boy Scouts of America

**Prepared. For Life.**

**Life is a series of tests.**
Shooting the rapids, rappelling a cliff, writing a resume. Each one can be viewed as a setback, or a chance to shine! Working together as a team, Scouts welcome the opportunity to pass such trials. They see it as a series of successes that build upon one another. Every person has a role to play. No one person is more important than another. No challenge is achievable without cooperation. These are the experiences that can be had in Scouting. These are life lessons just waiting to be taught.

**B. R. A. V. E.**
Scouts are B.R.A.V.E. – they **Believe** in themselves, **Reach** for the stars, **Aim** for high goals, **Venture** out from the crowd, and **Expect** success.

Through organized, age-appropriate activities, Scouting provides skill-development opportunities for your child that might not otherwise find at home, school or through other extra-curricular programs, including leadership, team building and conflict resolution. Scouting provides fun experiences along with life lessons that help young people discover the confidence, dedication and passion needed to lead a successful life.
Scouting Builds Values

The 12 points that make up The Scout Law read like every parent’s wish list for their children. Along with the motto of “Be Prepared,” and The Scout Slogan “Do a Good Turn Daily,” Scouting sets the expectation of cooperation, respect and goodwill — all success factors in helping build lifelong personal and family values by reinforcing ethical standards.

A study* indicated 83% of men who were Scouts agreed that the values they learned in Scouting continue to be very important to them today.

*A Harris Interactive Study

This study also indicated that boys with at least five years of Scouting are more likely than boys who have never been Scouts to:

- Learn the value of teamwork
- Discover what’s it’s like to work with others
- Assume leadership roles
- Have higher self-esteem
- Resist negative peer pressure
- Consider the needs of others first
- Graduate from college
- Earn higher annual household incomes
- Highly value relationships
- Enjoy strong lasting friendships

QUALITY CAMPING FACILITIES

Our “Outdoor Classrooms”

The Southwest Florida Council operates 2 camp properties to support our youth, parents and leaders. Our Scout camps are the heart and soul of our camping program. Without quality camping facilities it would not be possible to deliver the mission of the B.S.A.

Camp Flying Eagle, located in Bradenton, FL, on the Manatee River, consists of 185 acres, is a unique outdoor wonder providing a memorable camping experience for Scouts on a year-round basis.

Camp Miles, located on the Price-Sanders Scout Reservation, in Punta Gorda, FL, consists of 1,200 acres of natural beauty in a diverse preserve setting.

Scouts can utilize each camp for week-end unit camping at no or minimal cost due to F.O.S. and other revenue support like the popcorn sale.

The SWFL Council significantly subsidizes its camp facility operations each year above and beyond participant activity income fees charged for special week-end events so that all youth/units can afford and have access to quality facilities most of who otherwise could not afford if costs were passed on to our Scouts, leaders and units.

Special program areas include a swimming pool, rifle/shotgun/archery ranges, climbing wall, rappelling tower, ropes course, canoes, sailboats, dining hall, campsites, shelters and extensive program equipment.

“A Scout Is Thrifty”

The Southwest Florida Council is comprised of seven counties within its borders serving annually over 21,000 youth and 2,775 volunteers. The annual operating budget and finance needs are determined and managed by a volunteer finance committee and executive board composed of top business and community leaders. Strong financial stewardship and accountability of Scouting dollars is of the utmost importance to insure your dollars are utilized to the fullest to provide a quality Scouting program. The Friends of Scouting program enables every boy an equal opportunity to afford and participate in a quality Scouting program. The finances of the Southwest Florida Council are reviewed by an independent outside auditor on an annual basis.

IT WOULD COST:

- $225 per year for a boy to participate in Scouting in the SW Florida Council. (current cost - $24 National B.S.A. fee)
- $575 per year per unit if they had to pay for Service Center and Scout Shop youth/parent, unit and leader support services provided. (current cost - $0.00)
- $275-$750 per year for a Boy Scout troop with 25 members to purchase merit badge and rank advancements. (current cost - $0.00 for “Do Your Best” units)
- $500-$1,000 + for a Cub Pack to camp at Camp Flying Eagle or Miles for a weekend based on a usage fee of $6-$10 per person which most councils charge. (current cost - $0.00 for “Honor Units”)
- Without the leadership of a full-time Scout professional to recruit, organize and support volunteers, a district would lose 50% of its youth members and adult volunteers within 18 months.

IT COSTS:

- $1,325+ per month to operate the pools.
- $3,130 per month in electricity to operate Camp Miles.
- $250 to recognize ten boys with the Eagle Scout Recognition Award kits.
- $33,000+ per year for youth/adult recognitions / training and special assistance.
- $1,715 per year to provide an at-risk school the Learning for Life program.

It takes over $1,989,000 annually to make Scouting happen in the Southwest Florida Council, B.S.A.