

Scouting America
Prepared. For Life.®



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS
CHARITIES



Scouting America
Southwest Florida Council
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Scouting America

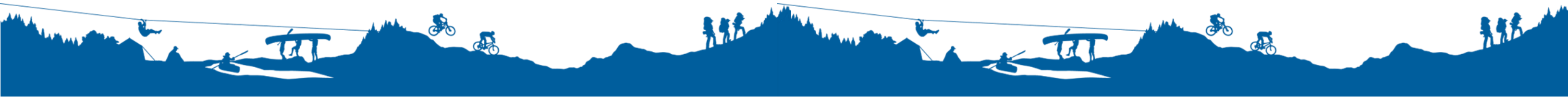
Southwest Florida Council

2025

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



**SERVING: MANATEE, SARASOTA, DESOTO, CHARLOTTE,
LEE, HENDRY, AND COLLIER COUNTIES**



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Scouting Friends,

It was an honor to serve as Council President for 2025, in which Southwest Florida Council exceeded many goals for program delivery and fiscal management. **Our real success is revealed through the “Scouting Experience”** our Scout Leaders provide thousands of young people throughout Southwest Florida. Instilling life skills, values, and leadership qualities in today’s young people continues to be our primary focus. Southwest Florida Council’s numerous volunteers, supporters, and donors believe in this focus and, through their help, have allowed us to enhance programs and facilities our Scouts and their families enjoy.

This brief report contains highlights of the past year. On behalf of our Scouts, thank you for your support, time, talents, and genuine treasure in making a difference in the lives of our young people.

Kevin Shimp
Council President



COUNCIL OFFICERS

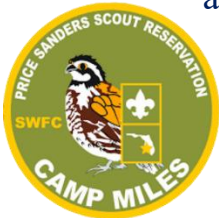
Kevin Shimp	President
Josephine Gagliardi	Past-President
Shawn Airey	Council Commissioner
Tyrone Shinn	Vice President, Finance & Fund Development
David Dignam	Vice President, Council Relations & Marketing
John Tobler	Vice President, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Gary Hoyt	Vice President, Strategic Planning
Blair McVety	Vice President, Physical Resources
Bill Coen	Vice President, Council Performance
Luis Rivera	Vice President, Membership
Douglas Adams	Vice President, Program
Jim Pilon	Council Attorney

COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Price-Sanders Scout Reservation

Price-Sanders Scout Reservation, a 1280-acre section of Cecil Webb Wildlife Management Area, includes two facilities: Camp Miles (for Scouts BSA, Venturing & Explorers) and Cub Family Camp (for Cub Scouts and their families).

The buildings on the Reservation (PSSR) include: a central dining hall, individual troop campsites, a health lodge, a trading post, archery, rifle and shotgun ranges, a chapel by the lake, an ecology lodge, a central shower facility, a training lodge, a swimming pool, and a boating island for aquatics.



Camp Flying Eagle

Camp Flying Eagle located in Bradenton, Florida on Upper Manatee River Rd, consists of 185 acres and is a unique outdoor wonder surrounded by mossy oaks and large hardwoods providing a memorable camping experience.

Camp Flying Eagle is adjacent to Rye Preserve Park. The Manatee River provides a backdrop for the Amphitheater and Dining Hall and provides many water activities.



Council Office and Conference Center

The Council headquarters in Fort Myers features administrative offices, three conference rooms, a kitchenette and a nationally operated Scout Shop. The Council Conference Center offers over 2000 sq ft of meeting space with partitions to create four break-out areas.



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNCIL AND PROGRAMS

Studies Reveal Scouting's Enduring Value.

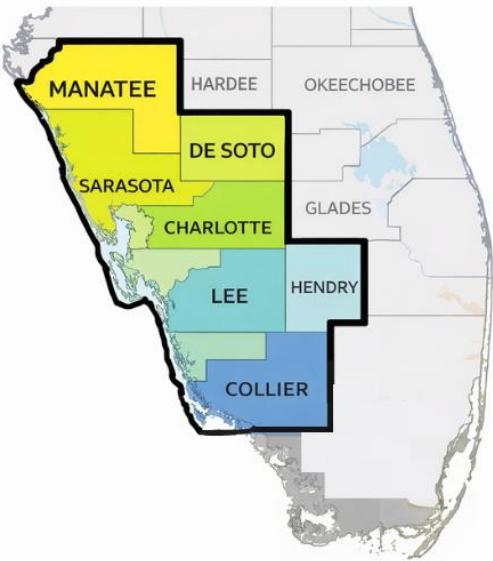
Studies by Harris Interactive and Tufts University reinforce what Scouting America has been teaching since 1910. Youth who were Scouts for four or more years are:

- Better able to care for the environment (89%)
- Better able to get along with others (88%)
- Always ready to give their best effort (87%)
- Confident in themselves (87%)
- Goal oriented (87%)
- Better able to care for other people (86%)
- Respectful of others (86%)



Like councils across the nation, the story of Southwest Florida Council is colorful, filled with rich stories, and flavored with incredible people.

The Southwest Florida Council, originally called the Royal Palm Council, was founded in 1926 in Fort Myers, Florida. At that time, it covered the territories of Lee, Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades and Hendry counties.



At this early time there were approximately 191 Boy Scouts and at least 6 Boy Scout troops. Its first summer camp was held at Breezy Point in Highlands County, near the village of Lake Placid. The area was later known as Camp Ropaco.

Since then, there have been many changes, thousands of youths, and a long line of red-jacketed leaders. Throughout we have remained faithful to the ideas and ideals that began it all – a dedication to youth, community, and a better future – tied together with an oath of 40 simple words along with a set of life directing laws that number just twelve.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

When you're a kid, fun comes first. Final exams, driver's education and summer jobs will arrive soon enough. Scouting lets kids have fun while teaching them skills that will help them later. From the thrill of shooting an arrow to learning how to transform a block of wood into a race car, Scouts learn the value of hard work, and experience the thrill of seeing it pay off. With a myriad of exciting adventures, Scouting gives kids the experience they need to become productive adults.



Cub Scout Membership: 1,627



Scouts BSA Membership: 1,067



Venturing Membership: 48



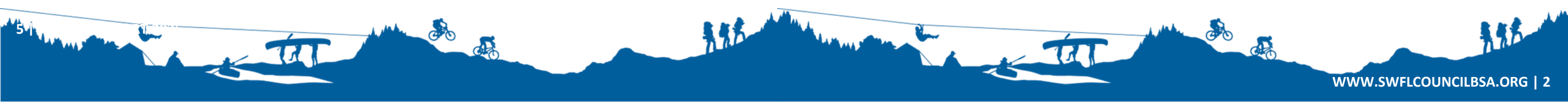
Membership: 176



Membership: 13,155

2025 Council Membership Highlights

- 32,228 Hours of Service to the Community
 - 92 Eagle Scouts
 - 30 Female Eagle Scouts since 2021



COUNCIL PROGRAMS

Scouting America is the nation's largest values-based, youth development organization. Scouting America provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating in citizenship, develops personal fitness and leadership.

For over a century, Scouting America has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. Scouting America believes — and, through over a century of experience, knows — that helping youth is the key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

- Over 700 Southwest Florida Scouts experienced a high-quality long-term camp program in 2025. Council-sponsored events brought thousands of Scouts, adult leaders, and family members to our two Council properties for weekend-long camping experiences.
- In 2025, our Scouts and volunteers dedicated an incredible 32,228 hours of service to the community. Based on the national estimated value of volunteer time (\$34.79 per hour), that’s a contribution worth more than **\$1.12 million!** These hours represent more than just time—they reflect a commitment to making Southwest Florida stronger, cleaner, and more connected.

TOP 4 Merit Badges Earned



Citizenship in the Nation



Swimming



First Aid

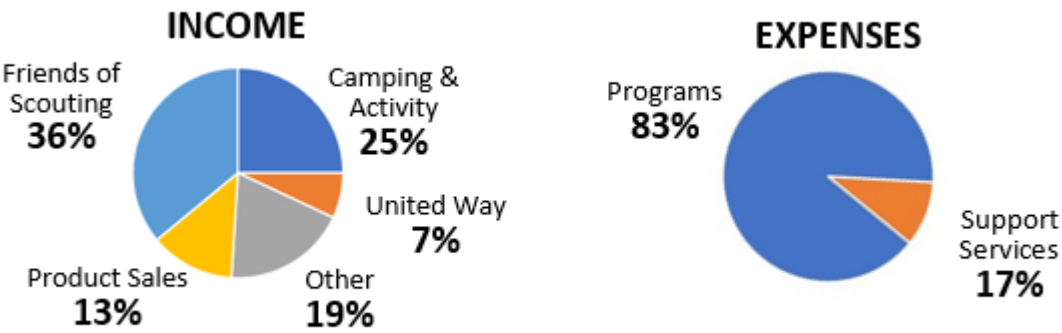


Photography

3689 total Merit Badges and 3,000+ Rank Advancements Earned

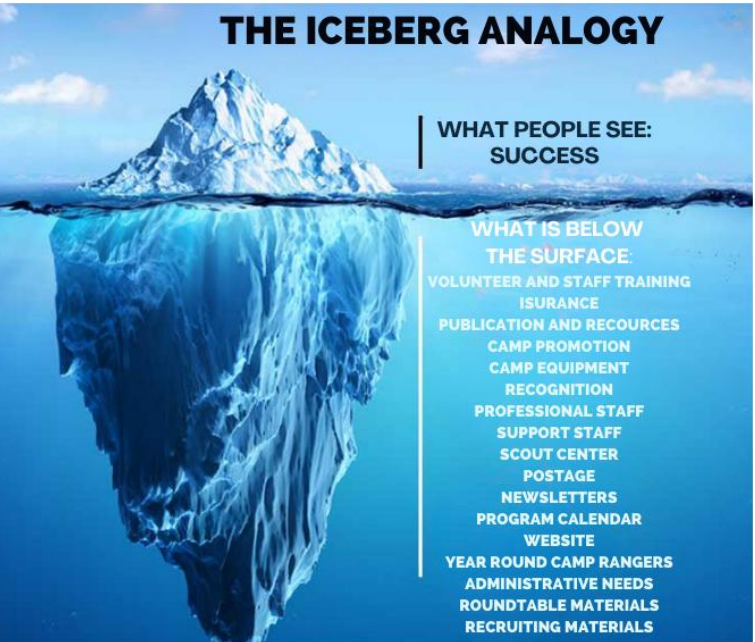
COUNCIL FINANCE

It costs \$1.8 million to make Scouting happen in our Council. The budget is our program expressed in dollars. That’s why we need the generous and loyal support from our Friends of Scouting.



FOS, or Friends of Scouting, is the council-level annual giving campaign. In most councils, Friends of Scouting represents the council’s largest source of income.

The Friends of Scouting campaign typically begins in November and ends in March. During the campaign, a volunteer visits pack meetings or troop courts of honor to explain the campaign and make an appeal for support. The tax-deductible pledges help the volunteers’ local council.



But where does that money go?

Many councils answer by using “The Iceberg Analogy.” The idea here is that Scouts and volunteers see only 20 percent of what councils provide to members. There’s a whole lot more beneath the surface. Councils provide volunteer and staff training, insurance coverage, support staff, camps, equipment, recognition for leaders, administrative needs, AV supplies, a council website, scholarships, and so much more.