A Lifetime of Service to Others

One factor in how the Scouting program builds leadership and character is by “helping other people at their time of need.”

- 208 service projects were conducted including food collection and distribution, shelter projects, healthy living projects, and other projects in addition to Eagle Scout projects.
- 63 units conducted at least one service project.
- 1,925 youth and adults participated in at least one project and many participated in multiple projects.
- 256 service projects were conducted including: food collection and distribution, shelter projects, and other projects in addition to Eagle Scout projects.

Cub Scout Camping — Operated four day camp sessions for 2016 youth. Camps included in General Knox, East Longmeadow, Pittsfield, and Franklin. 103 Scouts attended Wasaugusett Woods Weekend and 41 boys attended Cub Scout resident camp.

Boy Scout Camping — 388 Boy Scouts attended a long-term summer camping experience at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation, an increase from 2015.

National Youth Leader Training — There were 48 Scouts who participated in a week-long intensive training course that focuses on character development and leadership skills on the unit, troop, district, and council levels. The course motivates them to double the number of seven. Additional older youth earned their leadership badges while serving on staff for this course.

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Outstanding Achievements in Character Development Include:

- 91 young men achieved the rank of Eagle Scout (15 more than in 2015). Eagle Scouts collectively provided more than 11,724 hours of community service to local organizations. More than 6,395 hours of additional community service were reported by all members of the Western Massachusetts Council.
- Scouts explored possible career interests while earning 2,815 merit badges. Travis earned 96 badges in his form of recognition items as a result of his program sales efforts.
- The top ten merit badges earned are: Swimming (121), Kayaking (99), Personal Management (96), Archery (95), Cooking (80), Environmental Science (80), First Aid (79), Family Life (77), and Citizenship in the World (76).
- 6,395 hours of additional community service were reported by all members of the Western Massachusetts Council. 91 young men achieved the rank of Eagle Scout (15 more than in 2015). Eagle Scouts collectively provided more than 11,724 hours of community service to local organizations. More than 6,395 hours of additional community service were reported by all members of the Western Massachusetts Council.
- 62.5% of the Council’s Cub Scout Advancement, 53.48% of the Boy Scout Advancement and 82% of the Community Service with more than 100,000 hours of service were reported by all members of the Western Massachusetts Council.
- Western Massachusetts Council served Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties.
- The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to help young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. 

Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to help young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scout Law

A Scout is: Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind

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.

2017 Investors’ Report

Western Massachusetts Council serves Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties.

www.wmascouting.org

Message from the Council President

2016 was a successful year for the Western Massachusetts Council, while not without challenges which tempered our success. Here are the highlights:

Financially, we closed our 4th consecutive year in the black; however, our surplus was only about $6,000. Previous years had enjoyed large one-time gifts from donors, and this year did not have any unusual revenue.

Program continued to be very strong. Our LTE evaluation proves that once we have Scouts in our program, we retain them; they advance in their ranks, and participate well. Our summer camp membership was not as strong as we had hoped, and we were not sure that camp promotions in a sleepy year for 2017.

Commissioning work advanced under the leadership of Sam Everett, and our retention numbers were up as well. This is considered another leading indicator of council strength, which also speaks to retention of units. Our biggest loss in membership is due to unit control, and the commission offers direct unit leaders getting into trouble.

Membership continues to be our challenge. Cheryl used brought in several new national recruiting programs that provided some traction and we added new Scouts, however we lost several units which created a net loss in membership this year. In addition, we have found some units “dropping” and no longer interested in sponsoring new units was not as strong as necessary.

Development Fundraising achieved our goals last year, however we utilized a few tactics such as bringing a major sponsor for our Candy Cards program, which had helped sales of that product. We added another new fundraising event, which was quite successful, and increased our revenue from most of our other fundraising activities. For the long-term, we need to increase our fundraising by about $100,000 per year; in order to properly grow our program.

Yours in Scouting,