



Membership

- The Three Fires Council served 14,684 families in 2016, representing over 556 additional families over 2015, 3.9% growth.
- 5,947 volunteers played a significant role in designing and delivering the Scouting program across the western suburbs of the Chicagoland area.
- The Council successfully coordinated the multi-Council "Blast into Scouting" membership drive resulting in 1,752 new Cub Scouts and families joining Scouting programs...+331 over 2015, +23.7%.
- Introduced Lions Program for kindergarten aged boys to 464 families.
- Nationally the council ranked in the top quartile for overall Fall recruitment growth in 2016.
- The quality of the Scouting program in the Three Fires Council made a positive impact in the communities across the Council territory. As a result of quality, energized, exciting, and family-oriented programs, the council had a youth retention rate of over 83%.
- Our co-educational Exploring program increased 8.3% in youth compared to last year. This career-based program for young men and women has a strong and traditional following within the Council territory, especially in the fields of law enforcement, fire and safety, and healthcare.



Administration/Governance

- Achieved/took action on 18 initiatives of the Strategic Plan for 2016.
- Through the technology committee, all computer hardware at the Norris Service Center and Council camp properties was upgraded including 12 Microsoft Surface Pros to our field executives.
- Council Bylaw committee submitted and approved revised Council Bylaws in accordance with the new National Bylaws.
- Conducted a professionally facilitated two-day Executive Board retreat.
- Conducted a series of Board Member Orientations for all new Executive Board members.
- 8 Districts improved Journey to Excellence rating. Average score increased 280 points, 15%.
- Achieved the National GOLD status for the Journey to Excellence program recognizing the Council's level of achievements in Membership, Finance, Program and Unit Service. An achievement of 2,300 points or 18% increase in total points over 2015.
- Through the Council's nominating committee recruited 10 new members to the Executive Board.



We Prepare Youth For Life.™



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®
THREE FIRES
COUNCIL

2016
ANNUAL
REPORT



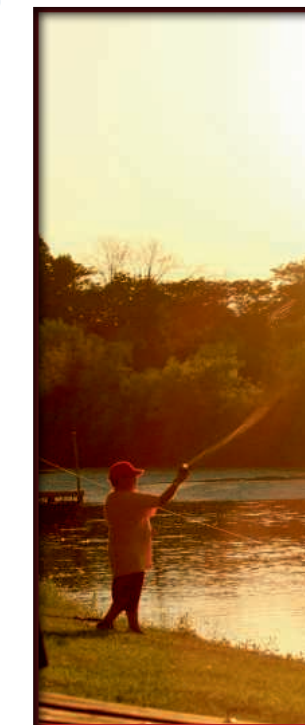
Dear Scouting Friends:

I have heard all throughout my life and within the organizations that I belong to, that the hardest thing to do is "Continue to build upon one's success year after year". In 2016 that is exactly what we all achieved in the Three Fires Council, SUCCESS! We are truly blessed and it has been a wonderful year of great accomplishments in the Three Fires Council! As we enter 2017, let's take a look back at 2016 at some of the great achievements and contributions Scouting has made in the communities throughout Chicagoland and the Western suburbs.

We are looking forward to an even better 2017. Our Scouts and Scouters will experience the 2017 National Scout Jamboree, great summer camp programs, and many opportunities to enjoy the great Scouting program first hand.

Thank you for your continued support of Scouting. We look forward to seeing you participate in this Adventure called "Scouting" in 2017. As our compass is always pointed NORTH!! We look forward to seeing you along the trail.

—Joe Wiltout, Scout Executive/CEO



Camping:

- 974 or 21% of Boy Scouts in the Three Fires Council participated in a summer camp program at Camp Freeland Leslie (an increase of 4% over previous year).
- 3,574 or 56.5% of Cub Scouts participated in a summer camping program.
- Awarded \$9,440 in campership assistance funding.
- All camps rated "Accredited" by the Central Region, Boy Scouts of America.
- Launched a first-of-its-kind All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) program at Camp Freeland Leslie for the 2016 season.
- New Activities at Camp Freeland Leslie include a Kangaroo jumping pillow, paint ball markers, field archery disk launcher, and a life-size chess board.
- Camp Freeland Leslie provided a week long encampment for 585 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Scouts and Leaders from Wisconsin.



Activities & Civic Service:

- 134,473 hours of community service were reported by units throughout the Three Fires Council for an average of 6.5 hours of reported service by youth and adult members totaling 20,605 participants.

Training:

- 723 youth and adults attended Training Academy.
- National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) - attendance of 86 participants.
- 94.2% of all adults are trained in youth protection.



Advancement & Recognition:

- 361 Eagle Scouts awarded.
- 6,990 Cub Scout advancements earned.
- 2,624 Boy Scout advancements earned.
- 52,778 hours of community service projects.
- Merit Badge University had over 1,400 Scouts enrolled from 12 Councils within 5 mid-west states, teaching 93 Merit Badge classes.
- 12,434 merit badges earned. (Top five badges were first aid, environmental science, swimming, fingerprinting, and citizenship in the world).
- Lowaneu Allanque Lodge achieved the National Gold Status for the Journey to Excellence Program recognizing the Lodge's achievements in Program and Service with 2,875 points. A 27% increase over 2015.



Physical Resources:

- Construction of the Lowaneu Allanque Archery Pavilion was completed in time for summer camp with 16 shooting lanes – doubling our capacity.
- Dedicated new Scout Shop in Naperville and achieved 20% growth in sales.
- Developed Program Master Plans for both Camp Big Timber and Camp Freeland Leslie.
- Barn and Baden Powell buildings deconstructed to clear way for future development.
- Wireless internet access upgrades to Trading Post, Dining Pavilion, Headquarters Building, and Staff Area at Camp Freeland Leslie and fiber optics at Camp Big Timber.
- Purchased 2 new 2016 Chevy HD 2500 pick-up trucks for camp rangers and a pre-owned Chevy HD 3500 dump truck.
- Secured funding for a new 60" zero-turn Grasshopper lawnmower for Camp Freeland Leslie.

Finance & Development

- Achieved a balanced operating budget with a surplus of approximately \$56,570 for Scouting programs.
- The Three Fires Council continued to be a leader in the area of Friends of Scouting growth and is consistently ranked among the top Central Region councils by raising \$652,877 through community and family giving.
- Conducted a successful 2016 Friends of Scouting Patron's breakfast in November raising \$129,784.
- Growth in the Endowment Fund of \$35,700.
- Successfully completed 6 special events in 2016.
- The annual Shooting Sports Classic, a unique Scouting fundraiser in The Three Fires Council highlighting shotgun disciplines to numerous corporate and community sponsors, increased the net proceeds for our program over 2015 by 25%.
- The Council popcorn sale raised \$2,506,850 in gross sales (an 8.2% increase over 2015). This makes the Three Fires Council the highest of all like-sized Councils.
- Over \$1,874,057 back to Scouting in the Three Fires Council.
- 8,240 Scouts participated in the Popcorn sale.
- \$98,000 worth of incentive and recognition prizes distributed to participating Scouts and units for their efforts.
- More than \$120,000 sold online popcorn sales through Trails-End.com. A \$45,000 increase over 2015.
- The Annual Camp Card sale raised \$39,000 to provide Scouts and Scouting units with the opportunity to raise funds for summer camp and other Scouting activities.
- Subscribed 11 individuals to Scouting's Second Century Society with gifts totaling \$962,000.

Funding Sources:

Friends of Scouting & Mail Campaign	18.5%	\$719,000
Project Sales	1.6%	\$63,000
Special Events	2.5%	\$98,000
Foundations & Investments	7.9%	\$308,000
United Way	0.2%	\$9,000
Store Sales	9.7%	\$377,000
Product Sales	29.9%	\$1,161,000
Camp Revenue	21.5%	\$834,000
Activities	7.3%	\$285,000
Other	0.8%	\$30,000
Total Funding Sources *	100.0%	\$3,884,000

Funding Expenses:

Program Support	85.0%	\$3,239,000
Administration	5.0%	\$190,000
Fundraising	10.0%	\$380,000
Total Funding Expenses	100.0%	\$3,809,000

* Funding Sources shown net of direct costs

Capital Endowment-Planned Giving

- Two successful Master Plans developed in concert with over 55 volunteers addressing the current and long term needs of our two camping properties. Successful completion of the Master Plans were the precursor's to the development of The Next Generation Capital Campaign.
- The Next Generation Capital Campaign was successfully launched with Executive Board Members raising \$977,350 to date. Additionally, \$278,000 was raised from a group of early adopters. Our total to date is \$1,225,350 (or 36%) towards a working goal of \$3,500,000.
- 10% of all Next Generation Capital Campaign pledge payments have been set aside to fund a maintenance endowment for the continued stewardship of all new and to be built facilities. Currently that figure stands at \$22,925.
- The council started an emphasis on Planned Giving conducting the first totally underwritten seminar/reception that has identified several planned gifts.
- Recognized 5 individuals as James E. West Fellows for gifts totaling \$5,000 to permanent endowment.



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