



Membership

- Three Fires Council serves 14,791 families in 2017. This marks three consecutive years of membership growth.
- 6011 volunteers played a significant role in designing and delivering the Scouting program across the council.
- The Council successfully coordinated the multi-Council "Blast into Scouting" membership drive resulting in 1,507 new Cub Scout and families joining Scouting programs.
- Nationally, the council ranked in the top quartile for overall Fall recruitment growth in 2017.
- 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.
- Our co-educational Exploring program continues to grow. More than 400 high school youth experienced this career-based programs.



Administration/Governance

- Through the technology committee a new website was launched.
- Conducted a two-day Executive Board retreat.
- Achieved the National SILVER status for the Journey to Excellence program recognizing the Council level of achievements in Membership, Finance, Program and Unit Service.
- Through the Council's nominating committee recruited 3 new members to the Executive Board.
- Completed a Business Practice Assessment to review council operations and identify areas of needed improvement. Recognized as one of top 3% of councils related to operations.
- Scout Executive Joe Wiltout received a promotion to Crossroads of America Council in Indianapolis, IN. The Council Selection Committee selected Clint Scharff to be the 4th Scout Executive for the Three Fires Council.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA THREE FIRES COUNCIL

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Scouts, Scouters & Supporters:

The Three Fires Council is honored to deliver the adventure and positive youth development that only Scouting can provide to the more than 14,000 youth members and their families throughout our council territory. Thank you for trusting us with your gifts of time, talent & treasure that make Scouting possible. Last year Scouts in our Council donated thousands of hours of service to hundreds of organizations; churches, schools, community services and other not for profits all to make our community better while practicing valuable skills of leadership, communication and project management.

When families join Scouting they are likely drawn to the outdoors, the sense of danger and adventure that comes from doing something new; fishing, hiking, camping, or canoeing. Outdoor adventures that build a lifelong love of the outdoors and the need to protect our natural resources. They also get a large extended family that offers lifechanging opportunities that can engage the entire family in meaningful activities that draw the family closer together. And while most of our scouts will never find themselves in a situation where they use their scout skills to save the life of another person some will. Skills they learned because a volunteer took time to teach and lead, skills they learned because someone donated to provide the training that volunteers need. Skills they learned because you continue to support Scouting and the Three Fires Council.

Thank you and God bless,

David Grooms
Council President

Dan Zedan
Council Commissioner

Clint Scharff
Scout Executive

We Prepare Youth For Life.™

Camping:

- Introduced a new Day Camp Model that was open to the whole family, allowed early drop-off and late pick-up, and more consistent program to respond to parent's needs.
- Day Camp attendance was 1,356 which was an 8% increase and stopped a four-year decline.
- New Activities at our Day Camps included STEM activities, a 75-foot-long inflatable obstacle course, and a human foosball court.
- 2,886 or 62.7% of Boy Scouts participated in a summer camp experience.
- 171 Boy Scouts and Venturers attended the National Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.
- Awarded \$10,417 in campership assistance funding to 96 Scouts.
- All camps rated "Accredited"

Activities & Civic Service:

- 142,143 hours of community services were reported by units throughout the Three Fires Council for an average of 9.61 hours of reported service by youth and adult members totaling 14,786 participants.

Training:

- 547 youth and adults attended Training Academy
- National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) had 80 youth participants.
- 91.4% of all adults are trained in Youth Protection



Advancement & Recognition:

- 385 Eagle Scouts awarded
- 6,368 Cub Scout advancements earned.
- 2,260 Boy Scouts advancements earned.
- Merit Badge University had over 1,536 Scouts enrolled from 12 Councils within 5 mid-west states, teaching 90 different Merit Badge classes.
- 12,926 merit badges earned (top five badges were first aid, finger printing, swimming, environmental science, and personal fitness).
- Lowaneu Allanque Lodge achieved the National Silver Status for Journey to Excellence Program recognizing the Lodge's achievements in Program and Service.



Physical Resources:

- Developed designs and construction drawings for expansion and renovation of the Kiwanis Lodge and a new Maintenance Compound at Camp Big Timber.
- New Kiwanis Lodge will add a 200-seat capacity dining hall, deck and gathering area, and 8 stand-alone shower rooms to an existing lodge that will be completely renovated with a new kitchen, bathroom, dry and cold storage, and Hearth Room.
- The new Maintenance Compound will include an 8,500-sq. ft. maintenance and storage building with program capacity and a 4,800-sq. ft. open-sided garage for additional storage.
- Purchased a new 60" zero-turn grasshopper lawnmower and large grill for Camp Freeland Leslie.
- Renovated the firebowl at Camp Big Timber with all new benches, stone walk ways, painted back drop, and new road and performance area.

Finance & Development

- 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 \$639,294 through community and family giving.
- Total Support and Revenue for 2017 was \$3,898,401, a 2% increase over 2016.
- Conducted a successful 2017 Friends of Scouting Patron's Breakfast in November raising \$129,859.
- Successfully completed 6 special events in 2017.
- The net revenue from our special events increased by 58%.
- The Council popcorn sale raised \$2,473,608 in gross sales. This makes the Three Fires Council sale the highest of all like sized Councils.
- Over \$1,852,118 went back to Scouting in the Three Fires Council.
- \$95,441 worth of incentive and recognition prizes were distributed to participating Scouts and units for their efforts in the Council popcorn sale.
- More than \$157,000 sold online popcorn sales through Trails-End.com. A \$37,000 increase over the 2016 online sale.

Funding Sources:

Friends of Scouting & Mail Campaign.....	17.0%.....	\$659,064
Project Sales.....	1.5%.....	\$59,675
Special Events.....	4.1%.....	\$159,417
Foundations & Investments.....	7.2%.....	\$279,456
United Way.....	0.1%.....	\$5,327
Store Sales.....	9.9%.....	\$384,263
Product Sales.....	23.6%.....	\$920,376
Camp Revenue.....	18.1%.....	\$706,990
Activities.....	17.5%.....	\$683,309
Other.....	1.0%.....	\$40,524
Total Funding Sources *	100.0%.....	\$3,898,401

Funding Expenses:

Program Support.....	85.0%.....	\$3,561,229
Administration.....	5.0%.....	\$209,484
Fundraising.....	10.0%.....	\$418,968
Total Funding Expenses.....	100.0%.....	\$4,189,681

* Funding Sources shown net of direct costs

Capital & Endowment-Planned Giving

- Secured \$552,500 in capital campaign commitments, brining the total to \$1,800,000 (56% of goal).
- Increase endowment by \$18,862.
- Identified 40 new foundations within our council service area to cultivate and build relationships.
- Kicked off our Camp Big Timber improvement project with a ground breaking and reception.
- Secured donations for the construction of the new digital sign for the Brud Norris Scout Office in St. Charles from the Community Foundations of the Fox River Valley, the Gonaware Family in memory of Scoutmaster Bob Holmes, and a anonymous donor.
- The D.W. Nelson Enterprise Inc. Construction company provided countless hours of work clearing brush and preparing the grounds of Camp Big Timber for the addition of the 200-seat capacity dining hall and constuction of the new Maintenance Compound and futre development.



TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, HELPFUL, FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS, KIND, OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL, THRIFTY, BRAVE, CLEAN, REVERENT.