



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**THREE FIRES COUNCIL, BSA
ST. CHARLES, IL**

Daniel Zedan, Council President
Anna Tuohy, Council Commissioner
Clint Scharff, Scout Executive

*Key Three Message***RETURN TO ADVENTURE!**

2021 was another significant year for Scouting in the Three Fires Council. While COVID mitigation continued to impact program delivery and membership operations, we couldn't be prouder of the efforts made by our volunteer leaders and staff to serve local youth through Scouting. The determination to find a way to deliver the adventure as safely as possible was inspiring. Let us also say how proud we are of all our Scouts - they've given tens of thousands of hours of community service throughout the pandemic, found a way to keep up with schoolwork in the most bizarre school year ever, and set an example of what it means to live by the Scout Oath & Law for their siblings and peers.

We started the year by shifting the annual Merit Badge University to a virtual event, and then to an in-person outdoor event reaching over 1,100 different scouts (and 4,000+ merit badge classes). 2021 was the first year of the "Council Fee" and District and Council program committees found ways to conduct nearly three dozen events for our members at no additional charge (most to "sold out" capacity). We had to re-imagine the annual Eagle and Volunteer recognition dinners but managed to host a meaningful recognition for the 2020 Eagle class and celebrate the five young ladies in the Three Fires Council who were amongst the "Inaugural Female Eagle Class", and six more completed their Eagle by the end of 2021.

2021 saw a return of Cub Scout day camp and family camp, it also saw the 50th and final summer camp at Camp Freeland Leslie. It was a bitter sweet summer highlighted by the CFL camp staff reunion and a campfire for the ages.

We doubled the number of new members from 2020 and completed our annual membership renewal by Dec. 31st for the first time ever! The Three Fires Council had a budget surplus for the first time in many years- which has allowed us to pay down some debt and prepare for the coming year.

Without your continued support, we could not enable the thousands volunteers that make these great adventures happen for nearly 7,000 Scouts. And we know these are great adventures because nearly 80% of our membership has returned for more in 2022.

2022 will also have its own challenges and opportunities, but with a successful foundation provided by 2021, we will continue exploring more great heights. Scouting is about adventures and new experiences. Join us as we adventure on in to 2022 and another successful year of Scouting in Three Fires Council.

Yours in Scouting,

Daniel Zedan
Council President



Anna Tuohy
Council Commissioner



Clint Scharff
Scout Executive



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RETURN TO ADVENTURE!

After the challenges of camping and group activities during 2020, a return to the adventures normally associated with Scouting was a welcome relief in 2021.

- Three Fires Council held a full slate of summer camps at Camp Freeland Leslie for it's 50th and final year in 2021.
- Over 1,000 Scouts and 1,700 total campers attended Camp Freeland Leslie for its final year of operations.
- Nearly 300 former CFL camp staff and camp alumni attended reunion weekend in July.
- Day Camps hosted nearly 500 kids across 7 different camps after a hiatus in 2020.

\$4,130

in Camperships provided

100%

of Scouts who applied received assistance

- Created Outdoor Summer Education for school district U46 at Camp Big Timber hosting 150 students for 6 weeks. Program is returning in 2022.

SCOUTING SPECTACULAR

In 2021, Three Fires Council embarked on an ambitious plan to create a fun, exciting, yet safe way to hold a Council Camporee. Thus, the Scouting Spectacular was born!

3
Locations

100+
Activities

900+
Attendees





SCOUTING MEMBERSHIP

- The Three Fires Council served 10,934 families.
- 6,549 youth were registered members of the Council as of 2021 year end.
- 4,211 volunteers played a pivotal role in delivering the Scouting program across the Council.
- 13 new units were born during 2021.
- Added 1,904 new Scouts to Three Fires Council.
- Membership Retention was nearly 80% after October Recharter.
- \$12,142 assistance dollars were given to Scouts in need.



SCOUTING FOR EVERYONE

787

female youth served in 2021



5

female Eagle Scouts in Inaugural Class on February 8, 2021



+34%

increase in female youth from 2020



11

total female Eagle Scouts in 2021

EAGLE SCOUTS

45,712

Service hours
completed through
Eagle Scout projects.

290

Total Eagle
Scout.

11

Female Eagle
Scouts in first
year eligible

- Class Representative
Antonio Del Toro only
2nd Eagle Scout ever
from Troop 104 in Aurora



9,183

Total Merit Badges
earned in 2021

1,100+

Scouts from across the
country participated in
Merit Badge University
both Virtually and
in-person



ADVANCEMENT

2,843

Cub Scout Rank
Advancements earned



416

Youth completed Cub
Scouting, earning their
Arrow of Light



1,964

Scouts BSA Rank
Advancements earned

TRAINING



- 32 adult leaders began their Wood Badge training in May.
- Nearly 170 members received Wilderness First Aid Training, and another 180 were trained in CPR.
- 115 Adults received IOLS/Baloo Training across three sessions in 2021.
- NYLT Session SOLD OUT with 115 Youth participating, including first female Scouts BSA members.



FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT

- Total Direct Support for 2021 including Annual Giving, Special Events, Foundations etc. was \$860,000.
- Total Revenue for the Council in 2021 was just shy of \$3.5 Million.
- Largest expenditure in 2021 was employee compensation.
- Council is prepared to make its full contribution to the trust for victims of abuse in Scouting.
- Ended 2021 with a Balanced Budget.



MARKETING/COMMUNICATION

- 282 unique e-newsletters were delivered a total 1.2 million times.
- Added over 7,500 new contacts to email database through special events.
- Open rate of 31% is an increase of 3% over last year, and 5% above industry average.
- Click Rate of 2% remains above industry average despite changes to reporting metrics.
- Average monthly reach of about 6,000 people for Facebook, consistent from 2020.
- Instagram reach increased 100% and followers are up over 61%.
- Branched off Big Timber Fest for external CBT events, gaining 1900 followers in the first year.



Big Timber Fest

@BigTimberFest · Nonprofit organization

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SPECIAL EVENTS

EGG HUNTS

- Sold Out Family and Flashlight Egg Hunts at Camp Big Timber, hosting nearly 600 people and raising almost \$10,000.

SPORTING CLAYS

- Exceeded goal by \$10,000 with 34 teams in attendance. New Skid Steer for Camp Big Timber also donated at the event.

CORPORATE PINEWOOD DERBY

- Corporate Pinewood Derby at Rich Harvest Farms earned over \$14,000, the highest of any corporate pinewood derby to date.

BIG TIMBER BRILLIANCE

- Created Big Timber Brilliance holiday light show, attracting 7200+ people to Camp Big Timber over 26 nights of lights.



BIG TIMBER PUMPKIN FEST

TERROR IN THE TIMBERS

- Added an add-on new walking haunt and sold out multiple nights.

BIG TIMBER BREW FEST

- Increased breweries in attendance by 50% and added a VIP experience.

BARRELS N' BONES

- Returned with all local bourbons and a Saturday night sell out.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

- All new event sold out and received rave reviews.





PHYSICAL RESOURCES

- Sale of CFL occurred much quicker than expected but allowed Council to fulfill obligation to victims trust, hold a full slate of summer camps, and a Camp Alumni Weekend
- New trails constructed at Camp Big Timber for use during special events and regular camping activities.
- Added pergolas to key areas within Camp Big Timber for use by visiting Scout units and special events.
- Transitioned a number of resources from Camp Freeland Leslie to Camp Big Timber for unit usage, including the O'Malley cabin and numerous vehicles.



ADMINISTRATION

- Through the Council's nominating committee recruited six new board members to the Executive Board in 2021.
- Completed a clean 2020 audit on time with no management letter.





**THREE FIRES COUNCIL, BSA
ST. CHARLES, IL**

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