



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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# MESSAGE FROM THE KEY 3



Richard Schmitt  
Council President

Thank you for all you do for Scouting. Our achievements and successes would not be possible without your help as leaders and volunteers. Last May, the Boy Scouts of America announced a significant rebranding initiative, transitioning to Scouting America. This change reflects a commitment to making Scouting an inclusive and welcoming program for all youth and families in our communities, ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to experience the benefits of Scouting.

Locally, Three Fires Council has made remarkable strides in increasing diversity and expanding the reach of Scouting programs. For more than five years, we have successfully welcomed girls into our Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA programs. As of today, Three Fires Council proudly serves 905 girls and young women, representing 13% of our overall membership. In just the last two years, female participation has grown by an impressive 30%. Alongside this, our membership diversity has increased by 12%, demonstrating the expanding inclusivity of Scouting in our communities. This growth reflects the broader national trend and reinforces our commitment to providing opportunities for all young people, regardless of gender or background.



David George  
Council Commissioner

We continue to be a leader in training and membership retention. We are blessed with great support from all our families and more than 3,600 volunteers that make Scouting happen every week. We saw growth in our popcorn sales, outstanding program events, and started a new Dark Hollows Haunted Hayride event at Camp Big Timber. We are thankful for the support of Scouting in our communities and from our families.

2024 saw several financial challenges to overcome. With the loss of our District U46 Outdoor Academy last summer, our council had a significant budget deficit. These challenges underscore the need for new strategies to stabilize and strengthen our revenue streams, ensuring that we can continue to provide the necessary support, training, and resources for our Scouting community. We are committed to building a strong, sustainable future for Three Fires Council with the help of our families and communities and have developed an extensive strategic plan to achieve our goals.

To that end, we are excited about a variety of new initiatives and partnerships aimed at increasing engagement and raising the necessary funds to support our programs. The Community Scouting initiative has the goal to strengthen our relationship with local schools and educational institutions, as we know that Scouting plays a key role in helping young people become better students, more engaged in their communities, and better prepared for life. Whether it's providing leadership training, team-building opportunities, or outdoor education, we are focused on expanding the positive impact Scouting can have in our neighborhoods.

Thank you for your support.

Richard Schmitt

David George

Ronald A. Wentzell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Schmitt".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David George".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald A. Wentzell".



Ronald A. Wentzell  
Scout Executive/CEO



# MEMBERSHIP

Pictured right:  
Amelia Votava, our  
council's  
first Distinguished  
Conservation  
Service Award  
recipient



Chippewa: 4,201 youth  
Ottawa: 2,371 youth  
Potawatomi: 1,184 youth

7,756 total families served  
289 total units  
1,441 new Scouts enrolled  
11 new units  
3,813 Cub Scouts  
2,756 Scouts BSA Members  
97 Venturers and Sea Scouts  
255 Explorers  
905 female Scouts

11,991 miles hiked  
16,027 nights spent camping  
5,480 campouts or outings  
2,730 Cub Scout rank advancement  
2,066 Scouts BSA rank advancement  
280 Scouts who earned Eagle rank  
162 chartered organizations  
31,004 community service hours





# PROGRAM



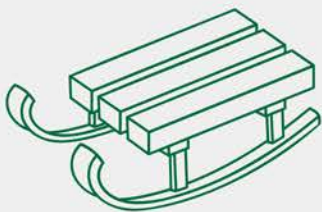
Day Camp  
517 Youth Served



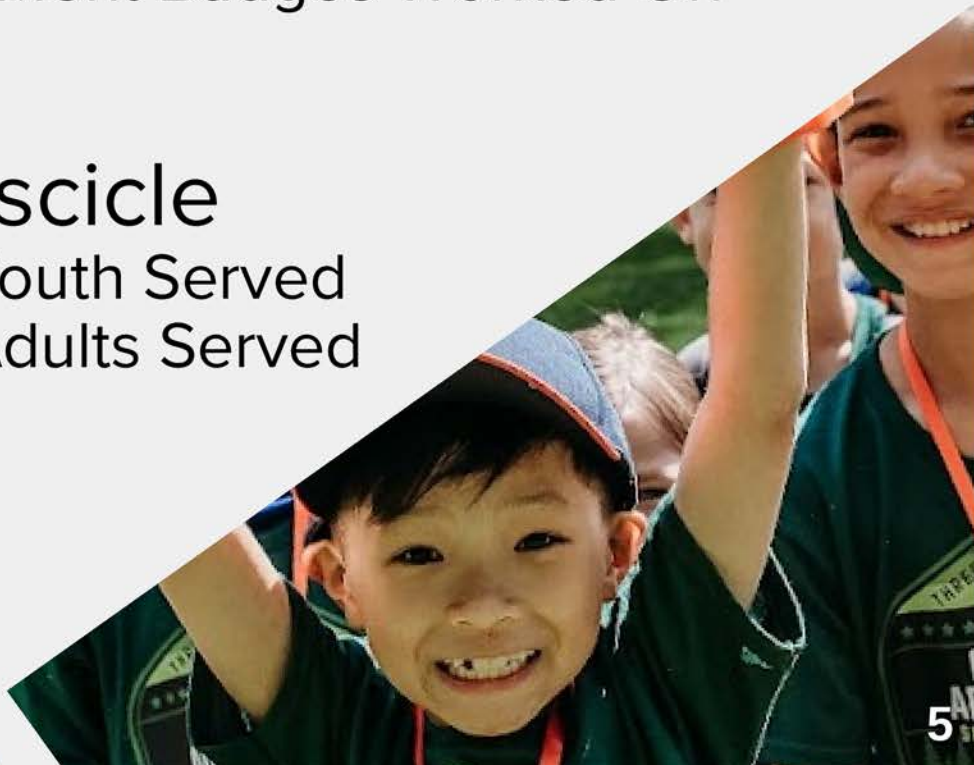
Family Camp  
118 Families Served



Merit Badge University  
1,969 Youth Served  
5,649 Merit Badges Worked On



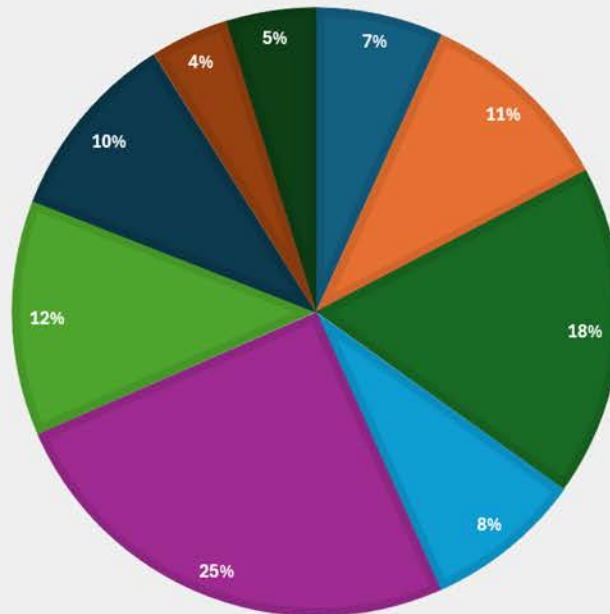
Cubscicle  
335 Youth Served  
295 Adults Served



# FINANCE

## Three Fires Council Support and Revenue 2024

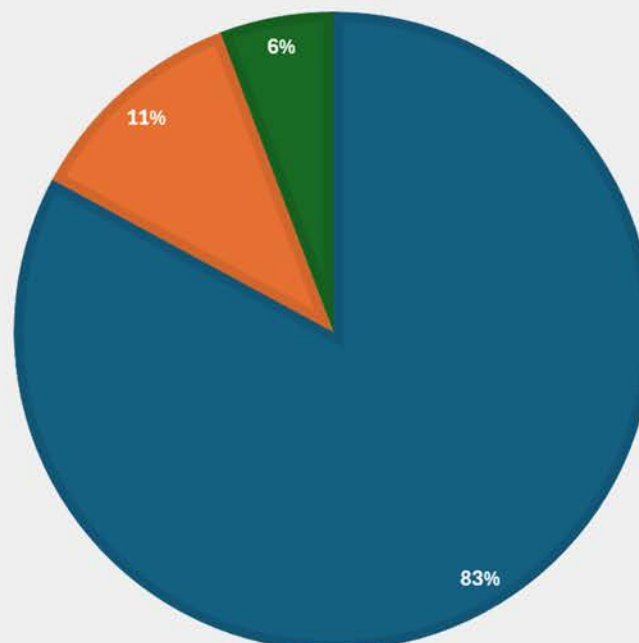
- Camping- 7%
- Activities- 11%
- Product Sales- 18%
- Investment Income- 8%
- Other Revenue- 25%
- TFC Gives- 12%
- Special Events- 10%
- Foundations- 4%
- Other Support- 5%



Total Income \$2,395,782

## Three Fires Council Expenses 2024

- Program- 83%
- Fundraising- 11%
- Administration & Management- 6%





# FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Sporting Clays  
Classic



Pinewood Derby  
For Grown Ups



Dark Hollows  
Haunted Hayride



Barrels & Bones  
& Brews



Casino Royale  
and Auction



Galactic Breakfast  
with Santa

\$226,216 raised to support Scouting programs



# TRAINING



1,477 Trained Adults

139 Wilderness First Aid Trainees

101 Cold Weather Camping Trainees

57 National Youth Leadership Trainees

33 Sea Scout Training Advancement and Continuing Knowledge Trainees

277 Training Academy Attendees

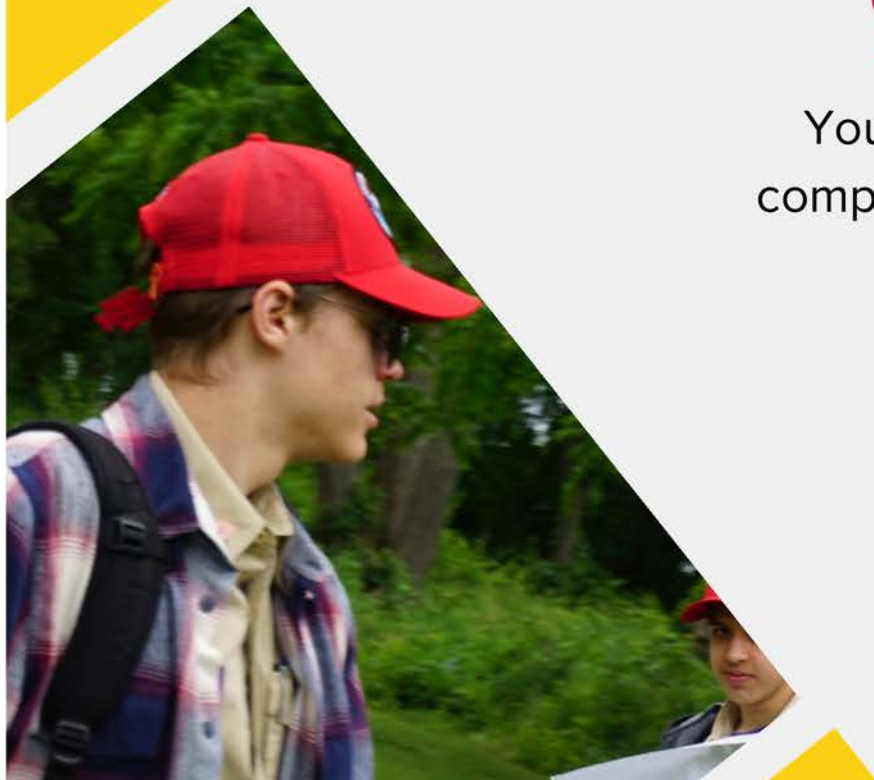
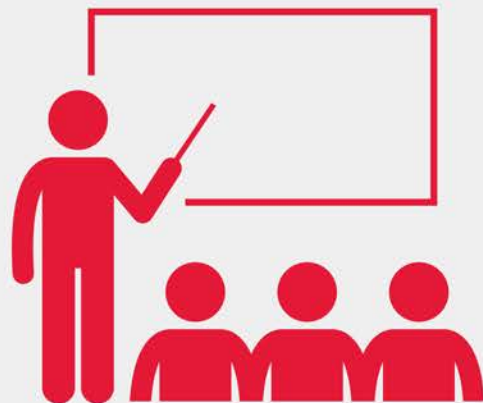
8 Range Officer Trainees

3 Climbing Wall Trainees



## 99.21%

Youth Protection Training  
completion among volunteers





# EAGLES



Eagle Class  
Representative  
Ava Dombrowski  
Troop 2119

Eagle Class Honoree  
Jeremie Bacon

Co-owner and CEO of  
The Forge: Lemont Quarries



280 Eagle Scouts  
15 female Eagle Scouts  
38,686 total community service hours  
75 environmental conservation projects  
10,505 service hours  
14 community education projects  
2,351 service hours  
153 construction renovation projects  
24,546 service hours  
12 food supply or collection projects  
1,284 service hours



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Schmitt - Council President  
David George- Council Commissioner  
Ronald A. Wentzell - Scout Executive/CEO

Omar Ali  
Jermie Bacon  
Jason Ball  
Anil Barot  
Dan Barreiro\*  
John Binneboese  
David Braun  
Andrew Burnette  
Matt Clark  
Rodney Craig  
Bonnie Dibling\*  
Conitras Dickens  
Jim Dombeck\*\*  
Rebekuh Eley  
Eric Essex  
Rob Ferrigan\*  
Jeff Gross\*  
Greg Hart  
Bill Herdeggen  
Jay Herzog\*  
Jeff Jeffers\*  
Adam Justice

Alex Kline-Wedeen  
John Kramer\*  
Steve Kulovits  
Eng Chong Lim  
Scott McConnell\*  
Marc McKay  
Mark McSweeney\*  
Sherman Neal\*  
Dave Nelson  
Steve Nelson  
Philip Norton  
Corinne Pierog  
Xavier Pombar  
Matthew Rasche, Sr.  
Franklin Rivera  
Jasper Sanfilippo, Jr.  
Bob Tighe  
Anna Tuohy  
Dan Wagner\*  
Monte Weirman  
Bob Werderich  
Dan Zedan

\*Denotes Executive Committee Member

\*\*Deceased



# POPCORN

\$1,208,226 in popcorn sales

1,571 Scouts sold popcorn

\$369,208 earned by units

Top selling unit: Pack 107 from Elburn, IL: \$76,358

Top selling Scout: Oliver S. Pack 107: \$20,395



# MARKETING

Brand Guidelines created and presented to volunteers

Site map created for website redesign

Council featured in spotlight on NCTV17

Council featured regularly on WRMN Radio







**Scouting America**  
Three Fires Council

