Dear Scouting Friends

The Boy Scouts of America will not sacrifice its mission, or the youth served by the movement, by allowing the organization to be consumed by a single, divisive, and unresolved societal issue. While many feel that homosexuality has no place in the program, the core values taught by Scouting transcend the issues of race, religious doctrine, or sexual orientation. Scouting is meant to be inclusive, not exclusive.

While people have different opinions about this policy, we can all agree that kids are better off when they are in Scouting. Going forward, our Scouting family will continue to focus on reaching and serving youth in order to help them grow into good, strong citizens. America’s youth needs Scouting now more than ever, and by focusing on the goals that unite us, we can continue to accomplish incredible things for young people and the communities we serve.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support of Scouting and your dedication to our youth and our community!

John Fullerton

Scout Executive

Boy Scouts of America

From the desk of Scout Executive John Fullerton
Annual Camporee and Scout-O-Rama Events Happen Because of Donor Generosity

Scouting brings together kids of all ages and abilities in the spirit of adventure and fellowship through with programs such as Camporee and Scout-O-Rama. This past April, Boy Scouts, Venturing Scouts, and unit leaders got together at the Firestone Scout Reservation in Brea for a Camporee weekend of fun. This year’s theme “Australian Outback Adventure” featured competition with events such as Boomerang Toss Return, Australian Shotgun Shooting, Crocodile Bite First Aid (no real crocodiles were used in this event!), Aussie Challenge Obstacle Course, Outback Dune Buggy lashing contest, and Aborigine Compass Course.

Scout-O-Rama was held June 1 at Heartwell Park in Long Beach. More than 3,000 Scouts, along with families, friends, and volunteers, came together for the one-day program themed “Messengers of Peace.” This year’s event featured family-friendly exhibits, skits, and competitions, as well as demonstrations and an entertainment lineup that included Native American dancing and an appearance by Radio Disney. A highlight of the day was the participation by 12 local Girl Scout troops in all the activities.

“Scouting really depends on the generosity of people who see the value of the Scouting philosophy,” said Exploring Executive Brian Morrissey. “Events like Camporee and Scout-O-Rama showcase what Scouting is all about: team work, fellowship, and leadership … with a big dose of fun thrown in!”

Local Foundation Supports ScoutReach Camp Program for Second Year

For the second year in a row, a private Southern California foundation has provided a gift of $10,000 to send some very deserving, underprivileged kids to camp. Through the ScoutReach program, this gift is providing more than 200 kids with all the equipment needed for six days and five nights camping, including transportation, food, sleeping bags, backpacks, tents, and cooking equipment, as well as personal gear such as jackets, gloves, socks, and caps.

The ScoutReach program offers at-risk youth, who otherwise cannot afford to participate in Scouting activities, the same opportunities to develop leadership skills, and build character, citizenship and personal fitness, and help young people reach their full potential. ScoutReach emphasizes service to minority populations and currently operates in 21 public schools within the Long Beach Unified School District.

If you would like to help low-income kids participate in Scouting activities, please contact Development Director Pamela Bumgardner at (562) 427-0911, extension 280.

LBAC and ITEP Celebrate Success with Exploring Careers in Long Beach

Students, teachers, parents and industry partners came together this past June to celebrate the successful completion of the first year of Exploring Careers in Long Beach/Students With Ambitious Goals (ECLB/SWAG), a community-based career exploration program for youth at Cabrillo High School. The evening included student project presentations, team awards, and presentation of certificates to the 17 student alumni.

ECLB/SWAG is a hands-on career exploration program for 10th graders that consists of twice-a-month, after-school field trips to visit top local companies and organizations, while also building skills through leadership and personal development activities. Most of the students involved live in difficult neighborhoods with high rates of poverty and crime.

If you would like more information about Scouting and ITEP, or to support this program, please contact Development Director Pamela Bumgardner at (562) 427-0911, extension 280.

ScoutReach Success: STELTON PHELPS

ScoutReach helps young people reach their full potential by offering them the opportunity to develop leadership skills, as well as build character, citizenship and personal fitness. However, the program only works when kids open the door and step through. One kid who has jumped through that door with both feet is Stelton Phelps who, at age 14, is already making great strides to achieve his goals.

In addition to his regular studies at Jordan High School, where he connected with ScoutReach, Stelton is a member of both his high school swim and track teams. As a matter of fact, Stelton recently ran in and finished the LA Marathon and regularly competes locally. Stelton also participates in the Claremont Long Beach Math Collaborative, which is a partnership between Claremont Graduate University, Harvey Mudd College, and the Long Beach Unified School District.

Mom Denise Phelps expressed pride in her son’s achievements both in school and at the Math Collaborative. “He works hard,” she said, describing how he checks out dozens of library books every weekend. She said that ScoutReach has provided even more encouragement for him to succeed.

According to District Executive Sherry Martinez, Stelton has achieved Star Scout rank and is on the path to Eagle Scout. “He is a great example of ScoutReach success and we know that, whatever he decides to do in life, he will be a winner.”