

ScoutLook

Current News from the Chicago Area Council, BSA

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW



Because of You!

Cultures and Scouting Come Together with Pride



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA
CHICAGO AREA COUNCIL

Because of you....



Little Village Eagles Soar

Many people have no idea how hard it is to become an Eagle Scout. Many don't know what prestige the achievement carries. This could not be truer for the residents of Little Village, a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood on the southwest side of Chicago. This area is home to thousands of youth who fight through the lure of gangs and crime as they deal with overcrowded schools and high dropout rates.

Against all the challenges the young men of Troop 306 face, three Scouts of St. Agnes of Bohemia Church achieved the rank of Eagle. Considering that only 4% of Scouts across the country earn this honor Troop 306 is to be commended.

Efrain Fabian earned 31 merit badges and a 3.31 GPA as he heads to Harold Washington College. Angel Martinez earned 28 merit badges,

graduated with a 3.4 GPA and currently attends Illinois State University. Juan Robles completed 27 merit badges, graduated with honors and a 4.00 GPA. He currently attends Loyola University where he's a Pre-Med major. Juan had a little extra pressure to perform as he is the sixth member of the Robles family to achieve the rank of Eagle.

For the past 80 years Troop 306 has served the Little Village neighborhood. They are no stranger to challenges their Scouts face to stay true to the Scout Oath and live up to the Scout Law. As volunteers like Scoutmaster Thomas Vlach know it is not easy to give of your time and treasure and stay dedicated day-in and day-out. It's moments like June 23rd when he awarded these three Scouts their medals that reward him for his dedication.

The Chicago Area Council congratulates Efrain, Angel, Juan and the volunteers of Troop 306 for their dedication and leadership. When you support Scouting you help us facilitate the training our volunteers receive to develop young people just like these. It also allows the council to award Eagle Scout Medals to those young men who've earned them free of charge.



Bud Billiken Day Parade – A Victory for Scouts

The Bud Billiken day parade has deep roots in Chicago's African American history dating back to the 1920's. Today, it is a day to celebrate being a kid. For the past 10 years the Scouts have rallied around this event to demonstrate BSA pride. This year over 100 Scouts and leaders participated in the march down Martin Luther King Drive. The Scouts even got some wonderful coverage on TV.



Focus on Multicultural Inclusion

For the past 10 years, the Chicago Area Council has made strategic investments to improve diversity and cultural relevance in our units. Through Scoutreach we focused on African American neighborhoods to start units with council staff until they became sustainable on their own. Through this program we have mentored hundreds of at-risk youth. Ownership of many of these units has been turned over to the community and generations of Scouts have become citizens we can all be proud of.

Last year, the council received grant funding to focus on Latino outreach. These funds have increased staff and expanded efforts that have given rise to the Latino Leadership Committee. Through this increase in resources outreach efforts have grown.

Weekly presentations at the Mexican Consulate have allowed hundreds of Mexican parents to better understand the program and get more information on units for their children. Scouts participated in a 5k and park clean-up in Humboldt Park, a predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhood, where area residents got to see what Scouts do first-hand—serve the community and enjoy the outdoors. Participation in the Puerto Rican and Mexican day parades allowed Scouts to display Scout-pride while embracing our differences. And in a similar fashion to Scoutreach, the funding has afforded us the development of new units in predominantly Latino neighborhoods where volunteers are not available today, but are being coached to take ownership of the units.

This multicultural approach means that Chicago will reap the benefits of a new generation of diverse leaders. But our work is just beginning. Our goals for the future are aggressive. Our work will not be done until the Scout and volunteer base is representative of Chicago's demographic make-up. Achieving this requires education and resources. Slowly but surely we are demonstrating to these communities that Scouting is for everyone regardless of your ethnic background.





Camping Season 2012 A Success

Once again, Chicago area youth were able to enjoy the beauty, adventure and lessons that Owasippe Scout Reservation has to offer. The memories our Scouts created while there will fuel their passion for the program for another year.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to award 305 camperships to deserving Scouts and their families. We are aiming to grow this number next year and hope to count on your support.



Scouting For Food Breaks Own Record With Donation to The Greater Chicago Food Depository

On December 8th Scouts from the Chicago Area Council collected food donations for the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The public's generosity rendered 48,723 pounds of food for people in need. This year's effort collected 10,000 pounds more than last year's Scouting for Food Drive. Since pantries are seeing an 89% increase in visits today as compared to just five years ago the additional food that was collected surely helped tens of thousands of hungry Chicagoans during the holiday season.

The experience of witnessing these young men enjoy service to their community is like no other Scouting event. For the second year in a row, the Chicago Area Council became the second most productive private food drive event to gather supplies for the Depository.

Because of you....

It is events like Scouting for Food and going to camp where regardless of a Scout's race, color or cultural background they learn what it is to be of service to the community and to one's self. They learn how good it feels to help our fellow man and how good it feels to learn to be self-reliant when faced with new experiences.

The Chicago Area Council is able to offer these quality experiences to the young people and volunteers it serves because of your support. Whether your support is financial, through the time you give or both we are lucky and blessed to have you as our friend in Scouting. Thank you for your support.



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