



# Facts About Scouting

## F A C T S H E E T

- ◆ Approximately 50 percent (299) of the members of the 104th Congress participated in Scouting—239 as Scouts, 12 as leaders, and 48 as both Scouts and leaders. [Source: BSA Fact Sheet: "104th Congress (2nd Session) Scouting Survey," 4/96]
  - ◆ Of the 233 U.S. astronauts, 133 were involved in Scouting, and 33 are Eagle Scouts. [Source: BSA Fact Sheet: "Astronauts and the BSA," 4/96]
  - ◆ Approximately 36 percent of West Point cadets were involved in Scouting as youth and 10 percent are Eagle Scouts. [Source: Department of the Army, U.S. Military Academy, 7/94]
  - ◆ Approximately 28 percent of Air Force Academy cadets were involved in Scouting as youth and nearly 10 percent are Eagle Scouts. [Source: Air Force Academy Institutional Research, 10/93]
  - ◆ At the end of 1996, Boy Scouts of America had more than 96 million alumni. If they were all alive today, they would comprise the 11th largest country in population in the world. [Source: BSA Registration and Statistical Service and the *1996 Information Please Almanac*]
  - ◆ All the Scouts who have participated in BSA through 1996 could fill the Louisiana Superdome, site of the 1997 Super Bowl, more than 1,000 times. [Source: BSA Registration and Statistical Service and External Communications Division]
  - ◆ Through the end of 1996, 1,423,920 young men had been awarded the Eagle Scout Award, achieved by only approximately 2 percent of Scouts. [Source: BSA Registration and Statistical Service and the Boy Scout Division]
  - ◆ Philmont Scout Ranch had more than 23,500 participants during 1996, who hiked approximately 1,391,900 miles. [Source: Philmont Scout Ranch]
  - ◆ Through 1996, the top five merit badges most often earned were
    - ◇ First Aid: 5,323,462
    - ◇ Swimming: 4,833,659
    - ◇ Cooking: 3,696,115
    - ◇ Camping: 3,492,571
    - ◇ Safety: 2,726,773
- [Source: 1996 Local Council Index]
- ◆ If the 93,007,844 merit badges earned through the end of 1996 were stacked end-to-end, they would equal the height of Mt. Everest (29,141 feet) 400 times. [Source: 1996 Local Council Index and External Communications Division]
  - ◆ The BSA has awarded 93,007,844 merit badges through the end of 1996. These badges lined up end-to-end would make a straight line that would stretch from Chicago to Los Angeles ... a line in excess of 2,000 miles! [Source: 1996 Local Council Index and External Communications Division]

- ◆ Pinewood derby cars made since 1954 (a project for Cub Scouts and their parents) could form a line stretching from Los Angeles to New York and back—a total of more than 5,500 miles. [Source: BSA Supply Division and External Communications Division]
- ◆ Nearly 40 percent of Cub Scouts participated in Cub Scout day camp or Cub Scout resident camp in 1996. [Source: 1996 Local Council Index]
- ◆ Approximately 40 percent of BSA's Explorers are female. [Source: Exploring Division]
- ◆ The top three career choices of BSA Explorers are health careers, outdoors/field sports, and religion. [Source: Exploring Division]
- ◆ In its 86 years, *Boys' Life* magazine has had more than 1 billion magazine subscriptions, with more than 4 billion readers. [Source: BSA Magazine Division]
- ◆ If the 1.4 million Eagle Scouts spent an average of just 20 hours conducting their community service projects, this would equal more than 26 million hours of service. When multiplied by the total number of other Scouts and leaders assisting the Eagle Scout candidates with their projects, the hours of service escalate into the hundreds of millions. [Source: BSA Registration and Statistical Service and External Communications Division]
- ◆ Of the men who were members of the BSA as youth, 94 percent agree that Scouting helps develop character. [Source: Louis Harris & Associates, 10/94]
- ◆ It is estimated that more than 30 percent of law enforcement personnel have been involved with Law Enforcement Exploring either as a youth or as a leader. [Source: BSA Exploring Division]
- ◆ If a Boy Scout attends his weekly patrol and troop meeting, participates in a monthly weekend troop outing, and attends long-term summer camp with his troop, he will have spent as much time with Scouting in a year as he spends in the classroom. [Source: BSA Council Services]
- ◆ Virtually every council in America still conducts the Scouting for Food National Good Turn, and it is estimated that more than 562 million cans of food have been collected since 1988. [Source: BSA External Communications Division, 12/95]