



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
HOUSATONIC COUNCIL

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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The Housatonic Council, Boy Scouts of America is pleased to present our 2017 Annual Report highlighting the accomplishments and direction of the Housatonic Council scouting program serving the towns of the Lower Naugatuck Valley (Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, and Shelton), and incorporated in January of 1923. As one of the smallest councils in the Boy Scouts of America, the Housatonic Council's mission is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime, based on Scout Oath & Law.

The Housatonic Council provides opportunities for young men 7 to 21 years old and young women, 14 to 21 years old, to pursue interests including the great outdoors, high adventure activities and career interests facilitated with mentoring from experts in their fields and successful business leaders.

Here are several of our 2017 accomplishments:

- Achieved National recognition as a Silver Level Council through the Journey to Excellence program.
- 27 youth achieved the rank of Eagle Scout
- Approval of a New Strategic Plan from 2018 - 2020
- Allocation of the Endowment program for specific projects
- Through a generous donation a permanent Gaga Pit at Camp Strang

While we recognize our accomplishments we also realize that to provide the best Scouting program, we need to continue to provide and recognize opportunities for growth in:

- Marketing and Publicity
- Volunteer involvement
- Leader Specific Training
- Collaboration with other organizations for membership growth
- Reconnecting with our alumni

As we move into 2018, we need to position ourselves and continue to focus our resources on supporting and providing additional programs, and opportunities for growth in our Council.



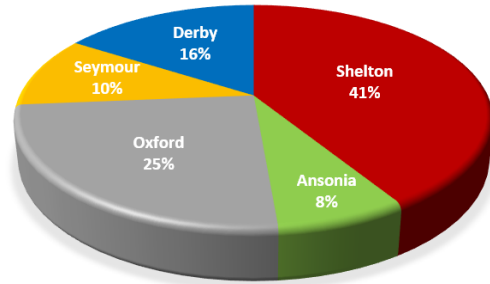
Membership Summary

At the end of 2017, we did not experience the anticipated increase in membership desired. However, Scouting continues to evolve and in 2017 we participated in a pilot program to recruit Kindergarten youth into the Cub Scout Program. In 2018, we are part of an early adoption program for girls to be part of our Family Scouting program.

The Council will be working to collaborate with three organizations with similar missions in 2018, to serve additional youth and increase Scouting's influence within the Lower Naugatuck Valley.

The Housatonic Council continued its collaboration with Connecticut Yankee Council, and the Sports Center to promote www.beascout.org. We purchased dasher board space and for 2017 we had over 800,000 impressions and made people aware of the Scouting program.

MEMBERSHIP BY TOWN



Program Summary

Through the leadership and resources of the Council we enable our youth, their families, and our volunteer leaders to enjoy a challenging and safe Scouting program. The Housatonic Council continues to provide opportunities for units to strengthen their individual programs, and provide additional training for unit leaders. In 2017, we held a Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation Training (BALOO), and introduced Weekend Programming at Camp Strang.

In 2017, we continued our Merit Badge days for our Boy Scout aged youth, attendance included youth from the Housatonic Council, surrounding Councils and scouts from Massachusetts. Merit Badge classes included Citizenship in the Community, First Aid, Engineering, Theater, Pulp and Pater to name a few. Each of these Merit Badge Days enable scouts to work in a group setting outside of summer camp.

The Housatonic Council sponsored one Troop and a Crew to attend the 2017 National Jamboree at the Summit in West Virginia. The itinerary included a stay at West Virginia University, and a service project in the West Virginia area. On the return trip, the youth visited Hershey Park before their return.





Camping Summary

Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation: Once again in 2017, and for the more than fifty-five years, the summer and year-round camping programs at Camp Strang have continued to provide outstanding experiences and memories for hundreds of Scouts, Scouters, visitors and staff alike.

Thanks to the campers, volunteers, summer camp staff, and professionals whose tireless efforts and generosity support the pride of the Housatonic Council in the Northwest Hills of Goshen, CT.

In 2017, the Housatonic Council appointed Weekend Program Directors to develop a calendar of monthly weekend activities for units to participate in. Capital improvements at camp continued in 2017. We are looking forward to continuing our additional opportunities for youth and others who share the values of Scouting.

Year-round Camping: In 2017 with the reopening of the Bassett Lodge as a rentable space, our use of Camp Strang for weekend camping continues to increase. Of the thirty weeks available for rental, on average one unit was in camp each weekend to deliver on the promise of an outdoor experience to their youth.



Boy Scout Summer Camp: In 2017, we introduced additional new programs, including 9-square, and additional use of bicycles as camp. Through generous donations, a permanent Gaga Ball Pit was installed, and additional programs were added to the STEM Center. Camp Strang offered over fifty merit badges including Drafting, Programming, Welding, Nuclear Science, Camping, and Climbing. The summer camp staff continues to increase customer service, and provide outstanding opportunities for our youth to explore new challenges, and experience the outdoors in a safe environment.

In 2018, we are excited to continue our successful programs, and introduce some new program features, such a Venturing Weekend, Cub Scout Family Weekend, Luau Dinner, an updated Strang Awards program, and a Merit Badge Completion Day.



Cub Scout Day Camp: Camp Cedar Crest in Orange, CT was again home for the Cub Scout Day Camp in 2017. Through the dedication of the staff many of our youth, chose to attend for two weeks. The 2017 theme was Hometown Heroes, which included visits from law enforcement, National Guard, and Emergency Medical Services. Youth participated in archery, kickball, and BBs. Our exciting schedule of activities included an all-day field trip to the Edmund D. Strang Scout Reservation each week.

In 2017, we expanded our Day Camp and held a full week at Camp Strang. This introduced our Cub Scouts to Camp Strang. Transportation was provided each day from the Lower Naugatuck Valley to Camp Strang. At Camp Strang youth could go boating, swimming, and fishing.

2017 Eagle Scouts

In 2017 twenty-seven young men achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle. One of the requirements to attain the rank of Eagle is a Leadership Service Project. Eagle Scout projects accounted for over 2,500 hours of community service and supplies with an estimated value of over \$70,000.



Council Awards Bestowed in 2017

2017 National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award: Anthony "Tony" Kuczynski, Michael "Mike" Kellogg

The NESAs Outstanding Eagle Scout Award is a prestigious recognition granted by the local council's NESAs (National Eagle Scout Association) committee to Eagle Scouts who have demonstrated outstanding achievement at the local, state or regional level.



2017 District Awards of Merit: Carole Cafaro and Margaret "Margie" Kish

The District Award of Merit is a Council recognition presented through the local Council Court of Honor for outstanding service to Scouting at the Council level.



2017 Silver Beaver: Charles "Chuck" Stankye III

The Silver Beaver is the highest council level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. It is awarded to registered adult leaders, recognized for their impact on the lives of youth through service to the Council.



2017 James E. West Recipients: Jeff Anderson, Council Executive Board

A donation of \$1000 dollars is required to begin a James E. West award. A person can make the contribution or funds can be collected to honor a volunteer scout. The James E. West endowment fund was established to ensure that future generations of youth would benefit from scouting.



2017 North Star Award: Valley Community Foundation

This award is for non-Scouters, and used to recognize individuals for significant contributions. This award is on par with the Silver Beaver which recognizes registered Scouters for their distinguished service.



Administration Summary

Communications is a key factor in the success of any organization. In 2017, we continued the use of Constant Contact for communication with our scouting families, unit leaders, and donators to the Housatonic Council. During 2017 we expanded the ability for units to register for certain events online. We have also used Constant Contact to increase exposure to our Facebook page and our website.

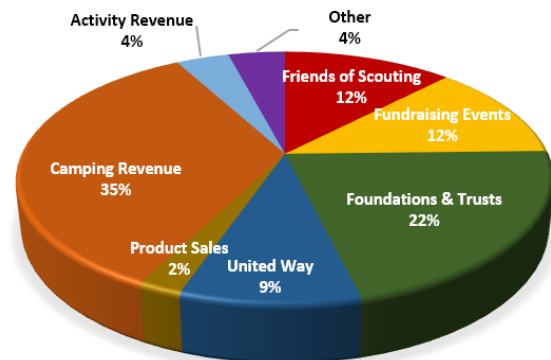


All Boy Scout of America council's, have placed an emphasis on reaching 100% Youth Protection Training (YPT). Support from our Executive Board, instructor led training sessions, and the unit re-Chartering process have assisted our units and unit leadership in completing their YPT and the importance our goal to achieve 100% YPT.

Fundraising Summary

2017 continued the growth in certain Special Events with attendance and donations increasing over 2016. Our three main fundraising events: Clay shoot, Golf tournament, and the Good Scout Award are not only established events but are anticipated events on many calendars.

In 2017, we continued our collaboration with Connecticut Yankee Council to increase golfers at our annual Golf Outing. The Clay Shoot had 130 participants an increase of 10% over the prior year and increased the funds raised to support Scouting in the valley. The Good Scout Award honored Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte & Sterczala for their support of the community and Scouting.



The grants we receive from our area foundations enable the Housatonic Council to improve infrastructure at Camp Strang, provide additional camp scholarships, and purchase additional program enhancement (i.e. Archery targets, material for 9-square, and additional robot kits for our STEM program).

We need to continue sharing the message of Scouting and the benefits a youth and family receive through their participation in Scouting. Our Friends of Scouting (FOS) message shares the vision of the Housatonic Council and assists us in increasing community participation, grant funding, and additional corporate support.



Council Leadership

2017 Executive Committee:

Council President
Gary Parker

Council Commissioner
Jeffery Anderson

Treasurer
Richard Hoponick

Assistant Treasurers
Walter R. Archer, III
Peter Tomaino

Vice-President/Administration
Rod Erickson

Vice-President/Outdoor Programs &
Camping
Father Chris Tiano

Vice President/Program
Karen Lord

Vice-President/Fundraising
Vacant

Vice President Endowment
Kevin Moyher

Vice President Marketing & Public
Relations
John Wardzala

Vice President Membership
Reverend James Midgely

Scout Executive
John A. Zseller II

Charter Organizations:

- Booth Hill School PTO, Shelton, Pack 24
- Charter Hose Co. #4, Ansonia, Pack 16
- Christ Church Quaker Farms, Oxford, Pack 14
- David S. Miles Post 174, Oxford, Crew 2001
- Derby 2nd Congregational Church, Derby, Troop 3
- Derby Methodist Church, Derby, Pack 3
- Derby-Shelton Rotary Club, Derby, Crew 33
- Elizabeth Shelton PTA, Shelton, Pack 27
- First United Methodist Church of Shelton, Shelton, Pack 25, Troop 25
- Great Hill United Methodist Church, Seymour, Pack 60
- Hill Top Hose Co. #5, Ansonia, Troop 105
- Holy Rosary Catholic Men's Club, Ansonia, Pack 7, Crew 77
- Housatonic Council, Derby, Pack 555,
- Huntington Congregational Church, Huntington, Troop 101
- Huntington United Methodist Church Men's Club, Shelton, Troop 55
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oxford, Pack 65, Troop 65, Crew 65
- Irving School PTO, Derby, Pack 90
- Mohegan School PTO, Shelton, Pack 28, Troop 28
- St. Mary's Church, Derby, Crew 1851
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Shelton, Troop 27
- St. Joseph's Church, Shelton, Troop 19
- Sunnyside School PTA, Shelton, Pack 20
- The Huntington Chapel, Shelton, Crew 2017
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Seymour, Pack 11
- Trinity Men's Club - Trinity Episcopal Church, Seymour, Crew 11
- Oxford Ambulance Association, Oxford, Post 108



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President's Message - Congratulations and Thank You!!!

Dear Friends of Housatonic Council,

Once again, 2017 proved to be a very active and exciting year. As a Council, we attained continued successes with our sponsored youth activities, Camp Strang Summer Resident Camp and Year-Round Camping as well as the Cub Scout Day Camp. The year-round weekend program continues to grow with more opportunities for our own units and others to enjoy the countless activity options available at Camp Strang and beyond. We have ability to offer the scouting experience in each of these areas to many more Scouts in the future. Our challenge is to improve the way in which we reach out to those youth waiting to be asked.

The outstanding programming delivered to the participating youth at each of these, not to mention the endless schedule of each Unit's activities, is only made possible with the diligence and dedication of the dozen upon dozens of volunteer leaders who continue to selflessly give time, experience and treasure toward the benefit of the youth. That is truly what it is all about and a virtue which this Council is very proud and grateful.

Another bright light for the Council shining in 2017 is the Paugasset Lodge Order of the Arrow. The rapid growth of membership guided with strong youth and adult leadership has evolved this organization to become a jewel within our ranks. We look forward to supporting the lodge not only with their mission to serve, but also with their hosting the 2018 Area Order of the Arrow Conclave to be held at Camp Strang in the spring. It is these shining stars of our Council that we must promote for it is they who will assist us in growing our membership in the years to come.

With diligence, the Board attained milestone accomplishments with the crafting and enactment of two major documents to help guide the Council in the years and decades to come. Working with the Valley Community Foundation, the Endowment Accounts were reorganized and Spending Policy revised to provide better transparency and management of those funds. The actions taken with intent to grow the funds in the years to come will enable us to initiate a Legacy and Major Gifts Development Plan for long term sustainability of the Council. Similarly, The Council Strategic Plan was revised to address the needs, concerns and goals over the next five years. For the first time, this plan includes not only the definition of issues but also action parameters to address them. The plan is transformed from a book on a shelf to a working manual.

The Council realized outstanding success with the sponsored fundraising events. We are grateful for every sponsor and supporter at these recurring events and look forward each year to utilize the opportunity to showcase the benefits of Scouting their dollars go to deliver to our local youth. We look to add a new event in 2018 to supplement those already established. Likewise, we are thankful for The Valley United Way, The Valley Community Foundation along with the many Foundation and Trusts who each year provide the substantial dollars necessary for us to deliver a quality Scouting program to the youth in the Valley. Of course, we cannot forget the support we receive through the Friends of Scouting campaign. The support of the family and community participants must not be underestimated, and for them we are forever grateful. We look forward with the Executive Board leadership, we can effectively reach out and recruit more into this vital means of support.

Thank you to the Executive Board, the Volunteer Committee Chairs and Members and the Unit Leaders, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Ventures and our Professional Staff for making the Housatonic Council the best we can be for 2017, 2018 and many, many years to come.

Yours in Scouting,

Gary M. Parker
Council President