Those who know us; know we are a Scouting family. Real “do-ers” as my friends say. Yet we are not just Scouts. We are part of the community, the Pineville PTA, the HOA, a mom, a dad, spouses, and friends that are all intertwined with who we are and why we give back. I’ve recruited other families to join Scouting and we continue to take on additional roles for our unit, district, and council. I’ve made adult friends and I’ve seen the lives of so many others enriched by togetherness of Scouting.

Recently, there have been events in the news that are not a BSA problem - they are unfortunately a cultural issue that has also occurred in the church, sports, and across many college campuses among others.

Today, we stand with and for the Boy Scouts of America. For the time it has given me and my family to bond with our son. For the opportunity to be outdoors leading and teaching. To realizing our Duty to God called us to baptize our son at age 10 at St. Matthews Church. Be a part of your children’s lives in all ways.

- Andy Waligowski - Local Scout Father

Eagle Scout David Vick Honored with Eagle Scout Project of the Year

All Eagle Scout service projects require tremendous effort and determination. Some require an extra measure. Through his experience with the CMPD Summer Cadet Program, Eagle Scout David Vick, was motivated to undertake an extraordinary task.

David’s project was selected as the Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams Eagle Scout Project of the Year for our council. His project took over two years from inception to completion. Through his leadership and the help of many others, he built a training apparatus for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Training Academy. Named the Sargent Ray William’s Battleground this training station consists of 2, 20 foot dip stations with 8 pullup stations and additional side support to allow for more pullup stations. This involved more than 30 volunteers and an estimate of over 3,300 volunteer hours to complete. David aspires to go to college and become involved in ROTC. He plans to serve in the military and then pursue a career in law enforcement.
Abhishek Singh Eagle of the Year

Abhishek Singh of Troop 19 in Huntersville was selected as Mecklenburg County Council’s 2019 Eagle Scout of The Year.

Abhishek encountered some challenges on his Scouting Trail including his first Eagle Scout Project being rejected. He credits resilience that he learned in Scouting to persist to make the necessary changes to get it approved.

He created his own teen advocacy group- One Race One World (OROW). OROW aims to dismantle the pillars of racism and xenophobia in Charlotte, North Carolina. Abhishek states, “Scouting offers young people invaluable leadership skills, which then allows these young people to go out and better their communities. Resilience and leadership have allowed me to become a confident man, which is vital for my future career as a leader in the healthcare field.”

Scouting Values are For Life. Reflections of a 93 Year Old Eagle Scout

Last year we were introduced to Charles Cross. Mr. Cross is a 93 year old Eagle Scout living at Plantation Estates in Matthews. Mr. Cross misplaced his Eagle Scout medal and was inquiring about a replacement. After a lifetime of achievement and service, Mr. Cross has decided that eventually, he wants to be buried with his medal. Thankfully, his original 1941 medal was found and we discovered the story of an Eagle Scout.

Mr. Cross was born in Monroe, Michigan and in the 1930’s, Scouting was mostly segregated. He joined Scouting at his church, along with his best friend, whose father was the Scoutmaster.

He credits his mother as the biggest influence in his life. She taught him the value of education, hard work, and never being allowed to be treated differently than anyone else. Mr. Cross served in a segregated unit in the US Army during World War II. He recalls that he was proud to serve and do his part for his country. After learning the value of hard work in the steel mills near Youngstown, Ohio, Charles pursued his undergraduate and masters degrees. He began a career in public service in Ohio and moved to Charlotte in the 1960’s to take a job as an executive with what is now the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS.) He was the first African American to hold such a position and served the city for many years until his retirement. We thank him for sharing his story and the impact that Scouting had on shaping his life.

MEET LARRY BANKS: TROOP 19

Meet Troop 19 Scoutmaster, Larry Banks. He was a recipient of this years Good Scout Award. Larry is a true “Scout” in his everyday life. Larry’s impact on Scouting, reaches far beyond just his own troop.

Scoutmaster Troop 19, Larry Banks

Good Scout Awards Breakfast

The Good Scout Breakfast was at the Charlotte Le Meridien on December 10th. This began our 2020 Friends of Scouting campaign and raised $322,225. Each year we recognize one company and three individuals with the Good Scout Award for serving our community through Scouting values.

This year’s honorees were:
- Liam Oreilly
- Larry Banks
- Naem Rush-Jankee
CPI Security

LEARNING FOR LIFE

As part of BSA’s Learning for Life program, ALMA’s dynamic speaker, Sensei Derek talks to local high school students about entrepreneurship and careers in general. The students were captivated as he talked about the value of character, learning skills, and true grit for the success with any career. At the end of the program, students were asked to stand if anything they heard made an impact on them, the students unanimously stood up.

The second and third grade girls of Cub Scout pack 58 are at a rock climbing gym in Mooresville. And they’re excited: They’re climbing with an older group of middle- and high school-aged girls today.

This event is a chance for the younger girls to see the group they might eventually join. Girl Troop 58, in Davidson. Also called GT58, it was one of the first girl troops chartered in Mecklenburg County in February. That’s when the program now called Scouts BSA first allowed girls to join. There are now at least 14 girl troops in the council.

Some of the girls said, “I was never in a leadership position before Scouts, so this is a really new experience for me.” “There’s bonding with friends, there’s outdoor opportunities and being in nature and appreciating nature, there’s learning the Scout skills,” said Chartier. “And then the last piece is leadership opportunity, that is very unique.”

Unlike many other extracurriculars, Scouts lead their troops. They run their meetings and decide collectively what they’re going to do. Parents are there to provide guidance and ensure safety. This setup pushes girls to take risks, learn how to confront challenges, and deal with setbacks.

Scouting for Food

We are happy to announce that Scouting for Food collected 278,859lbs of food this year. That is 13 tractor trailers of food donated by our community.

A special thanks to all our volunteers, leaders, parents and all our Scouts. In addition, we would like to thank our Scouting for Food partners at Harris Teeter, Campbells, NBC Charlotte, and the Tegna Foundation for their amazing support! We would also like to thank Tim Morgan, our Scouting for Food Chairman, for his outstanding leadership and the OA Catawba Lodge for their strong support. Congratulations to our partners at Loaves and Fishes for another outstanding year!