

The following is a short history on Scouting, from mid-century.

By historian Robert C. Valentine

1957: The concept of World Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) was launched whereby Scouts communicated with each other by amateur radio.

1959: The Boy Scout Handbook first time published in color. The Explorer Program was renamed the Exploring program. Between 1950 and 1960, the Boys Scout strength rose from 2.8 million boys to 5.2 million.

1960s: Mid 1960s Civil Rights legislation goes beyond voting and employment barriers, especially in the Deep South, opens opportunity and dignity to Black Americans in the Scouting movement, where before dignity, opportunity, achievement went lacking; before the Mid-sixties, the Ku Klux Klan strongly denounced the Boy Scouts as a puppet of the Catholic Church and preached segregation on every account.

1965: The Inner-City Rural Program gave rise to Scouting programs in the lower-income inner cities and rural areas, from the Appalachians to the inner most corners of a city housing project.

1967: First time the Boy Scouts of America host a world jamboree (Farragut State Park, Idaho).

1969: The BSA allowed young women ages 14 to 20 to join special-interest Explorer posts.

1971: Young women were admitted to full membership in Exploring, and the upper age limit for Explorers was raised to 21.

1972: Boy Scout membership totals 6.5 million boys.

1973: The red beret extends to the Boy Scouts as normal wear. Boy Scout Handbook emphasizes modern conservation practices and inner city awareness, deemphasizing pioneer survival. The Senior Boy Scout program is replaced by the Leadership Corps in the seventies.

1978: The age restrictions for severely disabled persons were removed so that they could continue to participate in Scouting programs beyond the cutoff ages--11 for Cubs, 18 for Boy Scouts, 21 for Explorers. Next page (*top, bott*) Scouts of the World from Australia and from Germany courtesy of Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg, and Eco Voice. A US Postage stamp, issued 1960.



1980: Boy Scout membership declines to 4.3 million, in part due to less emphasis on camping. A new Boy Scout handbook is issued and Camping is restored to the required merit badge list to be an Eagle Scout. The word “campfire” which was totally dropped in the 1970s Handbook for all Scouts was restored. A new Boy Scout uniform with red shoulder loops is designed and introduced by Oscar de la Renta.

1981: Boy Scouts could earn a Handicapped Awareness merit badge. Posts that primarily consisted of seminars at high school with guest speakers were recategorized as Career Awareness Explorer posts. (Exploring specialty programs were categorized into aviation, business, science and engineering, law and government, law enforcement, health careers, outdoor, Sea Exploring, sports, career education, arts, skilled trades, social service, fire and rescue, and communications).

1984: The Varsity program is introduced for older scouts, with an emphasis on athletics, outdoor high-adventure and service, after a 2-year pilot test. Boy Scout membership: 4.7 million. Girl Scout membership: 2.8 million.

1994: Boy Scout membership: 5.3 million. Girl Scout membership: 3.3 million.

1995: The concept of World Scout Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) operates as an official event whereby Scouts use the web for communication as a special yearly event in October.

1998: Venturing was officially created by the BSA executive board. The old Exploring program was completely reorganized and split into two program categories. All the career-oriented posts were moved to Learning for Life under the name Exploring, while the rest (including outdoor-oriented posts) became the new Venturing program. Sea Exploring was renamed Sea Scouting.

1999: Boy Scout membership: 6.2 million. Girl Scout membership: 3.6 million.

2003: The James M. Stewart Museum Foundation and the Boy Scouts of America present a new award for Boy Scouts, The James M. Stewart Good Citizenship Award.

2004: The year of Winds: a record number of twisters hit the United

States with 1,947, and the Boy Scouts respond to the challenge in unheralded scope. Hurricane Ivan was a super devil hurricane, went in and out the United States **twice**, before dissipating.

2005: Hurricane Katrina hits southern United States; one of the largest internal displacements in U.S. history; killed over 1300 people.

Hundreds of Boy Scout troops, Cub Scout packs, Venturing and Sea Scouts respond before Pres. Bush called for national appeal, in particular Troop 400 and Pack 400 of Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Richmond Georgia. All troops collected over 9,000 pounds of relief supplies, and they worked alongside many relief groups. Super Hurricane Rita follows, strikes Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi. Massive traffic jams from the metropolis of Houston and the Texas coast prevent evacuees from reaching shelters farther inland, to where the American Red Cross had positioned supplies and volunteers. Texas Venturing Scout Crew 911—I am not making this up, that is their number—magically respond opening up a shelter without medical supplies, organized a local call-up of Boy Scouts for help and responded with bravado. They cooked up meals from a cafeteria, took care of a busload of Alzheimers's disease patients and a premature baby. And when supplies ran low, mobilized members of a nearby church to deliver food and health kits in the middle of the night; all told, they served over 2,000 meals and helped 600 senior citizens, men and women, kids, babies, numerous dogs and cats and an exotic bird survive.

2006: The California Supreme Court issues a decision to allow cities and government agencies to ban any group from receiving a public benefit if a group practices an anti-bias policy. Many cities and municipalities begin to follow suit across other states, banning scout programs, from regular Scout troops to Sea Explorers, and all ethnically diverse scouts. The Midwest is beset by horrific winter storms.

2008: A World Depression/recession strikes globe. Biggest tax increase in U.S. history when Congress passes a 451-page financial aid package.

2010: S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation donates \$50 million to the Boy Scouts of America, the largest donation in the history of the BSA to jump start

the \$300 million development of the 10,600 acre wild life Summit Bechtel Reserve, W. VA. One in seven of the Fortunes 500 Companies each donate at least \$10,000 to the Boy Scouts of America, donors include Kraft Foods Group, Macy's, Morgan Stanley, Campbell's Soup. First time a sitting President of the United States misses a Boy Scout National Jamboree, and this year July 26-Aug. 4 was historic marking the group's 100th Anniversary, but he makes a historic first in another respect, agrees to appear on a daytime television talk show (*The View*).

Boy Scout spokesman Deron Smith stated there will always be a spot available for the President during the Jamboree; President never shows. Obama as President met a Boy Scout delegation at the White House July 12, the delegation represents over 3 million. Boy Scouts present the annual BSA report. Pres. Obama sends a video recording to the Jamboree which is held in the President's back yard, in nearby Virginia.

2011: The United States is subjected to 1,714 twisters. Boy Scout membership: 2.5 million. Winter 2010-2011 buries the U.S. from central states to Big East; snowmageddon buries Chicago, Illinois Feb 1-2, 2011. Famous Scouts from the past: astronaut Neil Armstrong, Martin Luther King Jr, filmmaker Steven Spielberg (made Eagle Scout), astronaut Buzz Aldrin, astronaut Guion Bluford, Michael Jordan, Hank Aaron, Willie Banks, Tommy Lasorda, Ross Perot, Bill Gates, Jimmy Stewart, Bill Marriott, former Presidents Bill Clinton, John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush, Gerald Ford, Harrison Ford, Nolan Ryan, Joe Theismann, Jon Bon Jovi, Michael Bloomberg (former NYC Mayor), Jay Leno, Mark Spitz, John Wayne (Marion Robert Morrison), Andy Griffith, Tony Cavalero, John Ritter, Chris Pratt, Walter Cronkite, Dan Reynolds, Charles Dolan founder of HBO, Robert Gates, John Lithgow, Phil McKinney (Hewlett-Packard CTO), Stephen Bechtel Jr, George Meyer (of The Simpsons fame), James Valentine, Kevin Ross of Digg, Percy Sutton, 2003 Nobel Prize laureate Peter Agre.

2012: After a confidential two-year review, the Boy Scouts of America reaffirmed the policy of excluding gays from Scout membership. *CBS News* reports nationally Pres. Obama opposes the Boy Scouts who stick

to the Bible, although the President refuses to make any official public comment. National gay groups urge the President to resign as honorary president of the Scouts. Megastorm Sandy collides with a winter-like storm and wallops the United States, over 60 million affected with some 200,000 totally w/o shelter; the third costliest storm on record. Power outages lasted for days, weeks, and in some places for months. Boy Scout membership: 2.4 million. Baden-Powell once had said, "The main method of the Boy Scouts movement is to give some form of positive training rather than merely to inculcate negative precepts." The Scout movement responds w/untold supply kits and emergency aid. On the 100th Anniversary of the Eagle Award first issued to Scouts, 58,659 Eagles received the special honor, a new national record.

2013: Philmont has an attendance of 35,054 campers. Corporate sponsorship of Boy Scouts continue to plummet (such as Intel, Merck, United Parcel Service.)

2014: Openly gay individuals will be allowed into the Scouts, announcement made. A world witnesses the birth and growth of ISIS terrorism.

2015: Bowing down to new society pressures, Boy Scout charters permit an individual adult leader/employee from the homosexual lifestyle into the Scout program if local units' (troop/council) parents choose to do so. President Obama believes young children are the most impressionable age group, absorbing lifestyles like "sponges." Dota addiction among teenagers.

2016: Sea Scout program separates from Venturing. Historic blizzard with hurricane-force winds strikes eastern region of the United States, affects 105 million people. Sunway Taihu Light is the fastest supercomputer in the world, registers 93 floating-point operations per second.

2017: The BSA announced future programs would allow females into single-gender Cub Scout dens (in 2018) and in the following year Boy Scout troops (Venturing, Sea Scouting, and Exploring remain co-ed). BSA membership stands at 2,282,584 in 2017. The Boy Scouts

announce that girls who identify as boys, aka transgender children, would be also allowed to enroll in the boys-only programs of Scouting, bowing to the pressure it does not matter what your sexual organs are. Canadian Bill 89 passes and gives Canadian courts power to legally remove any child from the parent, includes a clause that gives power for a child to have a sex change identity against the parents wishes. Hurricane Harvey makes landfall in Texas, becomes the costliest hurricane in U.S. History, displacing people and destroying property in countless numbers. Hurricane Irma, with the power and size of two Hurricane Andrews strikes the Caribbean and then Florida as a category 4.

2018: A horrendous fire strikes Philmont, known as the Ute Park Fire, which burned nearly 58 square miles. The BSA announces a new name for its Boy Scout program: Scouts BSA, effective next year. Urban firestorm wipes Paradise, California off the map. A Scout Trenton Dewell dug a pit and saved his father from the hideous fire. Troop 316 lost everything, and half moved away, but help arose from across the country.

2019: Philmont held some 21,000 Scouts on its 300 miles of trails, but also in 2019 it mortgaged the property. Scout BSA membership below 2 million in 2019. Girl Scout membership: 1.7 million. Feb. 2019 girls admitted into (Boy) Scouting and chartered new girl troops. Tornado outbreak in U.S., worst hits Dallas suburbs, becomes the costliest tornado attack in Texas history. Soldier Field, Chicago is filled to the brim with 61,353 young men who earned their Eagle Scout award, topping the old record of 2012. Utah is the top state with Eagles: 9,723 Eagle Scouts; California #2 with 5,534. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints forced to end its longtime alliance with the BSA, after December 31.

2020: COVID-19 pandemic affects all summer Boy Scout activities, response against the pandemic was met with a challenge of vigor in all aspects of society, **but not at first** and the United States, and the world, saw people dying left and right. Some 36 million American children are not going to school in the Spring. NY becomes the

epicenter of COVID-19. 69% of the Far West is covered in drought. The strongest winds in Louisiana history hits when Hurricane Laura strikes; also hits E. Texas. Boy Scouts try to respond despite COVID, in particular with food drives. Two boys from Troop 777 of The Woodlands, Rafe and Reed Katalik drive a Ford truck loaded with emergency supplies to Lake Charles. Isabella Tunney becomes the first girl scout in the Boy Scout organization to attain Eagle Scout, Oct. 1. Scouts BSA membership: 1.12 million. Girl Scout membership: 1.7 million. End of Dec. morgues and funeral homes in Los Angeles so over-filled, they forced to turn away people.

2021: Gun deaths in the United States grows to 48,830 people died in 2021, according to the CDC—54% due to suicides, 43% murders. Of the 26 thousand murders, 81% involved a firearm. 549 people died of accidental death due to a gun. Scouts BSA membership: under 770,000. 2021 National Scout Jamboree cancelled due to COVID-19. Pew Research Center states U.S. Church membership in the USA has fallen for the first time in U.S. history below the majority of the U.S. population, under 50%, while the number of handheld devices and those using the Web arose in market share. A whopping 33% of Gen Z that has reached adulthood has no religious preference. 31% of millennials have no religious affiliation. Deadliest and most destructive wildfires in California history strike, also along the entire West. Fire-smoke particles spread a strange haze over cities, towns, hamlets from the West to the Big East. 95% of the Far West covered in drought. Non-American hackers take down the U.S. oil pipeline system, Colonial Pipeline which transports some 2.5 million barrels of fuel daily from Texas to the Eastern Seaboard, demand cryptocurrency ransom, entire E. Coast went bananas. Hurricane Ida makes landfall on Aug. 29, as one of the most powerful hurricanes to strike the United States, winds and floods left in its wake extensive damage and power outages. Scouts respond with aid In bringing medical supplies, bottled water, non-perishable food, solar showers, and assist FEMA. Monster tornado whips NJ, many communities down due to floods; loss of lives due to Hurricane Ida and NE floods: 91. It is bedlam when there is no power

for communication, or to power your cell phone. Scout Jack Whitney of Troop 150, with his family's solar panels, rigged up two charging stations from parts from auto and hardware stores, to create 13 charging ports on each station. December followed with tornado watch in 6 U.S. states, winds up to 190 mph strike Kentucky, 79 twisters confirmed for Dec., 80 confirmed dead for month. 2021 is the deadliest year for tornadoes since 2011.

2022: Massive flooding in the St. Louis area, due to a once-in-a-1000 year event. Heatwave strangles West. Boy Scouts come to the rescue, despite few donations, especially from large U.S. corporations. Disney CEO Bob Chapek offers a \$5 million donation to the nation's largest gay, lesbian, transgender and queer civil rights organization. The number of gun suicide rates among Black teens surpassed the rate among white teens for the first time on record in the U.S. Earth's fifth warmest on record—tied with 2015 and 2017. The number of children hospitalized with RSV across America grows alarmingly; 71% of pediatric beds and hospitals are filled. The Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles receive an unprecedented \$4.9 million donation from MacKenzie Scott. Disney marketing leadership announces Disney would donate all profits from Pride Collection sales including sales of Pixar, Marvel, and Star Wars Pride Collection merchandise to LGBTQIA+ organizations.

2023: Membership fees to be a Scout BSA: \$146, up from \$75 in 2021. Scouts BSA membership: 1.042 million end of December. Girl Scout membership: 1.1 million.

Tens of thousands attend June Gay Pride parades, in the Seattle Gay parade totally nude men ride bikes in front of children. Majority of Gay parades excludes Boy Scouts, and Girls Scouts. A strange boycott of American giants in the business sector hits coast to coast, especially Anheuser-Busch and Target, with market losses swelling to \$15 billion. Disney's streaming business lost \$387 million in Disney Q4. NHL Commissioner announces the NHL will no longer be forced to the wearing of gay-themed jerseys. Tens of thousands of young scouts forced to evacuate a mosquito-laden 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea due to Typhoon Khanun which had already ravaged

southwest Japan with heavy rain, wind and power outages. Scouts somehow gathered to hold a closing ceremony at the Seoul World Cup Stadium, after Khanun, overcoming the heat and Typhoon.

2024: Effective Feb. 8, 2025, Boy Scouts to be renamed Scouting America. Fentanyl addiction continues among teenagers. Total tornado count for 2024: 1,791.



