

Grand Canyon Council
Annual Report
2020

**Blazing
the Trail
to a New
Future**



The Council's Purpose

To guide and support its districts for the achievement of the movement's purpose. The end result of effective district support is continued growth in membership, with those members receiving a quality program.



Grand Canyon Council, BSA

Our Operating Principles

1. Communicate and lead effectively.
2. Inspire through exceptional customer service.
3. Simplify processes, achieve goals, and be accountable.
4. Create and celebrate success.
5. Focus on the big rocks first.
6. Cultivate social capital.

Scouts on one of many civic projects, donating 176,114 hours to various projects on the community.

The past year has been one of transition and refocus for the Grand Canyon Council. Over the past few years, our council and the BSA national council have challenged old models and barriers to participation that kept us from offering the benefits of the scouting to all youth and their families. As you know well, we are now an organization open to all youth.

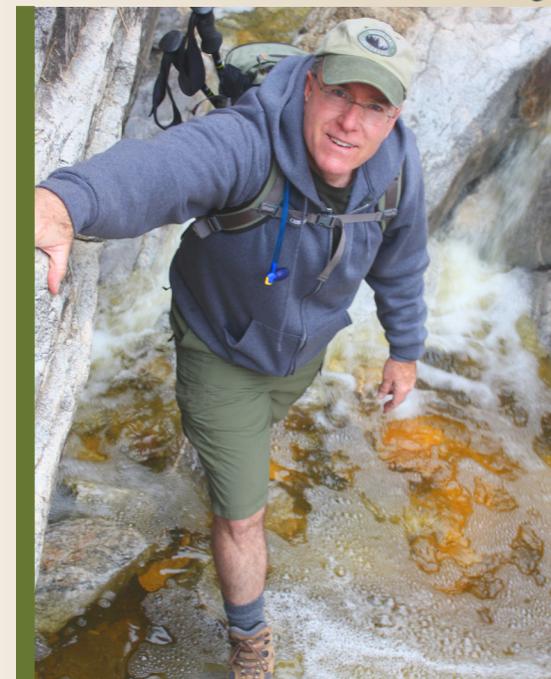
These long-sought and welcome changes are rapidly changing our traditional partners and providing us with tremendous opportunity to reach out to new partners and communities as we seek to meet the needs of any child or young person that can benefit from our commitment to them.

We are deeply grateful to staff and volunteers who are committing a great deal of time and treasure to help us realign the council to our new realities and possibilities. The year ahead will see all of us actively seeking not only to support our current scouts and families, but to serve many more youth whose lives can be enriched by scouting.



Andy Price, SCOUT EXECUTIVE / CEO

Andy



Tim
Tim Smith, COUNCIL COMMISSIONER

Lisa Graham Keegan, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Lisa A. Keegan





Scouting in Arizona is embarking on an adventure it's never experienced before, one that has all the challenges

one would find in, shall we say a rather difficult hike to a place with a magnificent view of horizons so beautiful it will make the struggle that much more rewarding in the end.

This hike is fraught with all the challenges you would ever want (or not want) to experience in a lifetime. But one with an equally enormous reward in the end, the continuation of serving the youth in our state to become independent, mature, productive, and well balanced citizens able to face the future with confidence. Let us tell you about the challenge and how we are going to succeed.



Program

These represent but a few of the exciting pursuits we are driving.



Scouts BSA Summer Camp – Geronimo

Weekly limit of 500 – This is our primary summer camping facility and we are placing a limit on participation so we can economically manage our youths experience.



Scouts learning the refractive powers of ordinary eye glasses. ↓



Fish Camp – We are partnering with Trout Unlimited to give our Scouts a special unique experience learning the patience that a quality fishing experience is known for. There will be 3 sessions open to individual Scouts and adults this next summer with more to come in the future as its popularity grows.



Philmont 2020

This a critical adult leadership event this summer at the Western Regional Week conference, where we will be taking our Strategic Plan and building the tactics needed to bring it to fruition.

Wood Badge –

We will continue with our premier adult Wood Badge leadership training and our well recognized National Youth Leadership Training where scouts get a deep dive into what it means to become a future leader in the community.



So, here's where we're at right now.

In order to get ready for this hike we have had to become lean to survive the grade of the trail and the altitude we are climbing to.

Staffing Changes

We have economized our staffing requirements.

48 reduced to 28 staff positions

7 District Executives
BSA staffing model points to 23 (bronze JTE)
63 (gold JTE)

Grand Canyon Council is woefully understaffed which shows you the lengths we are committed to to make recovery workable.

Properties Assessment

All camps being reviewed and are potentially for sale

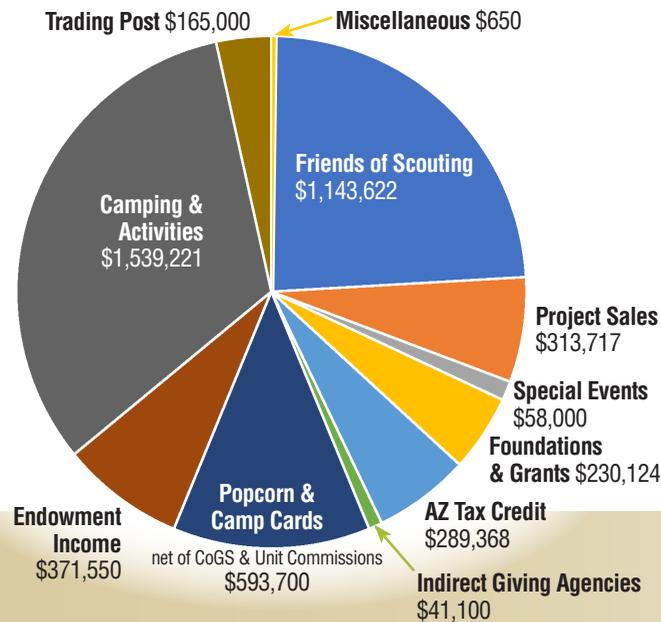
Our commitment is to program first, with finance a close second

We have sold our Scout Service Center and are looking for new, more economical facilities that better serve our current and short time needs.

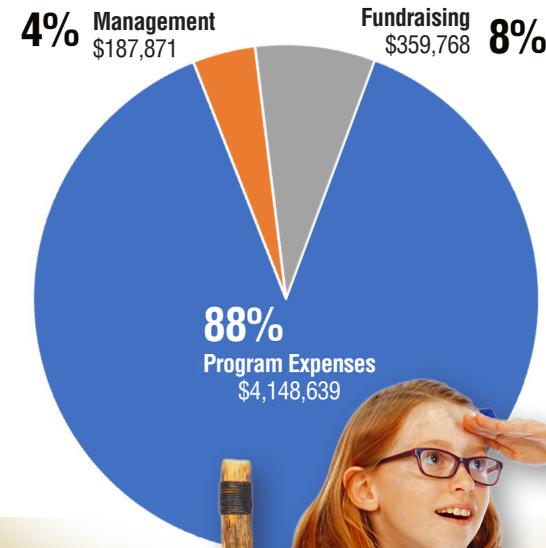
Monetary Growth

We are re-establishing community-based fundraising plans and have implemented internal accounting changes to correct past deficiencies. The accounting function has been outsourced to a vendor that currently supports 1/3 of local BSA councils nationally and this has resulted in net savings of approximately \$100,000 in annual expenses while increasing the quality of our accounting function. A new comprehensive donor stewardship plan is being developed that will result in more timely and accurate reports being provided to donors.

2020 Budgeted Income Sources



2020 Expenses Sources



Analysis

The greatest realization from our recent analysis is that we had become strong internal communicators, but we did not have our face to the outside world, communicate the philosophy and benefits of Scouting. So, we have adopted procedures that better communicated what Scouting is about and put a greater emphasis on inviting new Scouts to the program. To that end we are sponsoring legislation allowing us access to public schools to tell our story.

Female Scouts Troops

Female Troop 3401 officially formed in February of 2019 when females were added to the BSA troop program. The troop started with 6 young ladies, ages 11 -14, and was an out-growth of 3 of the girls with siblings in the brother Scout Unit. From the beginning the girls indicated that they wanted to be treated "just like the boys." This past year the girls have learned the basics of Scouting (whipping and fusing rope, knife, saw & axe safety, first aid and more) then on to maps, trail navigation, and camping. This included various trips from an overnight at a historic mission to a Star Party at the Grand Canyon. With each new experience they soon embraced the adventure of Scouting while working on rank advancement.



SCOUTS
BSA



Just a few of the vast array of learning opportunities available through Scouting.

As they continue to progress in their ranks toward Eagle, they will be stepping into more leadership roles both within their troop and in their daily lives. We look forward to more adventures yet to come.

Ships in the Desert

After earning various other merit badges they were off to summer camp where the girls not only earned more merit badges, like art and communication, but also pursued the more adventurous badges of kayaking and motor boating. It was a joy to see the beaming smiles on their faces as they piloted their boats into shore. From there they put those skills to use with a kayaking trip down the Salt River.



Sea Scout units are known as Ships, so it is very unusual to find Ships in Arizona Scouting, but they are here and are becoming a very effective in recruiting Scouts to explore this unique challenge. Our Ships use the various lake in central Arizona learning the ways of the Sea Hardy, even if not on the high seas.

Grand Canyon Council is Hosting National STEM /Nova trainers for the Western Region this fall



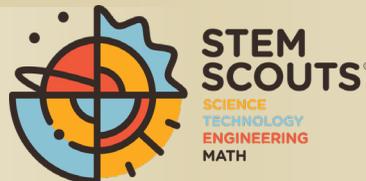
The Grand Canyon Council is hosting the Western Region STEM-tastic Training weekend. This training will take place in November at the Heard Scout Pueblo with registration opening this spring.

National STEM trainers for the STEM/NOVA program will provide training to adult leaders and parents.

Trained Nova Counselor and Supernova Mentors will guide participants on how to help Scouts with projects and earn Nova and Supernova awards. Those who attend will gain hands-on experience conducting STEM experiments and demonstrations.

Part of the training focus on sharing ideas with others interested in the STEM/Nova awards in Scouting and by learning to promote and recruit others to join the learning opportunity.

STEM-tastic Training weekend is headed by Central District's STEM representative Sandy Haislet and Council's newly formed STEM/Nova Committee.





So, now that we know the lay of the land and can see the future much clearer, we are ready to start the climb and benefit from the broad horizons we will discover by the end of our hike.

Our Starting Point
2019 accomplishments

We invite you to join us on this journey by supporting Scouting a ways you feel inspired to see us succeed.

36,956 total youth served in 1,691 units

1,972 Arrow of Light awards

11,273 total Cub Scout ranks

1,368 Eagle Scouts

176,114 Service Hours from Eagle Scout Service Projects

184,780 Service Hours logged in JTE

33,001 merit badges earned