

# Scouting Matters

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## Eagle Scout Journey



Chase Hesseltine is with Troop 28, sponsored by the Mt. Pleasant Kiwanis Club. Chase chose his Eagle Scout project to repair the city park in Olds, IA, as it was starting to show its age.

The paint was chipping and peeling from the pavilion, swings, and basketball hoops. A fence was broken and mulch was needed.

Chase talked with the Olds City Council and the Shoquoquon District Advancement Committee and got approval to do the project. He then planned the work days and what his volunteers would be helping with. He also needed to plan what tools and paint they would need and how much mulch needed to be delivered.

The Olds City Council funded all the materials and supplies. Norm's Trucking supplied some of the tools. Chase also made sure that a first aid kit was on site and that any potential hazards were addressed.

Much of the play equipment and pavilion needed to be scraped and primed before it was painted.

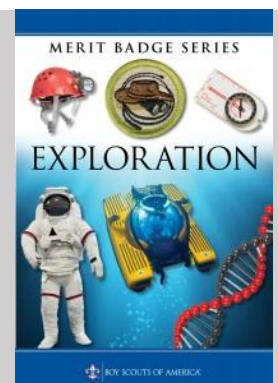
Chase says, "Before we started on the park it looked dull, rusty and plain. The park has been beautified and is safer for the kids to play in." He has noticed that there are more kids that play and use the park.

## New Merit Badge Released

**Celebrating a Scout's Spirit of Adventure...** Exploration is more than an adventure. It is discovering and uncovering information.

**The experts behind Exploration Merit Badge...** The Exploration merit badge pamphlet itself was a collaborative effort involving some of the planet's top modern-day explorers. The list includes **Michael Manyak**, a renowned consultant on expedition medicine; **Lee Berger**, a paleoanthropologist who has made breakthrough discoveries about the history of humans; and **Scott Parazynski**, an astronaut who has both flown in space and summited Mount Everest.

New merit badges are developed on a regular basis covering a wide variety of vocations & hobbies.



# Happy Anniversary!

The Mississippi Valley Council could not do what it does without the support of our Sponsoring Organizations. Through their loyal support, we are able to accomplish many significant community service projects and prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes. So sometimes it just needs to be said...Thank you! The units in the list below are celebrating a significant anniversary this year.

Celebrating our Partnerships

<u>Charter Partner</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>
Friends of Scouting at Indian Hills	Quincy	IL	Troop 90	5 Years
Holy Family Parish	Fort Madison	IA	Troop 7	5 Years
Chaddock	Quincy	IL	Troop 91	5 Years
Burlington Notre Dame Schools	Burlington	IA	Crew 2	5 Years
First Christian Church	Hamilton	IA	Troop 41	10 Years
Madison School Scouting	Quincy	IL	Pack 91	10 Years
St. James Lutheran	Quincy	IL	Troop 2	10 Years
Indian Hills Friends of Scouting	Quincy	IL	Pack 90	15 Years
River of Life Church	Dallas City	IL	Troop 51	15 Years
Congregational United Church of Christ	Denmark	IA	Troop 19	15 Years
Wapello Presbyterian Church	Wapello	IA	Pack 16	20 Years
Corse PTO	Burlington	IA	Pack 40	25 Years
La Harpe Lions Club	La Harpe	IL	Troop 138	25 Years
Midwest Old Threshers	Mt. Pleasant	IL	Post 1846	35 Years
Liberty Lions Club	Liberty	IL	Pack 58	40 Years
Oakville United Methodist Church	Oakville	IA	Troop 57	40 Years
American Legion Post 1176	Oquawka	IL	Troop 60	50 Years
Barry American Legion Post 22	Barry	IL	Troop 15	55 Years
Letts United Methodist Church Men's Club	Letts	IA	Troop 54	55 Years
United Methodist Church	Barry	IL	Pack 15	55 Years
American Legion Gillaspey-Moody Post	Donnellson	IA	Pack 33	60 Years
North Hill School PTA	Burlington	IA	Pack 29	65 Years
Adams School Parents	Quincy	IL	Pack 21	65 Years
American Legion Post 243	Mediapolis	IA	Troop 53	70 Years
American Legion Gillaspey-Moody Post	Donnellson	IA	Pack 33	90 Years
St. John's Catholic Church	Burlington	IA	Troop 3	100 Years

*Congratulations, Troop 3, on 100 years of Scouting!*

# 2016 By the Numbers

## Our Camps

1,213 Scouts at Summer Camp  
34.8% Increase in Cub Scout Camping  
23% increase in weekend camping  
25 Scouts attended the new Provisional Camp  
24% Increase in attendance at the Boy Scout Polar Bear  
128% increase in attendance at Cub Scout Yukon

## In the Community

20,086 Recorded Service Hours  
5,330 Scouts and leaders participated in 493 Projects  
5,245 Hours from Eagle Scout Projects  
40,327 Items Donated at Scouting for Food  
3 Military Popcorn Days

## Adventure of a Lifetime

9 Scouts attended Philmont  
2 Scouts attended NAYLE  
22 Scouts attended Northern Tier  
1 Scout attended The Summit  
29 Volunteers attended Wood Badge

## Our Membership

4.86% Membership Growth  
2,952 Youth Served  
182 New Kindergarten Lions  
95.7% Unit Retention  
5% Growth in Exploring  
4 New Units

## STEM

43 Scouts attended the new STEM Camp  
1,482 Earned Merit Badges with STEM Requirements  
New Mechanics program area at Summer Camp  
New STEM Resources: 3D Printer, Drone, GoPro, and RC Race Cars

## Rank Advancement

59 Eagle Scouts  
1,314 Cub Scout Ranks Earned  
360 Boy Scout Ranks Earned  
2,224 Merit Badges Earned  
New *Adventures in a Box* for Dens and Packs to use when working toward their Rank



**Scouting for Food** is just one way the Boy Scouts of America works to improve communities across the nation. Scouts are actively cleaning up parks, building houses, gathering for the needy, and even helping with disaster preparedness. We need millions of volunteers to provide these opportunities for youth to learn and grow. Last year Scouts collected 40,327 food items.

This year's Scouting for Food Drive is underway. Bags were distributed on March 11th and will be collected on Saturday, March 18th. Please support our efforts to restock food pantries across our council area. Thank you!





## ***A Scout is Thrifty...***

**Scouts can earn their own way to all their summertime Scouting adventures!**

Mississippi Valley Council offers a "Discount Card" that entitles the user to several discounts at area businesses. The Scout sells the card for \$5.00 and units will earn \$2.25 to go toward the Scout's camp.

Participating businesses have offered some very nice incentives that the Discount Cards practically sell themselves. The card more than pays for itself. Please support the Scout that comes to your door.

## **Explorer Receives Leadership Award**

Explorer, Brianna Otten, received the Leadership Award at the Council Annual Dinner held in February. Brianna is a member of the Quincy Fire Department's Post 104. The Leadership Award is a distinguished award for Explorers, high school participants, and adult volunteer leaders who have given exceptional leadership in the Exploring program.

When asked, why is Exploring important to you? Brianna replied, "Exploring is important to me because when I started my Freshman year in high school, I didn't know what I wanted to do for my four years, and I decided to try Exploring.

Exploring helped shape the person I am, and it gave me insight on what I wanted to do with my life beyond high school. Exploring is important to me because I really care about the post I'm in, and I feel that I am a better person today because of Exploring."

Brianna says that her favorite memories are traveling to the National Conferences. "I LOVED seeing the beautiful country side and taking so many pictures, and then I met so many passionate people my age who loved the same thing as me. The conferences are amazing in themselves."

We asked Brianna, if you could do it all over again, would you still do Exploring and why? She answered, "I still would. I don't know where I would be, who I would be or what I'd want to do with my life. I love Exploring and take great pride in calling myself an Explorer. I'd do it because Exploring has helped shape my life."



### **Council Leadership:**

Kevin Mineart, Council President

Dennis Stewart, Council Commissioner

Todd Lamison, Scout Executive/CEO

### **Scouting Matters Staff**

Bob Dickson, Vice President of Marketing

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