

Iroquois Trail Council, Inc.

Boy Scouts of America

2016 Program Highlights

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Boy Scouts of America, Iroquois Trail Council delivers the promise of Scouting to youth in Eastern Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties. Since 1910 Scouting's vision has been to prepare young people to become responsible, participating citizens and leaders, and to help transform boys and young men into better husbands, fathers and leaders.



The Boy Scouts of America, Iroquois Trail Council gives every kid a chance to become the best person they can be. The success of Scouting programs and the impact they have in local communities is achieved by effectively using the methods of family involvement, positive peer group activities, adult mentors and role models, and a values-rich curriculum.

The Council partners with nearly 100 local organizations to create meaningful and lasting character-building programs that improve the lives of youth and their families and benefit the communities in which they live.

Scouting programs include Cub Scouting for boys ages 7-10, Boy Scouting for boys ages 11-18, and co-ed Venturing and Exploring for ages 14-20.

Youth Membership

Cub Scouts	1,436
Boy Scouts	937
Venturers	87
Explorers	78

Total **2,538**



Batavia Service Center

201 East Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020
Phone 585.343.0307
Fax 585.815.0312

Lockport Service Center

7121 Rochester Road
Lockport, NY 14094
Phone 716.434.2851
Fax 716.434.2899

info@itcbsa.org

www.itcbsa.org
[facebook.com/itcbsa](https://www.facebook.com/itcbsa)



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Journey to Excellence Gold Award

- The Council earned the BSA's 2016 **Gold Level Journey to Excellence Award**. The Boy Scouts of America's highest award for annual performance, the Gold Award is a distinction earned by only 25% of local councils in any given year. The award measures successful performance in program outcomes and fiscal stewardship in 18 key areas against National benchmarks.
- The Boy Scouts of America recognizes the Council as one of the organization's high-performers. The Council ranked 1st out of the 9 Scouting councils in Upstate New York on the BSA's 2015 customer satisfaction survey.

Membership

- Scout packs, troops, crews, and posts exist in every town and neighborhood throughout Eastern Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties. Partnerships with nearly 100 local community organizations support 111 program groups.
- At year end, total youth membership consisted of 2,538 boys, young men & young women.
- Fall recruitment of new Cub Scouts increased by more than 100 boys over 2015 totals.
- Across our communities nearly 1 in 4 Cub-Scout age boys is a member of a local Cub Scout Pack.
- 1,059 adult volunteers deliver local Scouting programs.

Fiscal Stewardship

- 2016 was a banner year for contributions and camp attendance. Careful stewardship ensured that the Council ended the year with a balanced operating budget.
- In 2017 the council will launch an endowment campaign to help bolster long term fiscal strength.
- The Council reinvested its working capital in improvements to equipment, facilities, program, and a well-managed and growing Endowment Fund.
- All Capital projects were fully funded with private contributions.

Advancement & Recognition

Scouting's time-tested formula for developing the sensible, skilled citizens of tomorrow: learning by doing, achievement through learning, and its natural outcome—recognition.

- 55 local Boy Scouts earned the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Cub and Boy Scouts earned 1,160 rank advancements and 2,007 merit badges.

Activities & Community Service

- Youth members provided nearly 20,000 hours of community service, including the collection of more than 25,000 pounds of food for local pantries.
- 55 Eagle Scouts designed and managed service projects to make improvements in their local communities. Eagle projects help a wide range of beneficiaries, including local churches, schools, villages, and parks.
- District Camporees and the Winter Klondike Derby offered adventure and fellowship for hundreds to enjoy throughout the year: additionally, more than 600 Cubs and parents enjoyed the Annual Webelos Woods campout and "Taste of Scouting" weekends at Camp Sam Wood; nearly 500 enjoyed October's Cub Scout "Spookoree" at Genesee County Park; and 350 Cubs and leaders enjoyed the Cub Winter Fun Day challenges at Letchworth State Park.

Camping

Scouting creates life-long memories and educates with action, adventure, and excitement through outdoor adventures. The promise of adventure is brought to life at Camp Sam Wood located in the Town of Pike and Camp Dittmer located in the Town of Phelps.

- For the 10th year in a row Iroquois Trail led all upstate New York councils with the highest percentages of Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts attending summer and weekend camping events.
- More than 1,000 Cubs and Scouts attended our local Day Camps, Cub Scout Resident Camp at Sam Wood, and Boy Scout Summer Camp at Dittmer. Hundreds more enjoyed summer adventures at other Boy Scout camps and National High Adventure bases. 80% of our Scouts attend camp.
- In partnership with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Council launched a new summer program which helped to make Camp Dittmer a nationally-recognized destination camp.
- Due in part to several generous contributions, the Council was able to award \$7,500 in camperships to help 129 Cubs and Scouts attend camp this summer.