

The Scout Organization

To better understand the Scouting program, it helps to understand a little of the Scouting history, how the organization is structured and some of the vocabulary.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is a World Wide youth group started by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, a British Lieutenant General, in 1908. In Africa, Lord BP saw a need to educate his troops in leadership and outdoor scouting skills that no one had thought to teach them. He quickly wrote a manual for his troops to study and learn from. Upon returning to England from his African assignment, Lord BP discovered the book he had written called *Aids to Scouting* had become popular with young men as well. He soon rewrote his book into *Scouting For Boys* and began the youth program we know today. *Scouting for Boys* has been printed over 100 million times and is the basis for the scouting books we use today.

Inspired by Lord Baden-Powell's quick success with his program for boys, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was started in 1910 by William D Boyce. Today BSA is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States with 2.4 million youth and 1 million adults currently involved. The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) has also grown much over the past 100 years. Scouting programs are now found in 169 countries with about 40 million participants.

BSA is our national governing body and is responsible for maintaining the curriculum and providing the various programs for the different age groups of youth. BSA is part of the WOSM and sends participants to the World Jamboree every 3 years. Within the USA, BSA is organized into Area Councils. In Fredericksburg, we are part of the Capitol Area Council which is headquartered in Austin. Each Council is divided into Districts which we are a part of the Hill Country District in Capitol Area Council.

The core unit of Cub Scouting is called a Pack. In Boy Scouts, the core unit is called a Troop. Packs and Troops are chartered by a local organization. Pack 135 is chartered by Fredericksburg United Methodist Church and is currently the only Cub Scout Pack in Fredericksburg. A Pack consists of boys and now girls 1st grade through 5th grade. The Boy Scouting program then begins in late 5th grade and continues until the youth's 18th birthday.

With the Pack, age groups are organized into Dens. It is at the Den level where most of the Scouting program is conducted. Kids meet several times a month as a Den, camp several times a year as a Den, and participate in adventure field trips as a Den.