

WHY KIDS BENEFIT FROM YOUTH AT RISK (SCOUTREACH) PROGRAMS (AND WHAT DO THEY LEARN)?

Overview: President Ford Council Field Service Council of the Boy Scouts of America has over 1700 “Youth at Risk” in its “Scout Reach” programs at no cost to the kids. Participants include inner city, rural and otherwise disadvantaged or isolated children. Through this program they learn valuable life skills and see results similar to that shown on the sheet titled “WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR MEN WHO SPEND TWO YEARS IN THE CUB/ BOY SCOUT program.

- ScoutReach Youth typically start in the Cub Scout Advancement Program.
- They learn valuable skills in teamwork and team building.
- L.O.O.P. After School Program staff, at area schools, have reported that ScoutReach Youth are better behaved. We teach responsibility to “yourself, family and community”. We also teach self-respect, so the youth involved in ScoutReach know they are held to a higher standard of excellence.
- ScoutReach Youth receive better grades. The youth receive special awards for academic achievement and performance. The Scouting program is recognition based.
- ScoutReach has recognized that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programming is essential to preparing students to compete globally and has enhanced its programming by adding more STEM lessons with a heavy emphasis on technology!
- ScoutReach Youth also learn to create things with their hands and to compete. For example, the young men in the Cub Scout Program participate in a Pinewood Derby. Building projects are part of our Engineering and Science module.
- ScoutReach Youth are gaining valuable outdoor experiences that many of them have never had. We try to get as many young men to camp at either the Wege Biosphere and Nature Observatory or Gerber Scout Camp. This is a vital part of a Scout’s experience and teaches awareness of the world around them, develops self-confidence, a sense of accomplishment and builds teamwork skills. We also use the outdoors to focus on modules of Recycling, Water Conservation, Wildlife Observation, Learning about the Ecosystem and basic Agriculture.
- The ScoutReach Youth all learn basic First Aid, CPR and Fire Safety. A Scout learns to be prepared to help himself or others in case of emergencies, such as treating burns, how to stabilize and splint a broken limb, how to treat bloody noses, how to do the Heimlich Maneuver and how to design escape routes from a home in case of fire. These are VERY valuable skills that will not only benefit them for the rest of their lives, but also give them added self confidence.
- ScoutReach Youth develop and demonstrate strong leadership skills among their peers. By encouraging the young men to have a voice and to lead their individual groups, the young men gain valuable peer leadership skills as well as group leadership skills.
- ScoutReach Youth learn goal setting through specific advancement programs, in the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Varsity Scout programs.
- ScoutReach Youth meet every week, so this is a continuous and cohesive learning experience.

IT IS EASY TO SEE HOW VALUABLE THIS IS IN TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE NO APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS IN LIFE SKILLS AND NO ONE TO GIVE THEM THE CONFIDENCE TO REACH THEIR REAL POTENTIAL!