

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

SCOUTER

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

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1976 ANNUAL REPORT

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL • BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year just ending, has been a mixed year - one in which we have seen a combination of accomplishments, in face of difficulties, primarily of a financial nature.

On the positive side, we can look with pride at the quality of program, which we continue to deliver to the young men and women of Fairfield County, through the tireless efforts of a truly dedicated and qualified staff, with the assistance of some 6,000 dedicated volunteers.

We need only look at the outstanding camping program that was initiated and carried out last summer, along with more adult leadership training programs than in prior years. The Explorer Program has reached new heights, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Due to the effects of the general economic situation through the country, inflation has affected our ability to meet our manpower needs, and, as expected, our youth membership has not been maintained.

The Advisory Council, established over a year ago, has provided additional assistance. For example, a full-time loaned Executive from I.B.M. Don Tiefenthaler, to help the council overcome our continuing deficit. Two companies, have supplied the funds to support a minority District Executive in the inner cities of Bridgeport and Stamford.

These two examples indicate the contributions that industrial leaders are giving to the council.

I feel fortunate in having followed, for a few months, Ralph Channell, who helped build a strong foundation for the Fairfield County Council. Our new officers will bring in new ideas, new strengths, and our council will move ahead to new accomplishments.

Thank you for your support, guidance and assistance, that have made these few months a pleasure.

WALTER N. PLAUT

SCOUT EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

This has been a year of change. Only one district has the same District Executive as last year. I am proud to report that we now have the finest staff we've ever had.

For the first time we are beginning to balance our operating budget. More and more people are becoming aware of our needs and are supporting us.

Now that the new advancement program has caught on, we are getting an ever increasing number of Eagles.

Without a doubt, last summer's camp was our finest. We have found the program combination that units and Scouts want and they keep coming back for more. Cub Scout Day Camp is expanding like magic and should be as big as Boy Scout camping in the not too distant future.

Thanks to a great training team we have a program leaders are really "turned on" by. More leaders are better trained than ever before - and it's fun!

We are getting back to basics which reminds me to say again:
1. "Always keep reminding yourself that in this great game of Scouting, you are the person who makes Scouting happen."
2. "Our job in Scouting is to (a) Get Boys into Scouting, and (b) Get Scouting into Boys."

That's what it's all about, Scouter.

With the morals of our youth rapidly deteriorating, there has never been a greater need for Scouting (you) than now.

...RAYMOND F. HECK, JR.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Council Activities Committee had a very exciting year with events ranging from Troops canoeing on the Allagash in Maine to a Pack in Stratford attending Disney World in Florida. From Camporees to Hike-O-Rees; Klondikes to Operation Deep Freeze; Snowbirds to Run Your Town Days; Cub-O-Rees to Webelos Camporees; and from Kite Flying to Soap Box Derbys all being conducted in the six districts.

There were three main council events: 22 Scouts and 2 leaders attended Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico where they were greeted by a lovely hostess, none other than our beloved Mrs. Sonia Maguire, who spent the summer as a member of the National Staff.

The Scout Action Fair, chaired by Ed Agonis, was a very successful event with more units than ever (247) participating. The price of the tickets was raised to \$2.00 each thus giving the units a higher commission.

The Annual Dinner was held at the Italian American Club in Stamford which provided excellent accommodations. Many Scouters and their wives witnessed a well planned program chaired by Conrad Trent of Stamford. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of 9 Silver Beavers by Dr. Bernard Sherman and his committee.

...JOHN C. STAWARKY, CHAIRMAN

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Advancement is the measuring rod of the quality in unit programming and boys grow with progressively tougher challenges from Bobcat through Eagle. The districts published new merit badge counselor lists. 1976 was another great year for the Advancement Committee.

<u>Cub Advancements</u>		<u>Scout Advancements</u>	
Bobcat	2062	Tenderfoot	865
Wolf	1735	Second Class	577
Bear	1169	First Class	398
Arrow of		Star	341
Light	876	Life	189
<u>Total</u>	5842	Eagle	97
		<u>Total</u>	2467

In addition, 7397 Merit Badges were earned in Scouting and 3792 Arrow Points, 7149 Webelos Activity Badges were presented to Cubs.

This outstanding record shows the extent to which Scouts have become proficient in Scoutcraft, to perform useful tasks, and to develop physically, mentally and morally.

...GRANT W. DENISON, CHAIRMAN

CAMPING COMMITTEE

Camp Aquila had a banner season during its first year. The program was the best ever provided by a Fairfield County Council Camp and our annual drop in attendance finally stabilized. A great deal of work and materials was invested in refurbishing our Candlewood Lake facility.

New program additions could make 1977 an even better year. Patrol cooking has received special emphasis and a new third year camper experiment has been launched called the Explorer Outpost.

Cub Day Camp was a big success this year with almost 400 Cubs participating. During 1977 this program will be expanded to reach almost 600 Cubs at a central location.

<u>1976 SUMMER CAMP</u>		<u>YEAR-ROUND CAMP USE</u>
	Boys	
81 Council Troops	1,323	404 Units
2 Non-council		
Troops	58	4,565 Youth
Provisional	189	175 Non-Scouts
Webelos	68	
	<hr/>	
	1,638	

...JOHN P. GUERRICH, CHAIRMAN

COUNCIL COMMISSIONER SERVICE

It has been proven that the Commissioner Staff is the strongest asset a unit has. With this in mind, great emphasis has been put on the Commissioner Service of the Fairfield County Council. One of the main objectives is that every district have a district commissioner responsible for the operation of that district. The following district commissioners are serving this year:

<u>Sasqua</u> :	Vernon Thunem	<u>Nutmeg</u> :	Bob DeVeny
<u>Scatacook</u> :	Mort Johnson	<u>Oronoque</u> :	Ed White
<u>Stamford</u> :	Joe Gambino	<u>Sachem</u> :	Mike Bachman, Jr.
<u>Exploring Service Team Chairman</u> :			Nick Holloway

The Commissioner Staff was the host for a commissioner conference for the State of Connecticut and played a key role in all training events. Additional training was provided on the district level. Heavy emphasis at all training sessions was placed on recruiting so that each district staff would strive to achieve a ratio of one Commissioner to every three units.

The Commissioner Staff was heavily involved in the Fall Roundup program and Rechartering Day. All this helped to assure strong activity programs in all units. During 1976 the Fairfield County Council served 17,741 youth members and 494 Packs, Troops, and Posts. This represented approximately 44.3% of the available age boys 8 - 14. Perhaps the single most important reason for our continuing success in this field was the adoption and execution of a year-round membership plan. It involved more volunteers at all levels than ever before.

Extra effort will be put in the underprivileged areas of the council to ensure that all boys will have the opportunity to join Scouting. As always, the Commissioner Staff was concerned with training of the unit leaders, monthly Roundtables, and the Scout Action Fair, and played an important role in our Sustaining Membership Enrollment.

With Tom Seaver, pitching ace of the New York Mets, as our Roundup Chairman, we look forward to continued success in 1977.

...JACK A. OBERMEYER, COMMISSIONER

EXPLORER DIVISION

Explorers - 1,878 Units - 79

Activities: Blue Water Canoe Race, Medical Careers Conference, Road Rally, Olympics, Fall Program Planning Conference, Sail-A-Way, Bridge of Honor, National Explorer Presidents' Congress, Leadership Development Workshop, Law Enforcement Pistol Competition, New England Area Sea Exploring Regatta and various community service projects.

In addition to many new Posts being organized, an excellent Program Planning Conference was hosted by Raybestos Manhattan.

Under the guidance of Sam Casey, Exploring Vice Chairman, a strong effort to support the Exploring program was launched. Almost \$18,000 in additional funds were raised.

...SPENCER R. STUART, CHAIRMAN

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The council's insurance program is under constant review to assure proper coverage at the best possible price. Several minor adjustments have been made to reflect changing situations, especially regarding camping and council owned trucks.

Our leaders liability has been expanded in the past year to reflect increased canoe use and high adventure trips by Troops and Posts at a very small cost. The period of navigational coverage for Sea Exploring has also been increased.

The cost of all automobile related policies is up significantly and it is expected that the other liability policies will increase when they renew early in 1978. The committee will continue to check all coverages to make certain we have the broadest coverage at the best price.

...CHARLES E. SNYDER, JR., CHAIRMAN

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the first time since 1972, the council ended the year in the black. This can be attributed to a unique situation where the council had a lot of staff transfers at one time and at one point there were only eight executives instead of fourteen.

United Way income increased or remained constant in all communities except Bridgeport where we were cut \$17,000.

Although the support of two foundations ran out, we have been fortunate in obtaining a replacement of one.

Sustaining memberships have increased about \$20,000 annually. This is requiring more staff time and therefore taking the men away from the program.

We have great hope for the future. If the Leisure and Sport Show is successful, we can retire our deficit and thus free money we have borrowed from various funds so that it can become income producing once more.

	1975	1976*
Income	478,876	582,646
Expense	<u>492,862</u>	<u>565,387</u>
Difference	- 13,986	+17,259
Accumulated Deficit	89,016	71,756

*Includes gross of Camping and Activities

...GEORGE VAN BRUNT, TREASURER

TRAINING COMMITTEE

1976 was a great year for the Council Training Committee as it developed a new training plan for both its Scouts and Scouters.

The Training Committee has a Cub Scout Division led by Vice Chairman Charles Smith, Jr. of Ridgefield and the Scout Division is under Vice Chairman Gene Stauffer of Sherman.

The Cub group held a very successful Cub College in January followed by a well attended Den Chief's Conference. Each district held it's own Pow-Wow session and they conducted many basic courses on their own.

The Scout group held the following training events:

Introduced the new Intermediate Scout Leader Development Course.

Webelos Leaders Workshop - 22 Cubmasters and Webelos Leaders attended.

Polaris III - Trained 40 learners in Scouting Skills.

Woodbadge - 15 men attended Schiff course - 5 more went elsewhere.

JLT - Over 167 Scouts received training in the skills of leadership.

Cornerstone Programs were conducted in all Districts which trained 209 adults.

A workshop for the new Scouter - trained 16 men in the basic troop operation.

In all, it was a good year.

...JOHN E. O'HERN, JR., CHAIRMAN



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& OFFICERS**

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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