



Prepared. For Life.™

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca, Van Wert and Williams counties.

# From The Council Key 3

Dear Scouters, Donors and Friends,

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make wise choices by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. While the last two years have been challenging, Scouting continues to thrive and be relevant.

The efforts of our Scouting volunteers over the past two years have been amazing! From the lack of school access to the reduction of in person events because of COVID, our volunteers have still been able to deliver a valuable Scouting program!



BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA®

BLACK SWAMP AREA COUNCIL

Our council kicked off the new Adventure Day Camp Program at Camp Berry last summer with support from a grant from the Findlay Hancock Community Foundation. This program was offered to all elementary students regardless of their membership in Scouting. In the post-camp survey 96% of the parents indicated their child's attendance helped them to develop confidence in them-

selves and the world around them. Of the parents who responded, 100% indicated they would send their child again next summer. This indicates we can expand our mission to children who are not able to be involved in Scouting.

The national council bankruptcy because of historic allegations of abuse has cast a dark cloud on Scouting. However, Scouting has been very proactive with our Youth Protection program, including the implementing of our two deep leadership program more than 35 years ago. Our Scouting community will continue to be vigilant in keeping our Scouts Safe. In addition to training our Scout volunteers and parents, the council has encouraged the community at large to use our Youth Protection resources along with the Cyber Chip program to keep kids safe.

We are continuing to look forward and focus on offering the very best Scouting program. The council is finalizing plans both for construction of Cooper Lodge with Hubbard Dining Hall at Camp Lakota and Yammine Lodge at Camp Berry. Our intent is to start construction as soon as the national bankruptcy is settled.

Thank you to our volunteers, families, supporters, donors, and charter organizations! Your support and efforts make the difference in the youth we serve with Scouting. We look forward to seeing you along the Scouting trail soon!



**COUNCIL KEY 3** (from the left): Council President Dan Meffley, Council Commissioner Michelle Waggoner and Scout Executive Marc Kogan pictured in 2018 at Philmont Scout Reservation during a National Key 3 training.

Dr. Daniel Meffley  
Council President

Michelle Waggoner  
Council Commissioner

Marc Kogan  
Scout Executive



**Summer Camp:** Council had an exciting swing toward summer camp activities by community youth members returning the number of participants to that of pre-pandemic years, marking the fact families are looking at the great programs of Scouting to engage their children and prepare them for today's society.

# Ashtyn Wiyrick becomes Black Swamp Area Council's first female Eagle Scout

Northwest Ohio teen, Ashtyn Wiyrick, became one of the nation's first female Eagle Scouts on February 2, and the first in Black Swamp Area Council to achieve the rank. The 19-year old is among hundreds of young women who will make up the Inaugural Class of female Eagle Scouts.

Two years ago, Senior District Executive, Erika Dutcher, visited the Wiyrick's home with the news that Scouts BSA was officially open to girls, and a female Troop, 29G, was forming in nearby Edgerton.

"My favorite memory in Scouting is when Erika told me that I could," she said.

Ashtyn comes from a family of Eagle Scouts as older brothers, Justin, and Zach, earned the rank with Troop 669 in West Unity. Ashtyn's mother, Tonya, couldn't be more pleased that now, all three of her children have earned the rank of Eagle. "Mom was all smiles when the review board announced Ashtyn was awarded the prestigious achievement," said Dutcher.

Because Ashtyn was 17 when she joined Troop 29G, she was on a 24-month time clock before she would be ineligible to be a youth in Scouts. Normally, Scouts must complete requirements prior to age 18, but the shortest path is 21 months. Ashtyn kept her focus on the timeline to make sure she earned each rank along the journey on time, to be finished within the 24 months.

The culmination of the journey is the completion of a rigorous experience in project management called the Eagle project. It is important that this community service project be completed by a team, and not by the Scout alone. This provides the op-



ASHTYN WIYRICK



portunity to lead and learn from bumps and failures along the way.

Ashtyn's community service project involved designing and building three trash receptacles to be placed at the Iron Horse River Trail in Montpelier.

Young women have been part of Scouting for decades in co-ed programs offered by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), including Sea Scouts, Venturing, Exploring and STEM Scouts. The BSA expanded further in recent years

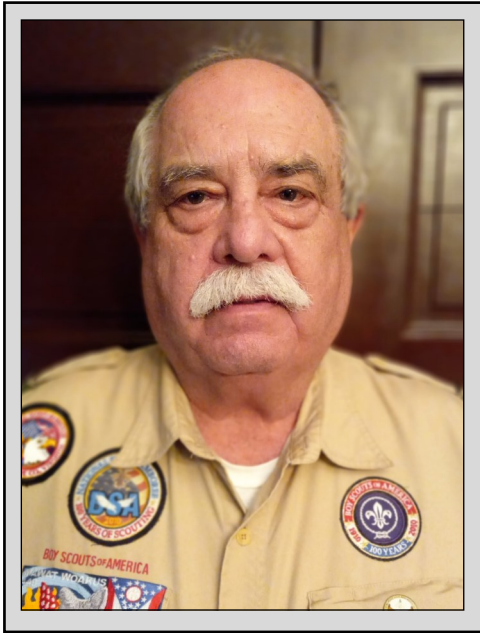
by welcoming girls into Cub Scouts and then into Scouts BSA in February 2019. Scouts BSA is the program for youth ages 11 to 17 previously known as Boy Scouts.

"Earning the rank of Eagle Scout takes hard work and perseverance, and we are honored to recognize Ashtyn for this significant accomplishment," said Marc Kogan, Black Swamp Area Council, CEO.

Eagle Scout is the program's highest rank, which only about 6% of Scouts achieve on average. In addition to the large community service project, an individual has to take on leadership roles within their troop and their community and earn a minimum of 21 merit badges that cover a broad range of topics including first aid and safety, civics, business and the environment.



# 2021 Silver Beaver Award Recipients



**Don Brewer**  
**Fort Recovery, Ohio**

The Silver Beaver Award was introduced in 1931 and is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the Council.



**Mike Metzger**  
**Bluffton, Ohio**

The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self sacrifice, dedication and many years of service. It is given to those who do not actively seek it.



*Congratulations to this year's recipients!*



**Linda Meyer**  
**Wapakoneta, Ohio**



**Larry Weimert**  
**Hicksville, Ohio**

# 2021 Year in Review

3,314 youth participated in Scouting & Exploring programs

78 Eagle Scout ranks earned

\$7,999 in camperships & registration assistance

1,718 youth earned rank advancement



3,562 Merit Badges earned by Scouts BSA members

1,750+ volunteers & generous donors supported our various programs

100% Youth Protection Trained Adult Membership

4,346 Cub Scout Adventures completed

150 youth, in 12 Posts, participated in Exploring (Our workforce development program)

## New Adventure Camp brings positivity to community

Black Swamp Area Council's new Adventure Camp saw a successful first year with nine weeks of Cub Scout related activities and fun for not just Cubs but all members of the community, as the elementary aged



program was open to non-Scouts as well. It is an all day, weekday experience like Cub Scout day camp.

One great example of the impact was a new Scout being dropped off and when the parent went to say goodbye and leave, the young Scout would not let go of dad's leg and was very distraught.

Both the camp staff and the Scout's dad worked hard to engage the Scout in the ac-



tivities their camp group was working on which included the ever-popular gaga ball and archery.

Eventually all involved were able to get the Scout focused on the camp experience. By the end of the week of camp that Scout did not want to leave camp, through his experi-



ences at camp we were able to build the self-confidence to do something new and make new friends, which is priceless.

During the course of the summer, nearly 250 youth attended and countless memories were made and fun was experienced by the kids in the program.



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# Steinbrunner reacts quickly to house fire

The Boy Scouts of America Medal of Merit may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has performed an act of service of rare or exceptional character and reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the wellbeing of others. Since 1945, only 6,500 Scouts have received this recognition. Hayden Steinbrunner from Troop 97 in Maria Stein is now one of those Scouts.

On May 15, 2020, Hayden was outside dumping scrap when he noticed there was smoke and flames in the kitchen of his home. His mother was inside the residence at the time cooking dinner and a grease fire has started. Without hesitation, Hayden acted quickly by retrieving a fire extinguisher and using the PASS method of fire extinguisher use, (PASS = pull the pin, aim, squeeze trigger, sweep the flames), quickly extinguishing the flames.

## Medal of Merit

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After the flames were extinguished, Hayden turned his concern to the safety of his mother and sister. He moved them outside into fresh air and encouraged them to cough out any residual dry chemicals they may have inhaled. Hayden was quite concerned about others in the house more than himself. He took the time to make sure that his family was safe and without hesitation began to clean up the mess left from the fire extinguisher deployment. Without his quick action, the fire could have spread

rapidly, causing more damage to the residence.

This is a perfect example of being prepared and using one's Scout training in an emergency situation.

For his calmness, guidance and actions, the Black Swamp Area Council awarded the



HAYDEN STEINBRUNNER

Medal of Merit to then Tenderfoot Scout Hayden Steinbrunner. Hayden is from Troop 97, Maria Stein, Ohio, sponsored by the American Legion Post #571.

# Nina Dukes' service to Scouting earns unprecedented awards

Nina Dukes from Black Swamp Area Council, recently became the first person in the Order of the Arrow's 100-plus year history to receive both the Distinguished Service Award and the Red Arrow Award, the Order's most prestigious awards.

Nina's outstanding and distinguished service to the Order goes back decades, first as a non-member of the Order of the Arrow (OA), and then as a member. Her non-member service includes serving on three National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) American Indian Activities (AIA) staffs, the first OA Indian Village at the 1989 Jamboree, one National OA Indian Seminar, and various section conclaves throughout the Midwest.

At each of these events, Nina shared her expertise with those in attendance through



Nina Dukes with her husband Wayne as she is presented with the Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award.

the teaching of American Indian crafts, demonstrating the wearing of women's regalia, and performing in women's dance. For her service to the Order as a non-member, Nina was awarded the esteemed Red Arrow Award in 1990.

Nina was inducted as an Ordeal member in the summer of 1997. Since, she has served on staff at the last nine consecutive NOACs as an AIA instructor.

Nina has also served on the staffs of multiple OA Indian Villages at National Jamborees, and she has served as an administrative officer during ArrowCorps, and at two OA Indian Summer events. Nina continues her servant leadership in the area of AIA at the lodge, section, territory, and national levels, and serves as an expert resource helping to craft AIA guidelines for the participation of young women.

For her service to the Order as an OA member, Nina was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 2020, and, for the first time in the Order's history, became the recipient of both awards.

# Troop 442 Eagle celebrated for actions

Seneca East Local Schools has a lot to celebrate recently as one of its own, and one of Black Swamp Area Council's Eagle Scouts is being hailed a hero and recognized with the Boy Scouts of America Heroism Award.

Drew Steinmetz used his keen sense and helped save a local home in the community recently while on his way home from school. Drew and his younger sister, Ava, observed an apparent house fire, at which time Drew's quick thinking and training kicked in action. He took the proper first steps and called 9-1-1 to alert authorities and then the 18-year-old used his training to help address the emergency.

It was reported that Drew, who is an aspiring first-responder, used skills he learned from his father James, who is also a firefighter, located a garden hose and quickly began spraying down a woodpile. The fire appeared to be coming from a small woodshed on the side of the 100-year-old home.

Drew, a member of Troop 442 in Republic, reported knowing the garden hose would not contain the fire, but he knew it could help reduce the risk of the fire spreading until firefighters arrived.

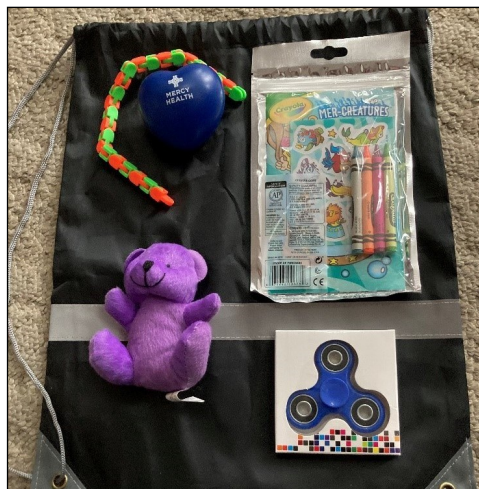
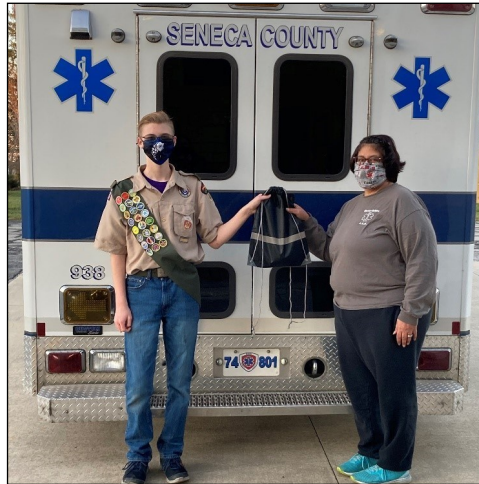
Additionally, Drew and his sister recognized two dogs in kennels located next to the home. The animals were rescued and moved to safety once firefighters and the homeowner arrived on the scene.

"Without Drew's quick thinking, the fire department reported the house most likely would have caught on fire and been a complete loss," according to Seneca East's social media reports. The school went on to publicly thank Drew for his bravery and shared, "You are a phenomenal representation of Seneca East."

Black Swamp Area Council Scouters also echo this feeling about Drew, who is a great



DREW STEINMETZ



Top photo: Drew presenting one of his 300 trauma kits for children to a local EMS. Bottom photo: a look inside one of Drew's trauma kits he made for his Eagle project.

example of what Scouts can do in a time of need.

Drew has been in Scouting since he was a Bear in Cub Scouts. He remembers when he was in the third grade, some of the Scouts from Troop 442 came and passed out fliers during lunch and talked to everyone about what it was like being in their Troop. Drew went home and told his dad he wanted to join. He then learned his dad had been in Scouting growing up and had even earned his Eagle and what exactly that means. This started Drew on his journey through Scouting.

One of his favorite memories from Scouting was during his first summer camp at Camp Berry. Drew decided he was going to climb



Black Swamp Area Council Advancement Chair Wayne Dukes, left, presents Drew Steinmetz with the Boy Scouts of America Heroism Award.

## Heroism Award

The Heroism Award was first presented in 1977. It was discontinued in late 2012. Officially reinstatement in February 2018. The award honors youth members or adult leaders who demonstrate "heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save a life at *minimal* personal risk."

the tower, even though he was afraid of heights.

"I ended up reaching the top of the tower and I felt really happy I conquered this tower." Drew said.

When asked what advise he can give younger Scouts, he said for them to finish the required merit badges for Eagle Scout and then explore the other ones and have fun trying things out.

Drew earned his Eagle Scout in December of 2020. His project was making trauma kits for children which the Emergency Medical Services could use. He made a total of 300 bags containing fidget spinners and other toys like a stress ball, a coloring book and crayons, and a small teddy bear.

Drew is training to become an EMT and wanted to help kids involved in traumatic incidents. "These bags will be used to give to kids at the scene of a fire or accident and will help calm them down and trust the people on scene," he said.



# Thank You To Our Key Sponsors

## SCOUTING GOLF CLASSIC

In 2021, \$74,942 was raised at this event to support Scouting in the counties we serve.

### Eagle Sponsors



Hole No. 1 included an archery bow allowing the team to move their tee shot closer if they hit a forward tee box.

### Honored Sponsors

Garner Trucking, Romick Wealth Strategies, John Swearingen, Whitman Title Security, and Ball Family McDonalds

### First Class Sponsor

Ball Family McDonalds, Cintas, Coward, Pinski & Assoc., Doty Dental, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Fifth Third Bank, Garner Trucking, Gerken Materials Inc., LOOP LLC., M&B Asphalt, MGQ Inc., National Beef Ohio, Nutrien, Premier Bank, RCM Architects, Reineke Family Dealerships, Romick Wealth Strategies, Grant Russel, Superior Credit Union, Trust Co./Waterford Bank, Whitman Title Security

### Notable Sponsors

John Swearingen, LaRiche Chevrolet-Cadillac, Findlay Tall Timbers, Fruth & Company, Vaughn Industries, Bowman-Ray-Eoff, Cornerstone Consulting, Rich and Beth Flowers, Defiance Optimists, SJS Investment Services, First America Title NCS, Merrill Lynch, John Love Funeral Home, Beerco, Cut By Coach, Clouse Construction, Hitchings Insurance, Sink's Flowers, Michelle Waggoner

## GIFT PACKAGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



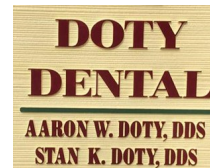
Ball Family Restaurants

### Gold Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsors

Rich & Beth Flowers



First Place  
Front Street Advisors Ltd.

## SPORTING CLAYS FOR SCOUTING

In 2021, \$41,150 was raised at this event to support Scouting in the counties we serve.

### Eagle Sponsors



### Life Sponsors

Ball Metal, Charles Construction, Doty Dental – The Dirties, Doty Dental – The Flirties, Front Street Advisors Ltd., Garner Trucking, Morris Electric, Stoops Freightliner, Trust Company Family Offices

### Notable Sponsors

Pheasants Forever, John Larbus—Buffalo Trading Company, John Swearingen, Rich & Beth Flowers, Jeff & Becky Iten, Alvada Construction, Eastman & Smith, Ohio Automotive, The Willshire Sportsman's Club, First Insurance Group, Clouse Construction, Premier Bank, RPM Carbide







**Thank you to the Professionals and Community Leaders who put forth their time and effort to better Scouting in Northwest and West Central Ohio**

**2021 Executive Committee**

**Council President Daniel Meffley**

**Council Commissioner Michelle Waggoner**

Treasurer	Keith Eiden	Vice President Exploring	Chase Hatfield
Assistant Treasurer	Lars Eller	Vice President Marketing	Dave Thompson
Attorney	Jeff Whitman	Vice President Membership	Cheryl Parson
Vice President Alumni	Grant Russel	Vice President Program	Curt Brookhart
Vice President Development	Larry Ball	Vice President Properties	Phil Havens
Vice President Dist. Operations	Karl Heminger	Vice President Strategic Plan	Mark Miller
Vice President Endowment	Stan Doty	Past President	Sherri Garner Brumbaugh

Scout Executive Marc Kogan

**2021 Executive Board**

Donald Alexander	Bill Finerty	John Love	Mike Resar
Karim Baroudi	Rich Flowers	Tom Masterson	Doug Saul
Matt Black	Scott Gray	Mike Metzger	Bart Schwarzbek
Chuck Clapper	Dave Huckeriede	Fa. Christopher Mileski	Dan Vennekotter
Judy Crawford	Jeffrey Iten	Bob Nicholson	Tina Verhoff
Robert Cupp	Dale Laws	Walter Poffenbaugh	Mike Yammine

**District Chairs**

Peter Berton - Arrowwood District	Roger Frese - Old Sycamore District
Chad Bryan - Great Oaks District	Mike Saxton - Chinquapin District

**Youth Representative**

Haden Sullivan  
Order of the Arrow Lodge Chief

# Membership & Financial Reports

**Membership**

Cub Scouts	1,949
Scouts BSA	1,186
Venturing	37
Exploring	142

**Total 3,314**

**Units**

Packs	69
Troops	82
Crews	4
Posts	12

**Total 167**

**Operation Revenue**

Activities	\$19,362
Camping/Program	\$315,672
Product Sales (Popcorn)	\$102,039
Annual Gifts (FOS)	\$284,499
Special Events	\$114,875
Investments (Endowment)	\$382,654
United Ways	\$86,579
Store Sales	\$15,738
Foundations/Grants	\$58,634
Other	\$43,051
PPP Loan Forgiven	\$219,807

**Overall Revenue \$1,642,910**

**Operating Expenses**

Management	\$69,464
Programs	\$1,282,375
Fundraising	\$280,415

**Total \$1,632,254**



All figures as of Dec. 31, 2021 unaudited



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# Brycen Abbott Exploring scholarship recipient

In 2021, the Black Swamp Area Council's annual Exploring Dinner had an extraordinary celebration of the program, which is one of the top work-force development youth programs in the state.



BRYCEN ABBOTT

From keynote speaker, Ohio St. Governor Jon Husted, to recognition of area Exploring Post efforts, to the presentation of the annual Exploring Scholarship Recipient, which this year was given to Brycen Abbott. The Liberty Benton High Senior was awarded this year's scholarship after writing an extraordinary essay.

Brycen presented his essay at the Exploring Recognition Event held on March 30. Special thank you to CentraComm for providing the \$500 scholarship.

Comm for providing the \$500 scholarship.

## Here's Brycen's essay:

I joined my local Engineering Explorer Post in the Fall after deciding to pursue an engineering degree in college. Engineering Exploring has impacted my life in various ways. It was important to me to be able to network with local engineering professionals, learn about engineering through hands-on experiences, and participate in a group that would allow me to prepare for training in this field.

Because of Covid, we are not allowed to meet in person. Our meetings are held by Microsoft Teams. Holding virtual meetings is becoming very common and will most likely continue after the Covid restrictions are lifted. Attending these meetings in a professional setting allows me to practice skills that will be needed both in college and once I graduate. We are also expected to procure or pick up materials for the "hands-on" activities we do during each session. This requires a level of responsibility that is expected in the workforce. We meet professionals from different fields of engineering during each session and can use these introductions to form our personal professional network.

With the activities that have been held online, it is very convenient to see each person and their creations when on Microsoft Teams. Being in a learning environment with hands-on activities is the best way for me to get practical experience when it comes to working within a discipline of engineering. Especially during my senior year, these activities have helped me to see real-life examples and simula-



Black Swamp Area Council Assistant Scout Executive and Exploring Advisor Colin Earl, right, presents Brycen Abbott his \$500 scholarship.

Special thank you to CentraComm for providing the \$500 scholarship.



tions of what an employed engineer would do every day in their field. For example, the civil engineering activity helped me visualize what they would do on a day-to-day basis, but on a smaller scale. The straws represented the building blocks of the structure, while the marshmallows represented the substance that would hold the structure together. These materials were used in a way to design a model of a stable lid to hold "gasses" in but to also be stable enough to prevent the building from collapsing. Just as the civil engineering activity showed me what that type of engineer does every day, some of the activities helped me decide what I do not want to pursue in my future job.

Engineering Exploring has given me a jump start to begin college and become career ready. My post advisors have provided me with opportunities to job shadow and hear from professionals in my chosen field. I know I can contact them with follow-up questions and practical career advice. For example, one of the engineers advised people who are considering two different engineering disciplines to choose one, gain college admittance in that field, then change to the other later, if desired.

I am grateful that Engineering Explorers is available in my area. It has been very helpful in my decision to become an engineer. Receiving this Exploring Scholarship would add additional benefit to my involvement in this program and help prepare me for a career in mechanical engineering.

Watch the Exploring Recognition Event and keynote speaker Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4qX0HkNjcg>



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Black Swamp Area Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
2100 Broad Ave.  
Findlay OH 45840



## **Mission Statement**

**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.**

## **Scout Oath**

**On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
And to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
Mentally awake, and morally straight.**

