

COLLEGE SCOUTER RESERVE

Why Don't We Use It More Effectively?

A Thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Doctor of Commissioner Science Degree at the  
Piedmont - Appalachian College of Commissioner  
Science by:

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March 30, 1992

Doctoral Candidate Advisors

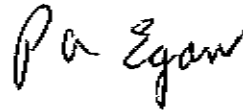
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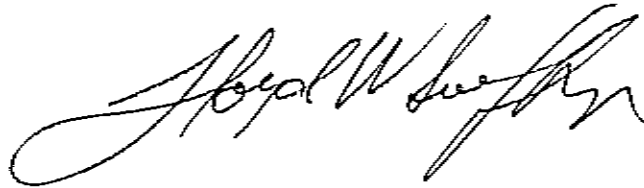
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Scouting's College Reserve  
Why Don't We Use It More Effectively

An Abstract

Author           Ruth A. Hancock

Date:            May 19, 1991

Problem:        Is this program used? If not why not.

In 1974 our son had just received his Eagle Rank and was preparing to leave home for Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. His father had been a member of the College Reserve in the 1940's so we told our son that we would pay his registration in that classification while he was in college. He was never contacted by any branch of Scouting during that time. Since his field was theater arts, he felt that he could have been of use for Jamboree or other special events.

When I suggested using this topic for my thesis, I got generally blank looks from the other participants. My perception based on these facts and the reaction I got in the Sequoyah Council Office when I inquired about this program leads me to

believe that College Reserves are not used in any constructive way.

I have already talked to Paul Ernst of the Registration Section in the National Office. I plan to question college students at Emory & Henry College, especially the members of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity and Scout Masters in the local area. I will also talk to the registrar of Sequoyah Council and check the manual for that position.

As a footnote to my paper, I might add some suggestions that could help utilize this very valuable resource for some of our special scouting needs.

Lloyd W. Swift, Jr.  
118 Golfview Dr.  
Franklin, NC 28734  
January 8, 1992

Ruth A. Hancock  
Box Y  
Emory VA 24327

Dear Ruth:

I received your dissertation work plan today. I regret to admit that yours is the first that I have received. Your effort is quite useful in that it more clearly represents your concept of the problem and your approach to its solution than our earlier discussions. I am excited about its possibilities.

As I read your work plan, my first question was...What is the College Reserve? Is it an individual or non-unit registration category useful to keep a scouts registration continuous? Or is it a talent bank, a mechanism to trace the student as he moves to a new community? Did you expect National to report to the College community or New Orleans Council that your son was available? In your report, you might want to define the "organization" that you call the College Reserve. This might also be a key question to put to the various organizations that you interview--National, yours and other councils, colleges and universities.

If National says the Reserve no longer exists, then the thrust of your dissertation might be to show its past value and propose a structure for its reinstatement. You obviously believe the Reserve has value. If National says the Reserve structure still exists, then your report would describe what it now is, what it does, what more it could do, and how it can be promoted.

The only part of your work plan that I might fault is your statement that your suggestions to improve utilization of the Reserve be a "footnote". Depending on what you learn from National, this could be one of the major sections of your report.

Our next deadline is April 1, 1992. At that time, I need to have your completed paper. This will allow time for the committee to read it and for you and I to work out any last-minute improvements before the Commissioner College convenes. If you have questions or want to discuss an early draft of your paper, please keep in touch.

Best regards,



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## INTRODUCTION

For almost my whole life I have been involved with college students. My father was a college professor and I married one. I have always been impressed by the energy, enthusiasm, and idealism that these young people display. In 1974 our second son was on his way to Tulane University to begin his college career. He had recently become an Eagle Scout and was very interested in Scouting. When his father had gone off to college in the middle 1940's someone had told him about College Scouter Reserve and he became a member. Because of this we were aware of this program and told our son that we would pay his annual registration fee in the College Reserve as long as he was in school. He was excited because as he said, "Maybe I can help in special programs because my field of study is Theater Arts".

We were very unaware that this program was just a way of keeping interested boys registered in scouting. There was no plan of contact that might utilize the talents of these young men. Our son was not contacted and as time passed he got interested in other things. Since he has no children, he has not registered as an adult leader. He and his talents were lost as a resource for Scouting.

I have been actively involved with the Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity for nearly twenty years. This organization, originally for Boy Scouts and former Boy Scouts was established in 1925 at Lafayette College by Herbert Reed Horton who felt that Scouts had a special calling to provide service to their campus, community, and their country. These young people are willing to tackle almost any challenge that provides service to others. Although the fraternity is now a coed organization and being a Scout is no longer a requirement for membership, the brotherhood has kept its close association with the Boy Scouts of America and actively encourages participation in scouting programs.

These experiences have made me very aware of the chance I think we are missing. When I suggested this topic for a thesis, the blank stares from those in the class, many of whom have years of service in Scouting, was an eye opener. When I mentioned the College Scouter Reserve in our council office, I got more blank looks. The following is the result of my research into this matter and the ideas that I have developed that might be adopted to improve the use of this valuable tool that is available for us.



College Scouter Reserve

Why Don't We Use It More Effectively

PROBLEM: Is this program used? If not, why not?

RESEARCH:

In an attempt to answer the above question, I started with the National Office in Irving, TX. I interviewed Mr. Paul I. Ernst, Director of Registration & Statistical Service. From him, I received the following information:

- 1- A category number, 92, on an adult registration form indicates the College Reserve status.
- 2- Registration is through the District or Council and reflects no unit.
- 3- It is up to the council to make use of this information.

My second source of information was my own council office. There, after blank stares, I received from an older professional much the same information as 1 and 2 above.

The instructions in the council Registrar's Manual (pages 23 and 24) read as follows:

COLLEGE SCOUTER RESERVE: College students may register each year to maintain a scouting affiliation, even if not related to a unit. They are registered either on the district/council Scouter roster or during the year on a Adult Application, No. 28-501. At all times they should be listed under a council/district Scouter unit number.

Revised 7-19-91

This registration is open to male or female students. The application should indicate college address and may be submitted through the college or home council."

Telephone conversations with the Registrars of the five councils in the Piedmont - Applachian Group produced the following information on registrations under this category.

	Last Year	This Year
Blue Ridge	1	0
Daniel Boone	2	0
Great Smokey Mountain	0	0
Palmetto	1	1
Sequoyah	0	0

NOTE: All five registrars were aware of this classification and had no trouble providing me with this information.

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My third source of information was our local scout leaders. I used a verbal interview at the Scout Roundtable for this purpose. The following is the result of this polling of the 18 leaders present.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1- Heard of the College Reserve?           | 1 |
| 2- Register College Students<br>with unit? | 3 |
| 3- Total Eagle Scouts last year?           | 5 |
| 4- Of these how many in college?           | 2 |

The District Scout Executive, when asked if he knew anything about the College Reserve, indicated that "he had heard it mentioned but did not know what it was for".

My fourth source of information was the Pi Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity at Emory & Henry College. Present at the time were approximately fifty member and I used the verbal polling method here also. The following are the results:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1- How many had been registered<br>with BSA?                     | 10 |
| 2- How many knew about the<br>College Reserve?                   | 0  |
| 3- How many were still registered<br>with BSA (as unit leaders)? | 1  |

My fifth source of information was an individual written questionnaire to the seventy nine students at Emory & Henry who had indicated in their activity record that they had at sometime been registered with BSA. This included two female students. To no one's surprise, the return of these questionnaires was not large. Of the eleven that did respond, a picture did develop however. One of the responses was from a female. She is still active with her post at home. Of the other ten, four were Eagle Scouts, one was Life, and one was Star. All of these six were interested in being active with Scouts in some capacity (two were registered as ASM). Only three of the group were not interested and these had advanced no further than First Class. One had been only a Cub Scout but was interested in working in a leadership role. (I know this young man personally and he will be a minister some day.) As a side note, all of these students had started as Cub Scouts (except the female). None of these young people had heard of the College Reserve. A copy of this questionnaire is contained the the Appendix of this document.

Conclusions:

The only two uses being made of this program at this time are to put names on the books and to allow interested Scouts to maintain a continuous registration in Scouting. It isn't even very good at that because few people know that it exists. However, it does have great possibilities. The chance to hold on to all the enthusiasm and energy is exciting. It could be a program to serve the special needs of councils and districts, to provide manpower for special events like camporees, scout shows, Klondike derbies, field days, etc.

The following are some suggestions that might make the program more useful.

1- A special registration form for the College Scouter Reserve to be designed. This would contain not only the necessary information such as name, address, district, council, character, but would also include college name and address, college council, and Scout's areas of interest.

2- A copy of this registration to be forwarded by the council to the council in which the college is located.

3- This information to be then given to the district executive for the appropriate district.

4- A letter to be sent to the student from the college council executive welcoming him/her to the the area.

5- The Registrar's Manual to be amended to reflect the preceding points.

These five steps would supply some very needed information and would get that information to the places where it would be useful. There would also be a communication with the student that would send the message: "We know you are here and will use you in the program."

All council and district executives should be made aware of the possibilities of this expanded program and be encouraged to make use of the resources that it supplies.

This program should be presented to all Scoutmasters as part of the Scout Leader Basic Training. They should be encouraged to inform all of their college bound Scouts to take part in it if they wish to continue in Scouting.

Last, but not least, a presentation at all Eagle Courts of Honor should be made by a representative of the council. This should include a description of the College Scouter Reserve program, presentation of one of the special registration forms, and the suggestion to the boy's parents that a

special gift to their son of the payment of registration fees while he is in school would be most appropriate.

In these times when the Scouting program requires two-deep leadership for all outside events and when the regular leaders of units face many time constraints, this program provides a chance to schedule more exciting adventures for the boys using young men and women with very special skills.

NOTE: Since Explorers may stay registered as members of their units until they are 21, their needs are a little different. However, all post advisors should be told about the College Scouter Reserve and they should encourage those members who will be going away to school to change registrations if they want to be actively involved while they are at school.

FINAL COMMENTS:

We have this wonderful possibility but we must "strike while the iron is hot". During their college years, students are busy with many and varied experiences. They become involved in many exciting activities. If the BSA does not continue to actively

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use these young people while their interest in Scouting is high, the chance to keep them in the program may be lost forever. A lot can happen in four years. The Scouting program is so valuable for both adults and children and we need to keep these young people interested and involved. They are our leaders of the future.



Questions Asked Of Leaders  
Mississippi District Scout Roundtable  
February 3, 1992

- 1- Have you heard of the College Scouter Reserve?
- 2- Do you register college students with your unit?
- 3- How many Eagle Ranks did you award last year?
- 4- Of these how many are now in college?

Questions Asked Of Alpha Phi Omega Brothers

February 1992

- 1- How many had at any time been registered with Boy Scouts of America?
- 2- How many had heard of the College Scouter Reserve?
- 3- How many are at present registered with BSA?

March 30, 1992

Dear ,

For my Doctoral Thesis at the regional College of Commissioner Science, I am surveying college students who have been registered as Boy Scouts for information. Please answer the following questions and give this form to Mrs. Wright at the college switchboard. She will see that I get it.

1- Year you first registered in Scouting? \_\_\_\_\_

Cub Scout \_\_\_\_\_ Boy Scout \_\_\_\_\_ Explorer \_\_\_\_\_

2- Were you still registered when you turned 18? \_\_\_\_\_

3- Highest rank you received? \_\_\_\_\_

4- Are you registered with the BSA now? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what position? \_\_\_\_\_

5- Have you heard of Scouting's College Reserve? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain how. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6- Would you still like to be active with Boy Scouts?

Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ruth A. Hancock  
Sequoyah Council BSA

Tally Of Questions From Questionnaire

NO.	YR REG	@18	RANK	REG NOW	SC RES	ACT
1	1981-CUB	Y	STAR	N	N	Y
2	1981-CUB	Y	LIFE	N	N	Y
3	1988-EXPL	Y		Y	N	Y
4	1979-CUB	Y	EAGLE	ASM	N	Y
5	1984-CUB	Y	EAGLE	Y	N	Y
6	1980-CUB	Y	EAGLE	ASM	N	Y
7	1979-CUB	N	TFOOT	N	N	N
8	1977-CUB	N	S CLS	N	N	N
9	1982-CUB	N	F CLS	N	N	N
10	1979-CUB	Y	EAGLE	N	N	Y
11	1982-CUB	N	WOLF	N	N	Y

## Bibliography

1- Council Registrar's Manual

Boy Scouts Of America

pages 23-24