

CHALLENGES UNIQUE TO SCOUTREACH UNITS IN
THEIR INITIAL SURVIVAL AND ULTIMATE SUCCESS

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May 21, 2000

Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science
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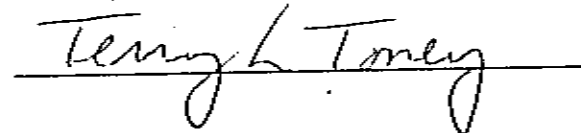
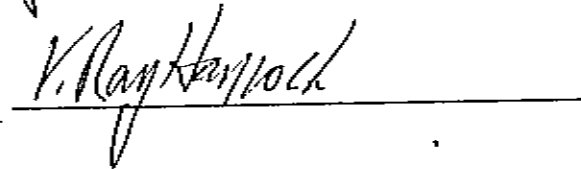
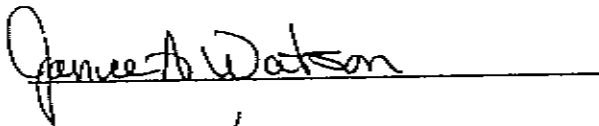
To the Doctoral Candidate Review Board:

I am submitting herewith a Dissertation written by Russell Smart, entitled "Challenges Unique to Scoutreach Units In Their Initial Survival and Ultimate Success". I have examined the final copy of this report for format and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Commissioner Science.

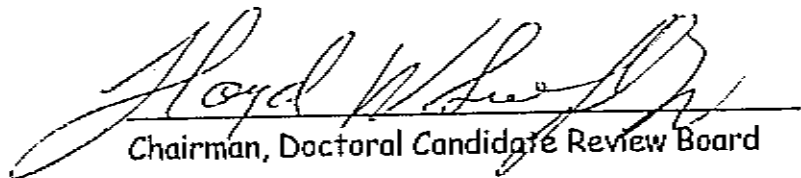


Jack Devich, Advisor

We have read this Dissertation
And recommend its acceptance:



Accepted for the Piedmont-Appalachian
College of Commissioner Science:



Chairman, Doctoral Candidate Review Board

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project was to investigate and identify challenges that are unique to Scoutreach units and to find at least one means of helping them initially survive and ultimately succeed. Personal observations within the District and Council, discussions with unit leaders of Scoutreach and other units, and a review of materials published by the Boy Scouts of America were each a part of the initial research.

The method investigated and reported on in this dissertation is the use of ongoing partnerships among several Scoutreach units, a veteran Scout unit, and some veteran adult Scout volunteers. These partnerships have existed over a period of several years and have produced positive results in the program of the Scoutreach units and equally rewarding outcomes for the veteran unit and adult volunteers.

Although most of the Scoutreach units involved in this project study are operating in an independent fashion at this time, the partnerships established during this project will be continued and expanded in the future. It is hoped that other Scoutreach units and other veteran units and adult volunteers can be recruited to form similar partnerships to continue the growth of the Scouting movement among the youth who are considered a part of the Scoutreach target population.

CHALLENGES UNIQUE TO SCOUTREACH UNITS

Introduction

Scoutreach Units (defined as those units typically located in urban areas and whose membership predominantly consists of adults and youth in recognized minorities) face all of the usual challenges of other Scouting groups. However, these units often have an additional set of challenges unique to them, or at the least, more pronounced than in non-Scoutreach units. Assuming our task as Commissioners is to find ways to help them succeed the District and Unit Commissioners assigned to these type units must recognize and find creative ways to help meet these challenges.

In keeping with that issue, the hypothesis for this Doctoral Project is that.....

"An ongoing partnership between Scoutreach and veteran units can help the Scoutreach units initially survive, ultimately succeed and simultaneously provide service opportunities for the veteran units."

Among the expected results were the following:

- An increase in Scoutreach unit membership.
- An improvement in the program of Scoutreach units.
- A satisfaction for the partner unit(s) from providing service and support.

Background Information

Four years ago I accepted the position of Blue Ridge Council - Reedy Falls District Chairman for Urban Emphasis. It quickly became obvious to me that what was actually needed was not a Committee and a Chairman, but rather a group of Unit Commissioners to work with both existing and prospective Urban Emphasis units. With the approval of the District Chairman, District Commissioner, and District Executive I began to function in this capacity and recruited others to assist me in the effort.

Note: In the past year the designation for these type units has been changed from "Urban Emphasis" to "Scoutreach." I will refer to them throughout the remainder of this report using the current designation - "Scoutreach" or abbreviated as "SR".)

Research and Planning Activities

At my initial involvement with the Urban Emphasis/Scoutreach program, the Reedy Falls District had only three registered SR troops plus several SR packs. Only two of the troops were active. Due to my higher knowledge of troop operations as compared to pack operations, I made the decision to focus on the troops and eventually recruit a qualified volunteer to do the same with the packs. I began to visit the troops and get better acquainted with the adult leadership. As I gained their confidence, I encouraged the leaders to attend District and Council training opportunities and to participate in our camporees, merit badge colleges, and other open activities.

I also attended a number of individual sponsor and group recruitment events with the goal of adding additional SR units to our District roster. Most of these were set up by and conducted in conjunction with the District Executive.

I gathered and read all of the program materials I could find that had been published by the BSA about this part of Scouting. Most of these pamphlets dealt with establishing new units as opposed to working with units once they were established.

During this research the idea of a partnership between SR troops and veteran troops began to develop and I made the decision to pursue its implementation.

Project Implementation

Project Action Number 1 - Unit Partnerships and Special Events

During the early period of my service as the SR Commissioner I was also serving as the Scoutmaster of Troop 266, a large well-established troop. The youth and other adult leadership of the troop agreed to establish a partnership with some SR units.

The first partnership event was held in March 1997. Our troop planned and sponsored a "mini-camporee" with several SR troops and Webelos Dens at Camp Old Indian. An invitation was sent out to ten SR units. Five units actually participated. Troop 266 Scouts served as hosts and led all of the events. Members of Troop 266, Scouts from the SR troops, and Webelos from the SR dens were divided into eight activity patrols. Each patrol had Scouts from Troop 266, SR Scouts, and SR Webelos, plus an adult leader from either Troop 266 or one of the SR units.

Each activity patrol rotated among eight different event stations - four in the morning and four in the afternoon. At the end of the day, awards were presented to the best patrols in each event and to the best overall patrols. Scoring was "flexible" so that each patrol was the winner of several awards. All participants agreed that the event was a great success and that our troop should continue this program in the

future as opportunities were presented to do so. (Copies of the invitation and follow-up letter for this event and planning sheets for the activity events are attached to this report for information.)

In April 1998 Troop 266 sponsored another SR partnership outing at Camp Arrowhead on Lake Secession, another one of our Blue Ridge Council properties. Many of the events at this outing were based on an Aquatics Theme, including fishing, canoeing, and motorboating. For many of the SR Scouts it was their first attempt at canoeing and motorboating and the day was a great combination of fun and learning combined. Other events included orienteering, team games, and cooking. Scouts from the SR units assisted with the group cooking and devotional portions of the program.

In March 1999 Troop 266 sponsored another SR partnership outing at Camp Swallet in the North Carolina mountains, a private property. The colder than average weather and the recent snowfall remaining presented this outing with some unique challenges. Scouts from all units rose to the occasion and in addition to the structured events a massive group snowball fight was a highlight of the afternoon events. Members of all units participated in a lively campfire program at the end of the day and a worshipful devotional program on Sunday morning prior to returning home.

Project Action Number 2 - Unit Partnerships in District and Council Activities

Another aspect of the SR partnership program was the possibility of a veteran troop working with SR units at District and Council sponsored events when possible. The success of the first SR outing sponsored by Troop 266 encouraged them to expand this partnership to include District and Council Activities.

At each District Camporee and Council Camporee since 1997, Troop 266 has interacted with the SR units attending. Troop 266 has also invited three different SR troops to share space in their assigned campsite areas at the 1997, 1998, and 1999 Summer Camps, which was readily accepted. Our adult leaders also helped arrange financial assistance camperships for all SR youth attending Summer Camp and all SR youth attending Cub Scout Day Camp during the past three years (1997-1999). Several of the SR units have now reached a level of confidence and capability such that they are able to function with almost complete independence at these events.

Project Action Number 3 - Individual Scout Partnerships

In addition to the unit partnership activities, we began to see that there was an excellent opportunity for individual older Scouts to assist SR units with their weekly programs and activities. This is a unique service opportunity that can also fulfill one of the advancement requirements for a Scout to move from First Class rank to Star rank, or from Star rank to Life rank.

During the past two years, five older Scouts from Troop 266 have attended weekly troop meetings of several different SR units to conduct training in basic Scout skills, intermediate first aid skills, and other interesting topics. This has accelerated the advancement program of the SR units and challenged the veteran Scouts to use their Scouting skills to help others.

At the present time, another guest program session has already been scheduled with one of the SR units for late March and early April 2000.

Project Action Number 4 - Individual Adult Leader Partnerships

In addition to the unit partnership and individual Scout activities, the opportunity exists for individual adult volunteer leaders to assist SR units with programs and activities. This is an opportunity to establish relationships among new SR leaders and veteran Scouting leaders in a way that will encourage the SR leaders to continue in the Scouting movement in spite of the many challenges presented by serving SR units.

In spring 1999, one of the existing SR units planned and conducted a weekend campout and recruitment program and asked for adult assistance in this endeavor. Another District Volunteer and I participated in this event. The Scouts of this SR unit invited friends who were not Scouts and also youth from the neighborhood were invited to participate. A total of 20 youth and 8 adults attended. There were a variety of activities and it is my belief that the SR unit was encouraged and strengthened by this effort.

Results

The results of the various project actions associated with the partnerships between Scoutreach and veteran units are very encouraging. The following areas have been favorably impacted by this project during the implementation period:

Membership: The Reedy Falls District has been able to maintain the two active SR troops that existed when this program began and also to add two new SR troops and one new SR Venturing Crew. We currently are working on chartering another two new units during 2000. Total membership among SR youth continues to increase.

Training: During this period, one or more leaders of each SR unit have attended training for his position, and two leaders have also participated in advanced training (Wood Badge 1998). All current SR unit leaders plan to complete their basic training by the end of 2000. One SR leader has also committed to participate in Commissioner College this year.

Activity Participation: During this period, participation by troops in District and Council sponsored events and activities has dramatically increased. All of the units have attended Camporees, Summer Camps, and Merit Badge Colleges. Independent camping continues to be intermittent and below desired levels. This is an area that

needs more attention. I believe that as the leaders gain confidence in their own camping skills that this situation will be favorably resolved and we will continue to work on this with them.

Quality Unit Status: Several SR units have achieved Quality Unit status and others continue to improve in the number of component factors that are met.

Other Volunteers: At least three other District volunteers became actively involved in the SR program during the past three years - two with troops and one with packs. I believe that this growth in interest will continue in the years to come.

Continuation of Program Efforts

I am presently serving as Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 266, Advisor of a new Venturing Crew 99, as well as Reedy Falls District Chairman and Assistant District Commissioner for SR units. In each of these jobs it is my intention to continue to encourage and develop partnerships between veteran and SR units as follows:

Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 266: With the approval and support of the troop and Scoutmaster, continue to plan and implement unit partnership events. Also continue to assist SR units as needed at District and Council sponsored events. Also continue to encourage individual Scouts to assist in SR unit programs as appropriate.

Advisor of Venturing Crew 99: One of the SR unit sponsors has now chartered a separate Venturing Crew. Our crew has agreed to invite this new Crew to attend outings with us to assist them in getting their program started.

Reedy Falls District Chairman and Assistant District Commissioner: At each meeting of our District Commissioners and Committee, an agenda item will be a discussion of the status of our SR units. Partnerships with new and existing SR units among packs, troops, and crews will be encouraged and supported by the District leadership.

Conclusion

I believe that the implementation and results outlined in this report have proved my hypothesis that partnerships between Scoutreach and veteran units can help Scoutreach units initially survive, ultimately succeed and simultaneously provide service opportunities for the veteran units.

As previously noted, I am now serving as Reedy Falls District Chairman. One of my primary goals is to expand both the depth and number of partnerships between SR units and veteran units during my term of office. Eventually I intend to promote this program to other Blue Ridge Council Districts and perhaps even other area councils.

Appendix

Attachment Number 1

Current Brochure published by the BSA on the Scoutreach Program

Attachment Number 2

Materials related to the first SR partnership event sponsored by Troop 266

Attachment Number 1

Current Brochure published by the BSA on the Scoutreach Program



Scoutreach Division



Attachment Number 2

Materials related to the first SR partnership event sponsored by Troop 266

RUSSELL SMART
CHAIRMAN URBAN EMPHASIS PROGRAM * REEDY FALLS DISTRICT
BLUE RIDGE COUNCIL * BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

February 25, 1997

To: Irvin Thompson Troop 29
 Bobby Wells Troop 112
 Benny Smith Troop and Pack 156
 Maxie Preshia Pack 629
 Eddie Robinson Pack 5 and Pack 15
 Carolyn Goodjoin Pack 112
 Fletcher Martin Pack 329
 Glenn Chapman Pack 619

RE: Planned Urban Emphasis "Outing" on March 15-16, 1997

The Reedy Falls District Urban Emphasis Committee in conjunction with Troop 266 sponsored by St. Giles Presbyterian Church has planned an outing for all of the Urban Emphasis units in our district to be held on Saturday, March 15th at Camp Old Indian. This first event is limited to Scouts and Webelos units. The Scout units are also invited to camp overnight with Troop 266 and depart on Sunday morning, March 16th. This event is available at NO CHARGE for all participants. All food, supplies, and camp costs will be provided by Troop 266. Even transportation is available, if needed.

The program will begin Saturday morning at 10:00 AM and conclude at 5:00 PM for the Webelos. Lunch will be provided for them. Boy Scout participants will eat supper at 6:00 PM and participate in evening activities, including a campfire program. Those who remain overnight will have breakfast followed by a worship service on Sunday morning and may then depart at approximately 11:00 AM. Both Webelos and Scout parents are welcome to attend the events during the day on Saturday and any Scout dads who wish to camp overnight may do so.

This outing should be fun for all and a good "warm-up" for units who plan to attend the District Camporee scheduled in April.

I will be in touch with each of you by telephone to confirm your participation and get a guesstimate of how many you expect might attend in the next 10 days. Please give me a call if you have any questions or comments.

604 BLACKS DRIVE * GREENVILLE, SC 29615
297-8138 (HOME) 271-9865 (OFFICE)

Mini-Camporee
March 15, 1997
Patrol Event Requirements

Event Topic: First Aid

The event should combine several elements of difficulty for a group made up of both Webelos and Scouts.

There will be 6-10 persons in each patrol. At least one of these will be an Adult who may or may not participate as you choose.

As many Webelos and Scouts as possible should be a part of the event. If necessary, make it a "relay" or break it up into parts so that everyone can participate. Some members of the patrol may be "victims".

The time limit on each event will be 10 minutes, including the time to explain the rules to the patrol or patrol leader, run the event, and complete any scoring.

Some suggestions for this event might be....

- Stretcher race.
- Injury treatments (broken bones, burns, etc.).
- Different kinds of carries for injured persons.
- Other ideas from Scout handbook or "Woods Wisdom."

Your patrol must provide the materials needed or give me a list of what you need.

Your patrol must write down the rules or instructions and give me a copy. Use the back of this sheet.

At least one Scout from the Patrol must be available to conduct the event. He will not participate in the other events during the morning. He will be able to participate in the afternoon events. An older Scout or Adult will be designated to assist him.

Mini-Camporee
March 15, 1997
Patrol Event Requirements

Event Topic: Knots

The event should combine several elements of difficulty for a group made up of both Webelos and Scouts.

There will be 6-10 persons in each patrol. At least one of these will be an Adult who may or may not participate as you choose.

As many Webelos and Scouts as possible should be a part of the event. If necessary, make it a "relay" or break it up into parts so that everyone can participate. Some members of the patrol may be "teachers" or "helpers."

The time limit on each event will be 10 minutes, including the time to explain the rules to the patrol or patrol leader, run the event, and complete any scoring.

Some suggestions for this event might be....

- Knot relay race.
- Simple pioneering project.
- Knot identifications.
- Other ideas from Scout handbook or "Woods Wisdom."

Your patrol must provide the materials needed or give me a list of what you need.

Your patrol must write down the rules or instructions and give me a copy. Use the back of this sheet.

At least one Scout from the Patrol must be available to conduct the event. He will not participate in the other events during the morning. He will be able to participate in the afternoon events. An older Scout or Adult will be designated to assist him.

Mini-Camporee
March 15, 1997
Patrol Event Requirements

Event Topic: Compass

The event should combine several elements of difficulty for a group made up of both Webelos and Scouts.

There will be 6-10 persons in each patrol. At least one of these will be an Adult who may or may not participate as you choose.

As many Webelos and Scouts as possible should be a part of the event. If necessary, make it a "relay" or break it up into parts so that everyone can participate. Some members of the patrol may be "teachers" or "helpers."

The time limit on each event will be 10 minutes, including the time to explain the rules to the patrol or patrol leader, run the event, and complete any scoring.

Some suggestions for this event might be....

- Compass circle game.
- Distance or height measurements.
- Bearing to different landmarks at camp.
- Other ideas from Scout handbook or "Woods Wisdom."

Your patrol must provide the materials needed or give me a list of what you need.

Your patrol must write down the rules or instructions and give me a copy. Use the back of this sheet.

At least one Scout from the Patrol must be available to conduct the event. He will not participate in the other events during the morning. He will be able to participate in the afternoon events. An older Scout or Adult will be designated to assist him.

Mini-Camporee
March 15, 1997
Patrol Event Requirements

Event Topic: Tent Pitch

The event should combine several elements of difficulty for a group made up of both Webelos and Scouts.

There will be 6-10 persons in each patrol. At least one of these will be an Adult who may or may not participate as you choose.

As many Webelos and Scouts as possible should be a part of the event. If necessary, make it a "relay" or break it up into parts so that everyone can participate. Some members of the patrol may be "teachers" or "helpers."

The time limit on each event will be 10 minutes, including the time to explain the rules to the patrol or patrol leader, run the event, and complete any scoring.

Some suggestions for this event might be....

- Time how long it takes to put up 1-2 tents.
- Time how long it takes to take down and pack up 1-2 tents.
- Other ideas from Scout handbook or "Woods Wisdom."

Your patrol must provide the materials needed or give me a list of what you need. We will use Eureka tents (not our Diamond Brand variety).

Your patrol must write down the rules or instructions and give me a copy. Use the back of this sheet.

At least one Scout from the Patrol must be available to conduct the event. He will not participate in the other events during the morning. He will be able to participate in the afternoon events. An older Scout or Adult will be designated to assist him.

Mini-Camporee
March 15, 1997
Patrol Event Requirements

Event Topic: Woods Tools

The event should combine several elements of difficulty for a group made up of both Webelos and Scouts.

There will be 6-10 persons in each patrol. At least one of these will be an Adult who may or may not participate as you choose.

As many Webelos and Scouts as possible should be a part of the event. If necessary, make it a "relay" or break it up into parts so that everyone can participate. Some members of the patrol may be "teachers" or "helpers."

The time limit on each event will be 10 minutes, including the time to explain the rules to the patrol or patrol leader, run the event, and complete any scoring.

Some suggestions for this event might be....

- Time how long it takes to saw through a log.
- Explain safety rules on use of woods tools.
- Other ideas from Scout handbook or "Woods Wisdom."

Your patrol must provide the materials needed or give me a list of what you need. **SAFETY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THIS EVENT.**

Your patrol must write down the rules or instructions and give me a copy. Use the back of this sheet.

At least one Scout from the Patrol must be available to conduct the event. He will not participate in the other events during the morning. He will be able to participate in the afternoon events. An older Scout or Adult will be designated to assist him.

Mini-Camporee
March 15, 1997
Patrol Event Requirements

Event Topic: Nuclear Reactor Game

The event combines several elements of difficulty for a group made up of both Webelos and Scouts.

There will be 6-10 persons in each patrol. At least one of these will be an Adult who may or may not participate as you choose. It takes a minimum of eight (8) people to do this event.

As many Webelos and Scouts as possible should be a part of the event. If necessary, make it a "relay" or break it up into parts so that everyone can participate. Some members of the patrol may be "teachers" or "helpers."

The time limit on each event will be 10 minutes, including the time to explain the rules to the patrol or patrol leader, run the event, and complete any scoring.

We will use our rope and pulley game for this event.

At least one Scout from the Patrol must be available to conduct the event. He will not participate in the other events during the morning. He will be able to participate in the afternoon events. An older Scout or Adult will be designated to assist him.

Mini-Camporee
March 15, 1997
Patrol Event Requirements

Event Topic: Team Game

The event should combine several elements of difficulty for a group made up of both Webelos and Scouts.

There will be 6-10 persons in each patrol. At least one of these will be an Adult.

Everybody (including the Adult) should be a part of the event. The purpose is to show teamwork among Scouts of different ages and abilities. If necessary, make it a "relay" or break it up into parts so that everyone can participate. Some members of the patrol may be "teachers" or "helpers."

The time limit on each event will be 10 minutes, including the time to explain the rules to the patrol or patrol leader, run the event, and complete any scoring.

Some suggestions for this event might be....

- Boardwalking.
- Leaky bucket, spoon-ball, or other types of relay games.
- Spiderweb or other similar "escape" games.
- Cross the imaginary "river" danger games.
- Other ideas from Scout handbook or "Woods Wisdom."

Your patrol must provide the materials needed or give me a list of what you need. Your patrol must write down the rules or instructions and give me a copy. Use the back of this sheet.

At least one Scout from the Patrol must be available to conduct the event. He will not participate in the other events during the morning. He will be able to participate in the afternoon events. An older Scout or Adult will be designated to assist him.

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March 15, 1997
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At least one Scout from the Patrol must be available to conduct the event. He will not participate in the other events during the morning. He will be able to participate in the afternoon events. An older Scout or Adult will be designated to assist him.



RUSSELL SMART
CHAIRMAN URBAN EMPHASIS PROGRAM * REEDY FALLS DISTRICT
BLUE RIDGE COUNCIL * BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

March 17, 1997

To: Irvin Thompson Troop 29
Bobby Wells Troop 112
Eddie Robinson Pack 5 and Pack 15
Carolyn Goodjoin Pack 112

RE: Urban Emphasis "Outing" on March 15-16, 1997

Thanks for your participation in our mini-camporee this past weekend. The members of Troop 266 had a great time and I hope that you and your boys did also. I want to give a special thank you to Reedy Falls District Committee members Bruce Bunch, Don Van Deusen, Ken Gardner, Bud Heide, and Jackie Jordan for taking part in the festivities. My most special thanks goes to Troop 266's own "Scout Chef" Trey Moran who supervised all of our food preparation for the weekend.

I am now looking forward to seeing ALL OF YOU (and many more) at the official Reedy Falls District Spring Camporee in April at BMW. Gary Medlock and his committee have an excellent event planned for all of us and I know that you will NOT want to miss it. Please call either Tim Taylor or me if you need an information packet or assistance in getting signed up.

Also, Ken Gardner and I are pleased to announce that beginning in April 1997, the Council now has an inventory of camping gear that is available to our Urban Emphasis units on a loan basis. The initial inventory includes tents and cooking gear previously used by the 1993 National Jamboree Contingent and the Council Training Committee. Troop 266 has also made some items available. We hope to expand this inventory as units and individuals make more items available. This program will be coordinated by Larry Jordan, our Council Urban Emphasis Director, so give him a call if you want to borrow items for the Camporee or any other Scouting activity conducted by your unit.

Once again, thanks for helping to make our weekend a great success.

See you in April at BMW!

604 BLACKS DRIVE * GREENVILLE, SC 29615
297-8138 (HOME) 271-9855 (OFFICE)