

We all know that Scouting's goal is to  
prepare young people to succeed in life ...



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# But is it working?



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# Tufts University Study

For three years, a research team from Tufts University worked with the BSA's Cradle of Liberty Council to measure the character attributes of both Scouts and non-Scouts — all with a goal of better understanding the character development of youth as it was happening

JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION

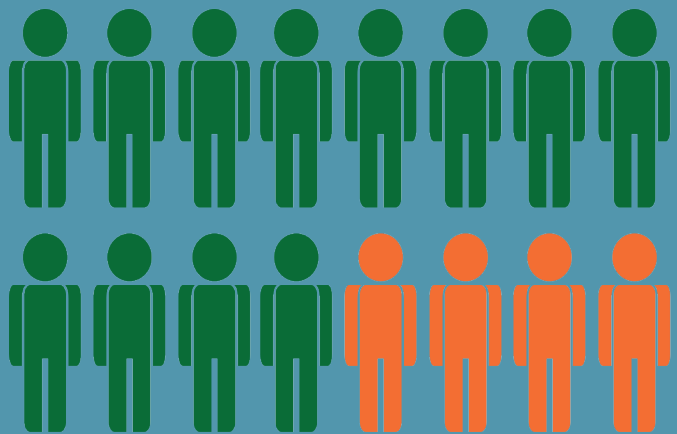
SUPPORTING SCIENCE ~ INVESTING IN THE BIG QUESTIONS



**Tufts**  
UNIVERSITY



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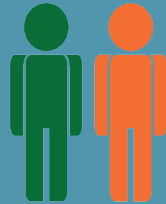
# 2,000+

Scouts and non-Scouts  
aged 6-12 from across the  
Philadelphia area were  
measured in 6 key areas:



\*Hopeful Future Expectations

At the beginning, there were no significant differences in character attributes between Scouts and non-Scouts. By the end, the differences were striking ...



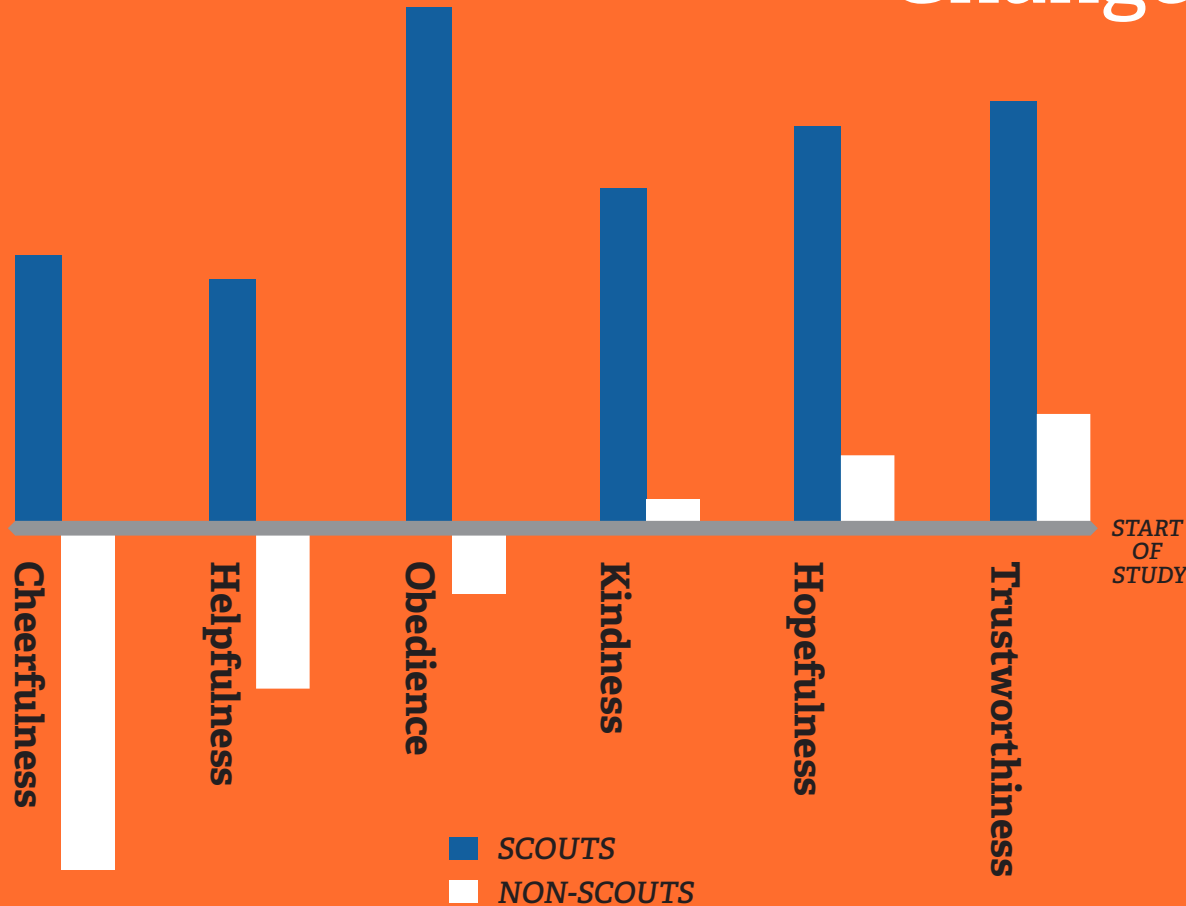
# Key Findings

- ➔ Over time, Scouts reported significant increases in several character areas, while non-Scouts did not
- ➔ Scouts are more likely to embrace positive social values than non-Scouts
- ➔ The more regular their meeting attendance, the better character attributes
- ➔ More tenure = better character attributes
- ➔ Better program + more involvement = better character attributes

# Change in Character

Over the course of the study, the change in positive character attributes for Scouts vs. non-Scouts became evident

↑  
CHANGE IN CHARACTER  
↓





After 2.5 years of research, Cub Scouts reported significant increases in cheerfulness, helpfulness, kindness, obedience, trustworthiness, and hopeful future expectations



There were no significant increases  
reported among non-Scouts



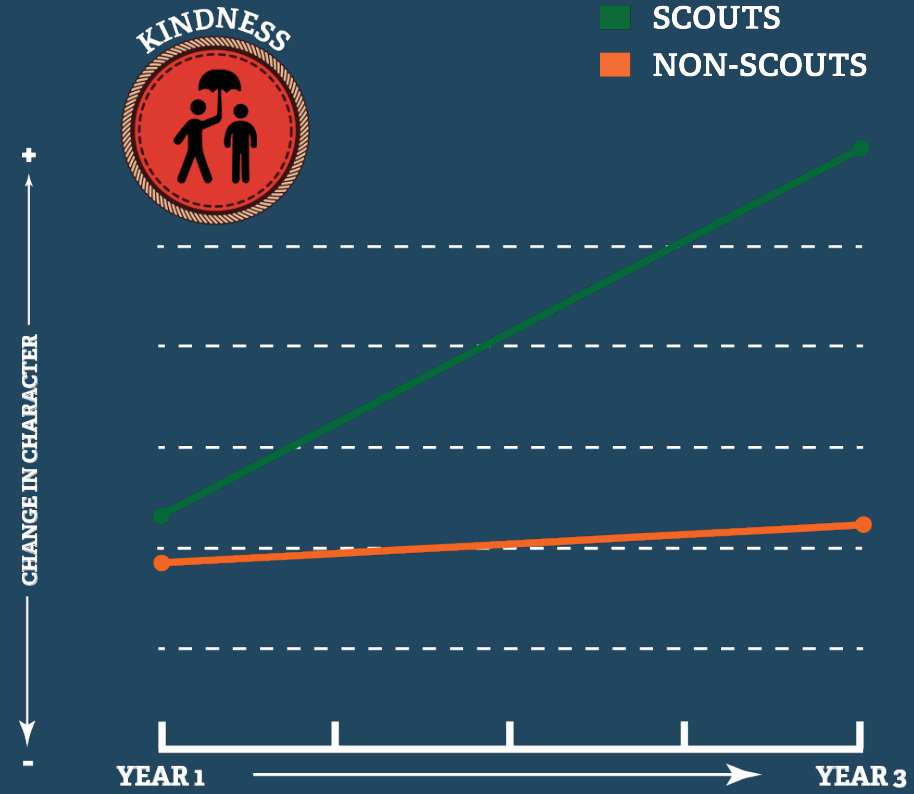
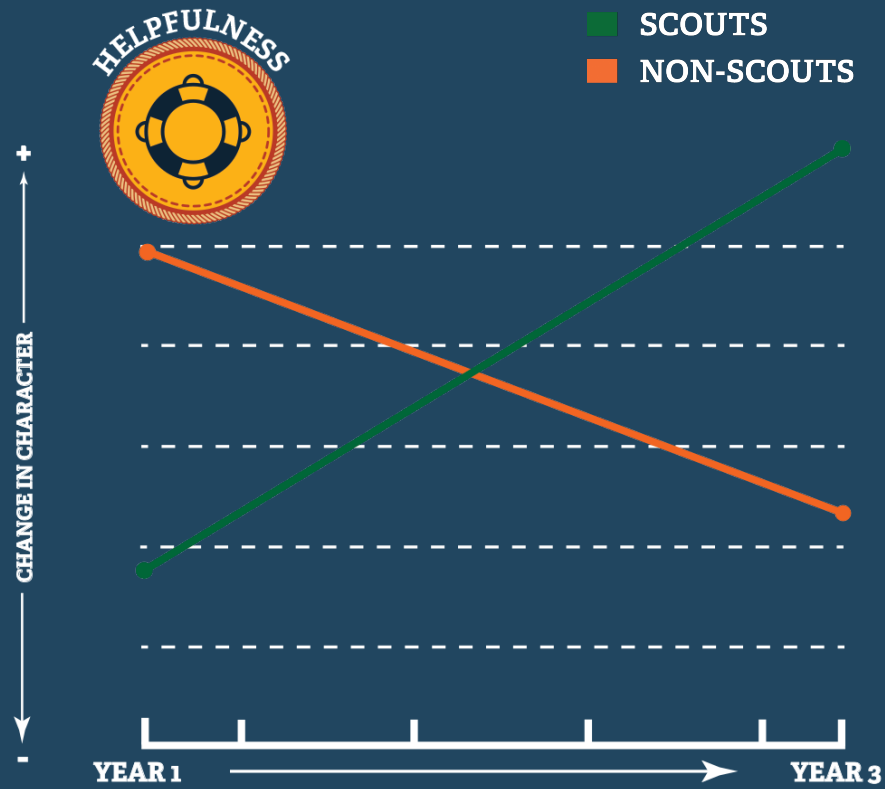
When asked what was “most important” to them, Scouts were significantly more likely than non-Scouts to choose “helping others” or “doing the right thing” vs. “being smart,” “being the best,” or “playing sports”



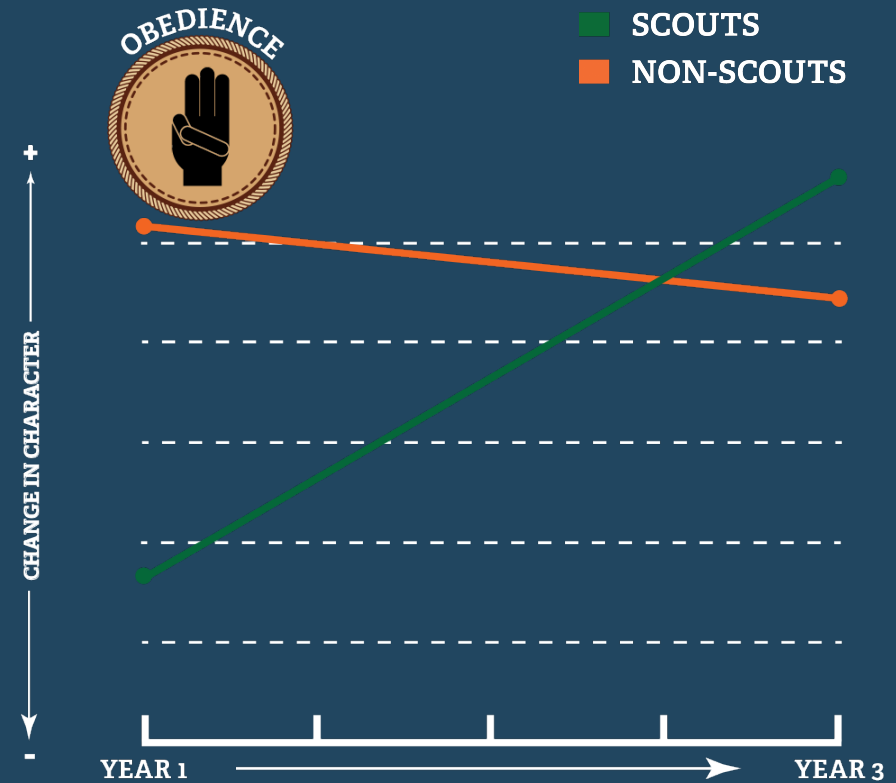
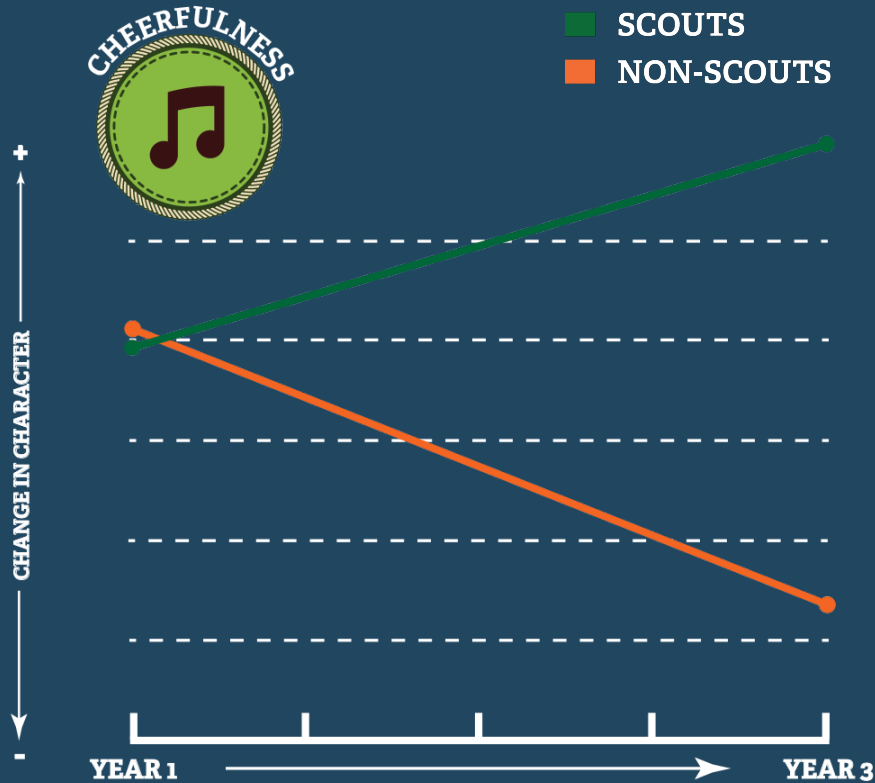
Scouts are **significantly more likely** than non-Scouts to embrace other-oriented values, including “helping others” and “doing the right thing”

Activity	Other-oriented Values as Most Important
BSA	72.8%
<b>BSA and Sports</b>	64.8%
Sports	53.2%

Over time, Scouts reported significant increases in several character areas, while non-Scouts did not



# Scouts are more likely to embrace positive social values than non-Scouts



# Meeting Attendance Matters

Scouts who attend meetings regularly report higher trustworthiness, helpfulness, kindness, and thriftiness, higher levels of hopeful future expectation and self-regulation, better grades, and a better connection with nature vs. Scouts who “sometimes” or “rarely” attend





# Tenure Matters

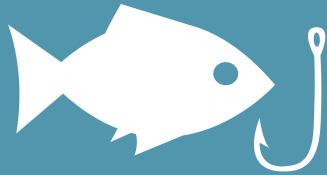
As Scouts' tenure in the program increases, they report higher levels of trustworthiness, intentional self-regulation, hopeful future expectation, and better grades



# Engagement Matters

Scouts who are more engaged in the program are more cheerful, helpful, and kind, and have higher future expectation and intentional self-regulation

Highly engaged youth who are registered in highly engaged packs reported higher character attributes



# We are succeeding. Scouting works.

Here's what you can do ...

Learn More/Join: [BeAScout.org](https://BeAScout.org)

Support: [APlaceToGive.org](https://APlaceToGive.org)



# Learn More

[scoutingwire.org/how-scouting-promotes-positive-character-development](https://scoutingwire.org/how-scouting-promotes-positive-character-development)

[www.tuftscampstudy.com](http://www.tuftscampstudy.com)

