



# NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA SCOUTREACH PROGRAM

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America thrives because of support from companies like SunTrust. SunTrust has played a huge role in helping us serve the unprivileged youth in our local communities. These youth would not otherwise be able to participate in the Scouting program. Because of SunTrust and their continued support, we are able to have a goal of growing our program this year. We look forward to the merger of SunTrust and BB&T them coming together to become America's premier financial institution. We were excited to hear that both companies will continue to be deeply committed to and invested in the communities they serve and that together, SunTrust and BB&T plan to be an even more active community partner. Please see below for more about our ScoutReach program and the impact that the SunTrust foundation has in our local communities.

## **SCOUTREACH PURPOSE**

To remove obstacles that prevent at-risk youth from participating in Scouting and deliver a Scouting experience that is identical to Scouts residing in suburban neighborhoods.

## **SCOUTREACH VISION STATEMENT**

All youth will have the opportunity to become a Scout, to advance in rank, attend summer camp and have access to positive and trained adult leaders.

## **SCOUTREACH VALUES**

Respect for the Community. Treating all people with respect and dignity through honesty and openness to the needs of the community.

**THE NEED-** According to the District of Columbia Public Schools FY19 Budget, a projected 44,496 students in DC qualify for 'at-risk' funding in the 2018-2019 school year because they are a foster care student, experiencing homelessness, over age for their grade, or participate in SNAP or TANF. Youth in DC face too many challenges and set-backs, including food insecurity, unhealthy environments and housing instability. Children raised in distressed neighborhoods are offered too many chances to fail and have too few opportunities to succeed. Additionally, youth are impacted by care-givers living paycheck to paycheck, struggling to make ends meet and leaving too few hours for time with families. Single parent homes too often are forced to have children who return to an empty home after school. Young people in underserved, distressed neighborhoods in the DC metro area need adult role models they can look up to and work with on a year-round basis. Distressed neighborhoods have fewer men and women who volunteer to fill this role.

**THE RESPONSE-** The American Institutes for Research explains that children who participate in after school programs can reap a host of positive benefits in several interrelated outcome areas—academic, social/emotional, prevention, and health and wellness. Studies indicate that kids involved in after-school programs have higher achievement and attendance rates, are less prone to depression and burnout and experience dropout less often. Out of school activities keep children safe and protect them from risky and negative behavior.

Through the Direct Service ScoutReach program we will recruit and employ positive adult role models who serve as Scout leaders. ScoutReach was designed to attract and meet the needs and interests of youth and communities in local underserved neighborhoods and families with economic challenges. The target community organizations/schools are those with a commitment to working with youth development issues as part of an overall commitment to urban neighborhood stabilization or revitalization. ScoutReach serves the most distressed neighborhoods in Washington, DC with a fully funded Scouting program for youth ages 6-13. The Scouts meet weekly, immediately after school. The cost of uniforms, activities, camping, advancement, and summer camp are covered for all youth who wish to join. Currently, we serve 388 youth in 6 of D.C.'s public schools.

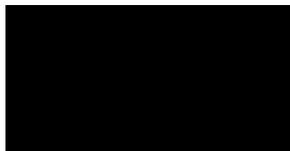
**THE GOAL-** To positively influence the lives of the targeted underserved youth population through activities that cultivate their skills in the six critical elements of healthy youth development:

- Strong personal values and character
- Positive sense of self-worth and usefulness
- Caring and nurturing relationships with parents, other adults and peers
- A desire to learn
- Productive and creative use of time
- Social Adeptness

**THE OUTCOME-** Scouts learn a sense of accountability and teamwork through the experience of outdoor learning, rank advancement, and community service. Activities are designed to be challenging yet enjoyable for the youth and teach honesty, integrity, responsibility and leadership. Through this powerful teaching method, the Scouting program promotes teamwork and self-confidence. Youth involved will develop a sustained, caring relationship with adults and will receive guidance in facing serious challenges. Scouting programs help youth to learn to make the right choices today and throughout their lifetime.

The need for this program is much greater than what our current resources can cover. The current poverty rate in D.C. is 18%, with 120,308 out of 647,654 people living below the poverty line. Our council's ScoutReach program accounts for only .6% of the 57,000 total youth that we serve. In 2019, we plan to grow ScoutReach exponentially, but we can only do this with community support. We need to do better to ensure that all children in D.C. have the opportunity to develop leadership skills, strengthen their self-confidence and their well-being through Scouting. This is why, we are so thankful for companies like SunTrust who believe in us and the programs we provide for our local communities.

Sincerely,



Jenna Welle  
Chief Development Officer  
National Capital Area Council  
Boy Scouts of America