

FCCEJ Celebrating 150 Years of Service to God and Community

First Church's Long-Standing Relationship with Scouting

First Church's long-standing support of scouting organizations in our community has been, and continues to be, a treasured relationship. The church has enjoyed helping the young men and women, who have been members of the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, to grow in their civic and moral responsibilities.

For over 70 years, First Church has been the proud charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 624. In that time, the troop has been actively involved with the local community, participating in Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades and services, food drives, Green-Up Day and Eagle Scout projects that greatly benefit our community. Since 2000, the troop has had 37 young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout and you only need to look around the area for examples of their Eagle projects – a pavilion, batting storage and benches at Maple Street Park, a patio at the Fairgrounds, a gaga pit at Fleming School, and a Peace Pole and sitting area on the First Church grounds, to name just a few. Partnering the church and the troop encourages these young men to live according to the Scout Oath and Law, and teaches them how to make ethical and moral decisions in their lives.

The church also charters Cub Scout Pack 630. The pack, for boys in grades K-5, helps these boys build character, learn citizenship and develop personal fitness all while having fun! The pack also participates in the parades and other community projects, and they have yearly Pinewood Derby Races. Additionally, they celebrate the founding of Cub Scouting with a Blue and Gold Banquet in February.

First Church also opens its doors to the Girl Scouts. The Girl Scouts helps young girls in building courage, confidence and character so they can make the world a better place. The church has multiple troops who meet within its walls, and you can find them working on care packages for our deployed soldiers, helping with events like the Penguin Plunge and promoting World Peace through their International Day celebrations.

When asked what scouting has meant to him, Josh Sharp said, "Scouting is where I went for life lessons. I joined scouting for reasons I much better understand now. I really wanted more friends and some of the best friendships I've made in life have come through scouting." Shannon McCullen, when asked the same question said, "Completing my Gold Award opened many doors for me, including an internship in Washington DC in Senator Shaheen's Office."

Josh is an Eagle Scout and Shannon is a Gold Award Girl Scout. Both Shannon and Josh are members of First Church and we are all very proud of them and their many scouting accomplishments.

By supporting the mission of the Boy Scouts, the Cub Scouts and the Girl Scouts, First Church continues its Outreach Mission into the community.

By Judy McCullen