

ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2025



**SCOUTING:
IT ALL
STARTS
HERE!**

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thanks to your leadership and generous support, 2025 was a truly successful year for Scouting across Southeast Texas as we proudly served **27,533** youth through traditional Scouting programs, career-based Exploring, and ScoutReach initiatives.

As the largest council in the country, the Sam Houston Area Council welcomed **7,990** new families into the transformational program of Scouting. By partnering with new chartered organizations, we experienced growth in the number of units compared to last year, expanding our reach and strengthening our presence in the community. In addition, more than **800** Scouts earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout—an extraordinary achievement that reflects dedication, perseverance, and strong mentorship.

This past year also marked a focused effort on growing both youth membership and adult engagement. Through our *Be The Spark* adult recruitment campaign, the council welcomed **1,966** new volunteers, ensuring our programs remain strong, sustainable, and impactful.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the tireless commitment of nearly **10,000** volunteers who give their time, talent, and passion to serve our youth.

Because of your continued support—and their unwavering dedication—we remain steadfast in our mission to prepare young people with lifelong values and a commitment to service and achievement throughout our diverse community.

Thank you for all you do to support Scouting.



William J. Berger
Chair of the Board



Deborah A. Rollinson
Council Commissioner



Marvin D. Smith
CEO/Scout Executive

Please visit www.shacbsa.org/annual-reports to view the expanded 2025 annual report.

ACHIEVEMENTS



A SCOUT IS BRAVE



Scout **Antonio (AJ) C.** has been awarded the Council Certificate of Merit for his calm and courageous response during a serious car accident involving his mother. Although the crash was severe enough to deploy the airbags, AJ was unharmed. He immediately checked on his mother, who was unresponsive and trapped in a smoke-filled vehicle. Realizing the danger, he tried to move her to safety but was unable due to her unconscious state.

Remaining composed, AJ used his phone to contact his older sister and clearly communicated with nearby adults—one of whom called 911. He later provided emergency responders with important information about his mother's medical history. By the time his sister arrived to care for him, AJ had already played a key role in managing the emergency. His mother recovered quickly, and AJ's actions stand as a strong example of preparedness and bravery.

A WORTHY RECOGNITION



Using his Scout training to recognize a potentially life-threatening situation, Arrow of Light Scout, **Thomas E.**, acted quickly and decisively to protect his family. When smoke began entering his home from the backyard, Thomas immediately suspected a fire. Investigating further, he discovered flames coming from a window-mounted air conditioning unit. Recalling his Scout training—"If you see or smell smoke, get to safety and alert others"—he sprang into action. With urgency, Thomas notified his parents, reminded them to grab the family pet, and led the evacuation.

Once outside, he approached a bystander and asked them to call 911. Thomas responded with maturity and presence of mind—prioritizing the safety of his family and securing help. Although the fire department arrived within ten minutes, the blaze had already spread rapidly. Even though the home was ultimately lost, Thomas's quick thinking and brave actions ensured that his parents and their pet escaped unharmed. His initiative and calm response likely prevented a tragedy.

A NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Eagle Scout, **Gabriella G.**, has been awarded the National Certificate of Merit for her decisive actions in a critical situation. Recognizing her father's signs of severe heat distress in their front yard, Gabriella swiftly assessed the situation and called for emergency services. She then gathered crucial medical information and provided initial cooling measures until paramedics arrived. Her quick thinking and preparedness directly contributed to her father's timely care.



