

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL OF SCOUTING AMERICA AND
NASA SIGN SPACE ACT AGREEMENT TO FORM
COLLABORATIVE STEM PROGRAMS FOR SCOUTS**

HOUSTON – (December 17) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has signed a Space Act Agreement with the Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC) of Scouting America, marking the first collaboration between NASA’s Office of STEM Engagement (NASA OSTEM) and Scouting America. The agreement provides Scouts with access to premier Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs and helps aid NASA’s goal of preparing the next generation of explorers and enhancing education of youth.

This agreement will enable both organizations to collaborate on programs that enrich the experiences of youth and educators alike. These programs will give Scouts a deeper understanding of the academic needs of the aerospace industry and will engage NASA in the broadest possible distribution of information regarding its activities and their outcomes. Through this outreach, NASA OSTEM will provide Scouts with unique opportunities to learn more about NASA's mission, vision, and goals.

NASA and SHAC share a common interest in the following STEM educational goals

- Promoting the value of STEM to educational and public audiences
- Increasing student and educator interest and participation in STEM fields
- Ensuring that tomorrow's workforce is prepared for STEM careers
- Increasing the number of underrepresented and underserved students participating in STEM opportunities

This agreement aligns with NASA's strategic objectives of attracting and developing a talented and diverse workforce while building the next generation of explorers. NASA's education and outreach initiatives aim to inspire and engage the public and students. This is essential for increasing public knowledge of NASA's work and fostering an appreciation for the value of STEM and enhancing teaching and learning opportunities.

“We are honored to establish this opportunity with NASA which will provide out of this world experiences for our Scouts and volunteers to access preeminent STEM programs,” said Marvin Smith, Scout Executive/CEO, Sam Houston Area Council. “This agreement will inspire young minds through hands-on activities and captivating simulations that bring the universe to life. As we relaunch and rebrand under a new name, it is the perfect time to establish this partnership with NASA.”

The Boy Scouts of America will officially rebrand to Scouting America on February 8, 2025. The mission and purpose remain the same but the name change reflects the organization’s ongoing commitment to inclusivity and welcoming all youth and families to experience the benefits of Scouting. Scouting America will continue to play a crucial role in shaping the

future leaders of this nation by integrating educational activities and lifelong values with enjoyable experiences. This agreement between NASA and SHAC seeks to leverage NASA's educational outreach programs to enrich the Scouting experience at SHAC's new premier camping facility, Camp Strake in southeast Texas, and throughout the Scouting America program.

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About Scouting America and SHAC

Scouting America is one of the largest and most prominent youth development organizations in the country, rooted in strong values. Scouting America offers programs that help young people build character, learn about the responsibilities of active citizenship, and develop personal fitness. For over a century, the organization has played a crucial role in shaping the future leaders of this nation by integrating educational activities and lifelong values with enjoyable experiences. Scouting America firmly believes, and has learned through extensive experience, that supporting youth is essential for fostering a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

The Sam Houston Area Council (SHAC) implements the Scouting America programs as one of over 200 local councils, each responsible for delivering the Scouting America program to youth in their designated areas. Serving approximately 27,000 young people across 16 counties in Southeast Texas, SHAC relies on the dedicated service and leadership of about 10,000 adult volunteers. The Council's purpose is to guide and support its districts in achieving their programs and services, providing professional support, and facilitating year-round outdoor activities – all aimed at instilling lifelong values, promoting service, and fostering personal achievement among youth. For more information visit, www.SHACBSA.org .

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sam Houston Area Council
Media Relations
Shane Burks
(713) 756-3301
Shane.Burks@Scouting.org