

## ScoutREACH and Challenge Camp

Written by Administrator

Friday, 29 April 2011 17:27 - Last Updated Tuesday, 10 July 2012 02:47

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[Click here to view the video on a mobile device](#)

{youtube}T75OLT1HsJg{/youtube}



ScoutREACH delivers the Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Venturing program to youth residing in designated low-income and minority outreach communities. It ensures that all youth can participate and benefit from Scouting, regardless of their neighborhood, ethnic background or parental support. This occu

Today, youth are faced with many challenges including fragile families and disintegrating neighborhoods. ScoutREACH communities can be very diverse and different from one another and are predominantly African American neighborhoods or in one of the growing Hispanic population areas in our metro. Scouting, by emphasizing ethics and moral values, addresses many of the social concerns of parents in our community. Scouting prepares youth to accept responsibility and to care about principles and causes beyond their own self-interest. ScoutREACH prepares them to be leaders and responsible citizens. Our core rs through relationship development with places of worship, schools and other organizations.

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ScoutREACH is our well-defined program based on values, learning by doing and

### Challenge Camp

Challenge Camp, an extension of ScoutREACH, is one of the premiere camping outreach programs offered in our community. Conducted over 4 weeks each the summer, Challenge Camp has been serving African-American youth from low income and minority outreach communities in our region since 1995. The purpose of Challenge Camp is to build upon the character and values they have learned about throughout the ScoutREACH program via an interactive camping experience.

The young men who participate in Challenge Camp do so at no cost to themselves or their families. Participants are transported by chartered bus from near their homes to our camp each day. All program materials, equipment and uniforms are provided, as well as a nourishing lunch and snacks. On Thursday evenings, parents are transported to camp and share in their son's experience during family night.

Participants are grouped in patrols of 8, each led by a volunteer mentor ( [download a volunteer mentor application](#) ).

The diversified group of volunteers include

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a mix of businessmen, police, firefighters, PLN members and community leaders. In addition to facilitating fun outdoor programming, [the volunteers truly mentor their group through team building initiatives and personal interaction \(click to learn more about mentoring and impact\)](#)

. In 2010, over 45 adults volunteered their time as mentors.

The experience can be best summed up by longtime Challenge Camp mentor Al Beasley:

“Much has been written about the plight of the inner city youth and the struggles they face with respect to drugs, gangs and poverty. Challenge Camp is an open door to a different world where these young men get an opportunity to see and work with successful men and women from the world of business and government. Many of these young men would often say ‘Do you think I could be like you when I grow up?’ A tear would often start to fall from my eye as I realized that without hope for a better future what do these young men have? Challenge Camp gives them a chance to be around nature and dream/plan for a positive future by developing a positive self-image. Please continue your support of these young men.”

In 2010, 504 boys attended Challenge Camp; our goal is to grow to 615 in 2011.

Contact Ken Brunner at 513.577.7710 if you are interested in learning more about Challenge Camp or how you can help.