



How does the Boy Scouts of America train today's youth to be successful leaders for tomorrow?

Chad E. Bacastow

M.S. in Leadership - Fall 2018

A personal passion...

As a former member of the organization, and in light of the gradual decline in membership in recent years, it is intended that the results of this investigation may raise awareness of the many benefits that the BSA has to offer our youth and our future leadership.

Granite State College

Approach to Research



Testimony from successful leaders (former Scouts) & organizations

How does the Boy Scouts train leadership?

What does successful leadership look like?

Key terms:

Servant leadership - the approach where leaders assume the position of servant to their followers as they set out to enrich the lives of individuals and build better organizations (Servant Leadership, n.d.).

Transformational leadership – the style of leading with character, inspiration, and ethical behavior while working on teams who identify needed change and guide that vision to reality (Rafferty & Griffin, 2004).

Emotional intelligence (E.I.) - the aptitude of a leader to accurately recognize and effectively express emotion while facilitating thought and understanding the emotional impact of their actions to those around them (Emotional Intelligence, n.d.).

Findings and Conclusion

- Successful Leadership: No single approach, rather a situational mix of styles, weighing heavily on servant and transformational leadership, and used in conjunction with E.I.
- BSA Leadership Training: Scout Law, Oath, Motto, and Slogan / Achieving of personal goals / Helping others achieve their goals / Community service / Coaching and leading other scouts while in leadership roles / Honing their communication skills
- Testimony: Military academies and NASA recruitment / J.W. Marriot, Ross Perot, Michael Bloomberg, Robert Gates, Stephen Breyer, Jim Lovell, Hank Paulson, Gary Locke

Conclusion: Through the use of servant and transformational leadership styles, the Boy Scouts of America is a key organization to develop our future leaders.

Recommendations: For the BSA to make additional efforts to promote the advantages of their programs and to better educate the public on their current policies and standards to influence a rise in membership and support for programs like Scoutreach.