



## Fact Sheet

**Program Concept:** Nearly every youth experiences Scouting with members of their family. Scouting provides the opportunity to strengthen ties between family members, create great family memories, and develop a shared family foundation of worthwhile virtues and values. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Generations Connection program celebrates Scouting's legacy and its positive impact on American families through a program centered on the enduring symbol of the tree.

### Program Overview

To help local councils harness a powerful – yet often intangible – force for maintaining and building membership, the Generations Connection 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program was developed. It recognizes the deep connection to Scouting that is fostered through family traditions, and finds meaningful ways to engage Scouts and their families in the program. It also encourages today's Scouts to commit to carrying the tradition of Scouting forward.

The Generations Connection program is comprised of several components:

#### *The Generations Connection Family Tree*

Scouts are encouraged to explore the tradition of Scouting within their families through the process of completing the Tree, which gives pause for important conversations about the shared experience of Scouting with relatives. For Scouts who are just beginning to create their family history as first-generation Scouts – the Family Tree is for them, too! These Scouts are encouraged to incorporate important role models into their Tree. All Scouts are invited to pledge, as part of their Tree, to share Scouting with future generations. This meaningful action is designed to help and maintain the membership and vitality of the BSA.

#### *Gathering Scouting Family Stories*

Through an online “Share Your Scouting Family Story” link available at the 100 Years of Scouting Web site ([www.scouting.org/100years](http://www.scouting.org/100years)), the Generations Connection program helps locate families who have handed down a tradition of Scouting through the generations, and captures their personal stories. Through this same link, individuals without a generational legacy of Scouting can pledge to be “First-Generation Founders” and share equally compelling stories of how Scouting has made their family stronger and better. Generational Scouting Families are encouraged to join in family and council BSA 100th Anniversary Generations Connection activities, and can be showcased during 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration activities. The National Council provides a monthly report of survey responses to local councils.

***Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary Trees – A Partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation***

Recognizing both the important Generations Connection tree symbolism, and a shared mission for service and environmentalism, the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) has become a valued 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary partner. The ADF has designated official BSA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trees for both members of the Scouting family and the public to enjoy. The trees are available to all at [www.arborday.org/boyscouts](http://www.arborday.org/boyscouts). As another exciting dimension of the partnership, for every BSA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tree purchased from Arbor Day, a corresponding tree will be planted in the newly created Boy Scouts of America Centennial Forest in Montana. The Centennial Forest will aid in replanting the Flathead National Forest after recent fires.

***Tree Planting Ceremonies***

A significant, worthwhile way for local councils and Scouting families to engage in the Generations Connection program is to plant 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trees. All BSA local councils are encouraged to plant at least one tree, serving as the living legacy of that council's positive impact on Scouts and their families. It also presents an opportunity to get the larger community involved. Additionally, Scouting families may find value in their own private tree-planting activity. For them, planting and nurturing a tree can honor the memories and experiences their family has built through Scouting. Not only are the tree plantings a time for reflection and sharing stories, but collectively, can have tremendous environmental impact.

**Generations Connection: A BSA 100th Anniversary Celebration Program**

Learn more at [www.scouting.org/100years](http://www.scouting.org/100years)

For more information about BSA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trees, visit:

[www.arborday.org/boyscouts](http://www.arborday.org/boyscouts)

