



# THE BRIDGE

The Newsletter of The National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

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## International Catholic Scouts say they “were blessed” with local generous support for World Jamboree activities

**Editors Note:** This is the report on the 24th World Scout Jamboree filed by the International Conference of Catholic Scouting (ICCS).

More than 35,000 young people had a great time at the 24th World Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, USA, July 22 through August 1, 2019. NCCS International Committee Advisor Father Mike Hanifin served as the lead Catholic chaplain and NCCS International Committee Chair Phil Krajec served as the coordinator of the International Catholic Conference of Scouting booth and Catholic activities at the Jamboree.



The ICCS booth at the Jamboree was largely funded by NCCS and was staffed by volunteers from Italy (Roberta Vincini, Letizia Goni, Eleonora Moauro) and CICS Treasurer Matteo Spanò, United States (Ynes Ortega, Chris Murray and Jim Cordek), Lebanon (Johnny Danadjian and Laurent Wehbe), and New Zealand (Andy Hancock).

The Faiths & Belief area at the Summit included a large tent with stalls for displays and activities by most of the world’s major religious groups: Catholic, Islam, Hindu, Protestant, Buddhist, Sikh, Judaism and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Visitors to the Catholic booth were welcomed with an opportunity to view the daily readings, play bells symbolizing the good news to be spread around the world, lash together a hand-made crucifix as a sign of meeting our Lord who died on the cross for us, and tie a rosary bracelet signifying the building of a relationship with God through prayer. Scouts were then invited to demonstrate that we are a community that meets in the name of God by sharing their thoughts on a wall poster. All visitors were given a pin with the ICCS Jamboree logo for them to easily remember the experience.

On Sunday, approximately 3500 worshipers attended a large outdoor Mass at which Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre served as principal celebrant and homilist. Concelebrants included current and former Bishop Liaisons to NCCS Daniel Conlon and Bob Guglielmono; Bishop Richard Spencer of the Archdiocese of Military Services; ICCS World Chaplain Father Jacques Gagey; Fathers Kevin Smith, Gerard Gentleman and Mike Hanifin of NCCS; and 38 other priests from eight different countries. Reverend Mr. Rick Tuggle served as the Archbishop’s Deacon. Seven local seminarians acted as altar servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Local musicians provided the



music for the Mass. The readings and prayers of the faithful were led in French, Spanish and English by Scouts from Canada, Mexico and the United States, the three co-host countries of the Jamboree.

Taizé services led by ICCS volunteers were offered several times throughout the Jamboree. ICCS was blessed to have the generous support of the NCCS, local volunteers to transport materials to the Summit. Local parishes and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston were a great help, providing the altar, ambo, equipment, hosts and wine for the Sunday and daily Masses.

The Jamboree and the ICCS booth were tremendously successful as evidenced by the smiles on the faces of the youth participants!

Watch a video that tells the ICCS experience at Jamboree 2019: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/rqug9qq7e7yefzy/iccs\\_at\\_WSJ2019.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/rqug9qq7e7yefzy/iccs_at_WSJ2019.mp4?dl=0)

## Committee offers ideas for effectively using Religious Activities to learn our Faith

by  
Theresa Dirig

The religious Activities Committee has offered many exciting programs to learn about the Rosary, Mary, American saints, Modern saints and our faith – but we may not have offered you ways to use them in your Pack/Troop, or Parish. Here are a few ideas!

\* At a Pack/Troop meeting, use the St. George religious activity to explain why St. George is the Patron Saint of Scouts.

\*After a Friday evening or Saturday morning Mass, coordinate with your Knights of Columbus or similar group, to offer refreshments and highlight a saint or other activity. Some parishes offer pizza and soda and then talk about the saint or Marian feast that is celebrated that month or is special to the parish. This evening is open to all in the parish.

\* Other parishes are incorporating the programs into their religious education classes. As an example, in December, classes teach the students about Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe. When the students returned home with the patches and shared their excitement with their parents, parents asked more about the lesson.

\* On a Diocesan Camporee, set up sites throughout your camp, offering a portion of the religious activity at each site. Give the attendees the geocaching coordinates to collect the clues about the religious activity. After the attendees have collected all the clues, they return to the main campsite and share what they've learned and identify the activity.

We hope these suggestions help you utilize the religious activities more in your faith community. If there are religious activities you would like to suggest, please send them to [tscoutlady@yahoo.com](mailto:tscoutlady@yahoo.com).



### FROM THE CHAIR Jim Weiskircher

Last week, John Anthony and I attended the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers (NFCYM) annual meeting in San Antonio. Youth ministers from around the country were gathered to find ways to reach our youth.

A group of the ministers and young adults from around the world were involved in Pope Francis's synod focused on young people, the faith, and vocational discernment carried out from 2016 to 2019. The product of the synod was Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on Youth, *Christus Vivat*. The synod has laid the groundwork for the Church's effort to reach out to the young people in the Church.

The first three chapters are observations of the Scriptures of the Church and of realities experienced by young people. The next three chapters are interpretations of the young people's pathways and of generation and culture. The last three chapters are about actional choices in ministry for mission and vocation and through vocational discernment.

There are ten things in *Christus Vivat* for all of us who deal with young people: reflect Christ, be young at heart, take young people seriously, listen to young people and stay close to their concerns, be flexible, empower young people for mission, awaken young people to encounter- - don't bore them!, make a home for all young people, build families and parish communities that welcome youth and radiate Christ, and accompany the young. Pope Francis wants us to understand that young people 16-35 are not the future of the Church but they are the Church. It is our job as Scout leaders to reflect Christ and to be there to help them to reach their full potential.

The one thing that struck me at the NFCYM meeting was that there were few priests involved in the process. Archbishop Perez was the Episcopal Liaison, and he was the only priest on the Board. There were a handful of religious orders represented but none on the committees. We are so fortunate to have so many priests involved in Scouting at the diocesan and national levels. To the priests involved in Catholic Scouting, I can not thank you enough for your support of our youth.

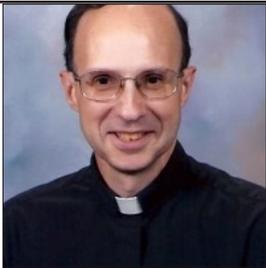
**Yours in Catholic Scouting as a youth ministry,**

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To submit items for future editions of *The Bridge* please contact Mike Gannon at [scouttrain@aol.com](mailto:scouttrain@aol.com). Photos are acceptable and should be in a jpeg format. Please ensure all people in photos are identified and the subject matter is fully described.



## The Chaplain's Corner

Father Joe Powers  
National Chaplain



## BSA leadership outlines way ahead after bankruptcy - reaffirms Scouting's future

As you may have read, the national organization of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. In an open letter to Scouters the key leadership stated that as a result of this action they hope to achieve two key objectives: equitably compensate victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting and continue to carry out Scouting's mission for years to come.

The leadership went on to say "We are outraged that there have been times when individuals took advantage of our programs to abuse innocent children and sincerely apologize to anyone who was harmed during their time in Scouting. We believe victims, we support them, we provide counseling by a provider of their choice, and we encourage them to come forward. We believe that all victims should receive our support and compensa-

Dear Scouters,

BSA's Religious Relations Committee gathered for a meeting in early February. Here are some of the issues discussed by the Chaplain Committee. The 2021 Jamboree will see unit assignments return to regional settings, with 18 neighborhoods being formed. My goal for Catholic chaplains is 12-15, so please contact me if you are interested. Some-thing new is the recruitment of theology students to serve as aides, at a fee of \$450 if 25 or younger. The Chaplain committee emphasized the importance of having chaplains present at every High Adventure Base as well as at summer camps. The Summit will be hiring a full-time Protestant chaplain for services during the summer. The local Catholic parishes have been assisting with providing Mass.

Don't pass up these great opportunities for training and sharing:

- ◆ Scouting in the Local Church, June 22-26 at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. Learn how to organize, lead and maintain a Diocesan Catholic Committee.
- ◆ Scouting in the Catholic Church, July 19-25, at the Philmont Training Center. Learn why Scouting is a Youth Ministry and how to use the information back home.

tion and we have taken decisive action to make that possible. Our plan is to use this Chapter 11 process to create a Trust that would provide equitable compensation to these individuals.

While the word "bankruptcy" can be alarming, **it is important to know that Scouting programs will continue.** This means that regular unit meetings and activities, district and council events, other Scouting adventures and countless service projects will take place as usual.

As we go through this process, all involved in Scouting need to know the following:

- **Scouting is safer now than ever before.** Approximately 90% of the pending and asserted abuse claims against the BSA relate to abuse that occurred more than 30 years ago. As someone close to Scouting, you know the safety of children in our programs is the BSA's absolute top priority.
- **Scouting continues.** Scouting programs will continue to serve youth, families and local communities throughout this process and for many years to come. Just last year, communities across the country benefited from more than 13 million Scouting service hours, and young men and women earned more than 1.7 million merit badges that represent skills that will help them succeed throughout their lives. Studies prove and parents agree that Scouting helps young people become more kind, helpful and prepared for life, and as long as those values remain important to our society, Scouting will continue to be invaluable to our nation's youth.
- **Local councils have not filed for bankruptcy.** Local councils are legally separate, distinct and financially independent from the national organization.

As a Scouter you know the BSA has worked consistently over many years to implement multi-layered policies to keep kids safe. From mandatory youth protection training and background checks for all volunteers and staff, to policies that prohibit one-on-one interactions between youth and adults and require that any suspected abuse is reported to law enforcement, our volunteers and employees take youth protection extremely seriously.

## Training opportunities scheduled for Scouting leaders in 2020

**The Scouting in the Local Church** (also known as Diocesan Development Conference) will be hosted at the BSA's new training facilities at the Summit in West Virginia from June 22 to 26, 2020. The goal of the conference is to have the participants develop an understanding of the organizational models and administrative strategies for the successful operation of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. This is a great opportunity for Diocesan Committee members to come as a leadership team. It is designed particularly for Diocesan Catholic Committee members, Scout chaplains, clergy and (arch) diocesan or parish youth ministers. Questions about this training should be directed to Mark Kramer, [dccoscf.kramer@gmail.com](mailto:dccoscf.kramer@gmail.com)

**The Scouting in the Catholic Church** training will be conducted at the Philmont Training Center from July 19 to 25, 2020. Scouting is the perfect tool to bring a new edge to a Parish's youth ministry program or bring new life to a Catholic school's after-school programs. Our conference focuses participants not only on the mission and programs of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS), but also involves them in adult faith formation and an understanding of the concept of Scouting as a youth ministry. It is designed for any adult interested in using Scouting as a program for Catholic youth ministry such as Scout chaplains, clergy, (arch) diocesan or parish youth ministers, and council, diocesan, regional, and national Catholic Committee leadership and members. Questions about this training should be directed to Elizabeth Olivas, [Elizabeth.Olivas@scouting.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Olivas@scouting.org).

**Catholic Scout leader e-learning** for Chartering Organizational Representatives (COR) is now available online in the BSA learning system. The NCCS version of the COR training mimics the content of the BSA's COR training but focuses on the potentiality of the BSA's programs as a ministry program within the Catholic Church. In a four module series, the Catholic COR will come to understand: the purpose of chartering a BSA program for a Catholic institution, the role of the parish and the diocese in the operation of a BSA program, how to reach Scouts through NCCS programs, the role of the COR as part of the Catholic faith community, and how to run a Catholic Scouting program in conjunction with the BSA's Rules and Regulations. This e-learning is the first in a series of Catholic Scouting leadership training sessions that the Training Committee is working on for leaders in Catholic Cub Scouting, Catholic Scouts BSA, and Catholic Venturing. Each of the program series will examine the potential and the mechanics to empower leaders both in Catholic-sponsored units and units with no Catholic affiliation. If you have questions, please contact Chris Murray, Training Chair, [chris.murray3@yahoo.com](mailto:chris.murray3@yahoo.com).



## Eagle Scouts from Virginia and Texas recipients of Emmett J. Doerr Scholarships

Evan W. Herchek of Columbus, Texas, parishioner at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in the Diocese of Victoria is a \$2,000 recipient of the NCCS Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship. Evan is a hardworking, conscientious young man who, at age 11, started cleaning floors at his church to earn extra money. Seven years later he is still working to earn money and serve his church. Evan has been an altar server, assisted at church picnics, worked with Habitat for Humanity and helped at the Columbus Food Pantry with his youth group.

He has held numerous BSA troop offices and has attended Sea Base in Florida, The Summit in West Virginia and Boundary Waters in Minnesota. For his Eagle Scout Project, Evan did an outstanding job of raising more than \$20,000.00 to purchase, construct and revitalize a playground in existing City Park in Columbus, Texas. To raise funds he gave presentations, visited businesses, set up a booth at the Chamber of Commerce 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and created a radio ad to request donations. The project included 418 hours of labor. Evan plans to continue Scouting and says, ***“My Scouting journey will not end when I turn eighteen. I see my future as only a beginning in my duty to God to serve others...”***

In his community, Evan has been selected as Junior Ambassador to Columbus, Texas, earned the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award, and was Colorado County Citizen news maker of the Year in 2018. Passionate about computer science, Evan has been a member of his High School Tech Club and Science Club. He is a founding member of the Columbus High School Robotics Club and programmer for the robotics team. He has received numerous University Interscholastic League Awards in computer science and has been accepted at Texas A & M University.



Joseph Lepak, from Alexandria, Va., a member of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Catholic Community, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA is a \$2,000 recipient of the NCCS Emmett J. Doerr Memorial Scout Scholarship. As a military kid, Joseph moved around a lot but the two things that were consistent in his life were Catholic chapels on military posts and Scouting, so they both became very important to him. He says, ***“as a result of my faith and upbringing, I also have an extreme desire to serve others...which many times puts me at odds with my peers who are looking in life to go out and get jobs that will serve themselves and make money...It is very important to me that my legacy and my accomplishments in work, affect others for the better. I want the people of this country- - and the world- -to be better off due to my actions.”***

After his dad retired, Joseph stayed in Northern Virginia. He held numerous leadership positions in Scouting and Order of the Arrow (OA), including Vice Chief of finances, Ordeal Master and Area Chief, leading almost 1,000 scouts in five chapters. He has been STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activity leader, served as secretary and president of his Venturing Crew and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 129 in Alexandria, Va. His Eagle Scout Project involved designing and constructing a new tool shed and improving the gardens for the middle school. Joseph received approval from the city, prepared a budget and raised finances to complete the project. He was a participant in the 2015 World Scout Jamboree and the Inter-American Scout Jamboree in Ecuador. With his Venturing Crew he attended the National Jamboree in West Virginia, Sea Base Bahamas and Northern Tier High Adventure.



Through his archdiocese, Joseph has earned all four of the religious awards. He has been an altar server, lector, teen leader for vacation Bible School, and assisted with clothing and food drives and with the adult education program. Always wanting to serve, Joseph has worked with many community organizations, including Wreaths Across America, Alexandrians Living Ecumenically, Scouting for Food, park clean-up, National Cherry Blossom Festival, Meals on Wheels and a cancer survivor fundraiser swim-a-thon.

Academically, Joseph was selected for admission to T.C. Williams STEM Academy and to participate in their Cyber Security Camp. He has received numerous academic awards and represented his school through his science research. He has been active in “The High School Project Plan”, which aims to resolve issues around growing student enrollment and space at his high school. Joseph is attending George Mason University.

## Did You Know...? by Bob Oldowski NCCS Historian

What is the Bronze Pelican adult recognition? Hopefully this will clarify its origin and current usage.

The Bronze Pelican recognition was developed by the New York Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting in 1944. One requirement was that the recipient needed to give at least three years of service. The first presentation was made in 1947 to two men, Hugo D'Alissandro and Victor F. Ridder. Their pelicans were made of gold. Since then the emblems have been bronze.

Why the pelican? (In the center of the main sanctuary of St. Patrick's Cathedral, in front of the main (high) altar, there is a pelican feeding her young with droplets of blood, etched into the floor. The pelican symbolizes Christ who shed his blood for us on the Cross.

The first pelican emblems were suspended from a ribbon (much like the Ad Altare Dei or Eagle award). The pelican image initially was on a removable pin that could be worn on the lapel of a coat. Now a separate lapel pin is provided. Two different ribbons are known to exist, an early one with an AAD ribbon and the other with the present-day, yellow neck ribbon with red-white-blue edging.

When the St. George emblem was approved by the NCCS in 1954, it did not replace the Bronze Pelican but has co-existed. The NY ACCS had made the pelican emblems available for use by dioceses, with the qualifications to be set as the DCCS saw fit. For this reason, this is considered a local recognition, and the BSA has not approved the wearing of a knot for a Pelican recipient.



## Scouting in the Catholic Church July 19-25, 2020 Philmont Training Center, Cimarron, N.M.



Whether a newbie or a veteran to Catholic Scouting, consider attending the NCCS' Scouting in the Catholic Church this July 19-25 at the Philmont Training Center. In the words of the Philmont Hymn, you'll be in "Scouting Paradise," "out in God's country," enjoying mountains "against an azure sky" during the day and "starlit skies" at night. This is the setting for a training conference that brings together laity, clergy, and religious from around the country for a week of learning, faith, fellowship and fun!

The goals of the conference are to help participants understand how Scouting is Catholic youth ministry, gain knowledge about Catholic Scouting resources and use the training to promote Catholic Scouting in their home dioceses and councils.

The Philmont Training Center (PTC) is also a great family vacation spot! PTC offers a full, organized, program for every member of the family from infants to spouses through its Conference Youth Program and Family Adventure Camp. Or, you may choose to plan your own sightseeing in the Cimarron, Taos, and Santa Fe areas. Whether staying in a tent, deluxe family tent, or roofed housing, participants will find PTC facilities clean and comfortable.

Please spread the word about Scouting in the Catholic Church and encourage others—(arch) diocese Catholic committee on Scouting members, Catholic Scouters, COR's, chaplains, and youth ministers—to seize this opportunity for an inspirational fun-filled week in "God's Country."

Registration is open! For information about the Philmont Training Center, family programs, or to register, please visit the Philmont website at [www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc.aspx](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc.aspx). For further information or questions, please contact NCCS at our email address [NCCS@Scouting.org](mailto:NCCS@Scouting.org).

## A VOCATIONS REFLECTION

By

Br. Andrew J. Kosmowski, SM  
Vocations Chair

If you are reading this column, you have an interest in the state of vocations within the Catholic Church in the United States. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) presented its findings on the class of 2019 priests and perpetually professed to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. CARA finds that of the priests, 28% (about 27/95) of newly ordained priests to religious life have a background in Catholic Scouting. Similarly, 27% (about 77/284) of the newly ordained to diocesan life have a background in Catholic Scouting. This is a little lower than previous reports but not alarmingly so.

The data from the study on the class of 2019 offers a different view as they provided the bottom of a downward trend. This data set shows that we do have an opportunity to also promote more greatly the vocation of Brother within the realm of Catholic Scouting. We can promote the Pope Pius XII emblem better. To ensure Scouts have access to all vocations, many local Catholic Committees on Scouting offer programs with Brothers who share their stories; perhaps this is a call to greater collaboration among neighboring committees with these events. This can allow more Scouts opportunities to meet Brothers and ask them questions.

### Letter from Jim Weiskircher, NCCS National Chairman: Important Notice about the Chicago Biennial Conference

I want to thank you for your support of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and our 46th Biennial Conference in Chicago. The health and safety of our members and volunteers is paramount. Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 coronavirus, the NCCS Executive Committee has decided to cancel the Biennial conference. This is consistent with CDC guidelines. Over the coming weeks, the Executive Committee will monitor the situation and determine how we move forward.

Your registration fees will automatically be refunded unless you indicate otherwise. Several members have indicated a preference to either donate their fees to one of NCCS' youth ministry initiatives or have them held for the next conference.

Your options are:

- Reserve my fees for a future conference
- Donate to Annual Appeal (general operating fund)
- Donate to Golden AAD endowment (provides for clergy support)
- Donate to St. George Memorial endowment (provides income to St. George Trek)
- Donate to Scholarship endowment (provides income for current scholarships)

If you would like to consider one of the above alternatives please email Elizabeth at [Elizabeth.Olivas@scouting.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Olivas@scouting.org) and indicate your preference.

Again, if you wish a refund you need to do nothing.

Please contact the Hilton Rosemont to cancel your room reservation. Their number is (847) 678-4488. You have until April 19th to do so without penalty.

Yours in Catholic Scouting,

Jim Weiskircher, National Chair



**We need you! Every four years, the NCCS reaches out to connect with Catholic Scouts at the National Scout Jamboree. We need your help! Please consider joining our team as a staff member on the service team. Go to the Jamboree web site and register for Duty to God or Faith and Beliefs as your first choice. Once you registered please email either Jim Cordek at [pjcordek1970@gmail.com](mailto:pjcordek1970@gmail.com) or Jim Weiskircher at [jim.weiskircher1@gmail.com](mailto:jim.weiskircher1@gmail.com) and give us your registration information so that you will be accepted and assigned to the NCCS booth.**

## Downturn in Catholic units reversed in 2019 with gain of 22 new units

by  
**Joe Bouley**  
 Membership Chair

For the first time in over 15 years, the downward trend in membership numbers was stemmed! Comparing BSA Scout troops gained (408) versus lost (386), we ended 2019 with a **PLUS 22** troops! The majority of these new units were Scouts BSA *female* troops that are chartered by Catholic Churches and Schools. As part of a 2019 NCCS membership initiative, all the **new 408 Catholic troops** will receive a special red streamer for their troop flags. Congratulations and well done to all!

	Northeast Region	Southern Region	Central Region	Western Region	Totals
<b>New Units</b>					
<b>Catholic Schools</b>	2	8	10	4	<b>24</b>
<b>Knights of Columbus Catholic Churches</b>	3	2	2	2	<b>9</b>
	121	92	97	65	<u><b>375</b></u>
					<u><b>408</b></u>
<b>Dropped Units</b>					
<b>Catholic Schools</b>	4	9	9	5	<b>27</b>
<b>Knights of Columbus Catholic Churches</b>	1	15	7	5	<b>28</b>
	93	79	115	44	<u><b>331</b></u>
					<u><b>386</b></u>
				<b>Net New Units</b>	<u><u><b>22</b></u></u>

## Scouts in Troop 19 get behind the scenes view of growing career field for women

by  
**Daniel Cannon**

Twenty-one members of Scouts BSA Troop 19, chartered at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Short Hills, N.J. joined the Fleet Services team of Schindler Elevator Corp. in Morristown for a three-hour session to learn about the criticality of truck transportation to business operations.

The Fleet Services team led by Melanie Chacon, fleet supervisor, and Phil Schreiber, fleet consultant, shared their expertise by reviewing the requirements of the Truck Transportation merit badge with 17 female Scouts in attendance.

“As a young woman, I could never have imagined that my career would have taken me into fleet services. I can connect with these young girls as they embark on an unprecedented journey. For me, the fleet industry was predominately male until recent years, and I am proud to contribute to opening new opportunities, views and alternative perspectives for these girls,” said Ms. Chacon.

Each Scout was given a unique opportunity to learn about the various types of trucks, the important role trucks play in the global supply chain management, vehicle maintenance program requirements, safety rules and compliance, and explore truck transportation careers.

“I don’t look at trucks in the same way anymore. I know

that all truck drivers must get at least eight hours of rest before they drive,” said Tenderfoot Sylvie Benjamin.

Scoutmaster Daniel Cannon thanked the Fleet Services team for their “positive contributions to the diversity revolution underway in Scouting by giving the Scouts a first-hand peek into a growing career field for women.”

