



Soccer and Scouting Fact Sheet

The following facts are based on a two season cycle in Harlingen, Texas. This program has been highlighted in "*Scouting*" a family magazine, September 2005.

- After the first season we had a 92% retention rate with 180 out of 195 boys returning for the second season.
- To date 70% of the boys have earned their Bobcat pins.
- The success of the Soccer and Scouting program has given us credibility with the local schools and parents, which we previously lacked due to years of failed attempts to start Cub Scout packs (*an outdoor based program*).
- In this very economically challenged area, parents have been willing to pay \$40 to register and then another \$10 for the second season and another \$10 for the third season. A total of \$60 a year to participate. In the past they have complained that they couldn't afford the \$10 BSA registration fee (*don't say no for the costumer*). *The average charge by councils in the region is \$40.00 per participant each year.*
- The registration fee is used for BSA registration, uniform and a ball for each boy. Either the parents or in some cases the chartered partner paid for all registrations. The council paid no registration fees. *Some councils in the Southern Region have paid the fees from designated funds.*
- Local businesses that had not previously supported the council in either F.O.S. or in Special Events have been willing to sponsor Soccer and Scouting. A total of \$10,000 in sponsorships was generated last year. This was used to pay for the goals, coaching equipment, and trophies.
- They have started 3 new packs in schools that have never had a Cub Scout pack, but now participate in the Soccer and Scouting program.
- Boys who participated in Soccer and Scouting last year are participating in both programs this year. *Possible retention and cross over into other packs (an outdoors based program).*
- Boys who participated in Soccer and Scouting last year but are now Boy Scout age have joined a local Boy Scout Troop. *In other councils they continue registration in Soccer and Scouting for Boy Scout age boys (Soccer & Scouting "program help" for Boy Scout age boys is in consideration by the National office).*
- Soccer and Scouting has been a success on every level. It has helped the council's membership numbers, they have had an increase in funding, and the community relations have never been better. Most importantly, the boys and the parents are getting a fun activity and they are learning *core values* at the same time.
- The success of the Donna, Texas program has brought new challenges. Two other cities, Brownsville and La Joya want to start Soccer and Scouting programs. Unfortunately, they don't have the manpower to jump in with both feet at this time. They are looking for league commissioners (para-pro) to run these programs. A person needs to be on site each Saturday to handle any situations that may arise. In more developed programs, such as Orange County, California. The council has employed a full time commissioned youth serving executive to oversee the Soccer and Scouting program.
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