

Agency: **Boy Scouts**  
Liaison: Keith Hobson  
November 2017

**Need for Program:** General goals and objectives of the Boy Scouts is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices throughout their lives by instilling the values of scouting. This is supported with studies showing these results from scouting ideals. Story County programs are in Story City (4 units), Gilbert (3 units), Slater (4 units), and Ames (11 units including 2 at Beloit/LSI), and Nevada (4 units). Growth of program resulting in 80 new scouts in Ames alone this year.

These programs have increased this year due to partnership with YSS with after school scouting programs at 3 locations in Gilbert, Slater, and Story City.

**Program Strengths:** There are multiple units throughout the County serving over 800 youth.

This is a long-term program with history of good adult leadership.

They have a strong adult volunteer program with many serving for long terms. They have an 8 to 1 youth to adult ratio.

Merit badge development leads to career or hobby opportunities for lifelong skills.

There is a long-term connection of leaders to youth and learning from these connections.

Families are very involved and contribute to both volunteers and fundraising.

Popcorn sales pay for the Cub Scouting program alone.

They have scorecard and merit advancement program tracking.

**Program Challenges:** Communication with adult volunteers continues to be a challenge.

They see a decline in boy involvement especially in rural areas and with older boys.

Fundraising is always a challenge. Some of the adult find raisers were lost several years ago during a transition of leadership. Eric Thorsbakken has now been district leader for 4 years and provided some stability.

Hard to get into some school districts to get out information and have meetings with youth.

**Financial Outlook:** They have a program burden for income with the new after school programs and additional help and supplies needed. In addition to popcorn sales have direct support from Jan-April Friends of Scouting donation program, sales of Camp Cards and UW and ASSET finding.

**Internal Management:** Eric as district leader and have added another staff member in district. Also have support of Council in Des Moines. District has enlarged with additional counties. Girls will be allowed starting next fall. It is anticipated these will be separate gender programs.