

By Senator Flores

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Senate Resolution

A resolution commending the Florida councils of the Boy Scouts of America for their distinguished service to Florida and the nation.

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts movement was started in England in 1907 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell and today serves over 30 million Scouts and their leaders in 155 countries around the globe, and

WHEREAS, a group of visionary Americans led by William D. Boyce founded the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) on February 8, 1910, in Washington, D.C.; the United States Congress chartered the BSA on June 15, 1916; and through its programs, policies, and standards, the organization enthusiastically inspires and promotes ethical principles, moral values, and civic virtue in the youth of America to this day, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the BSA is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices in their lives by teaching them the timeless values enshrined in the Scout Oath and Scout Law, including the commitment to do their best to do their duty to God and their country, and to keep themselves physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight, and

WHEREAS, the nine BSA councils in the State of Florida, the Central Florida Council, the Gulf Coast Council, the Gulf Stream Council, the Gulf Ridge Council, the North Florida Council, the South Florida Council, the Southwest Florida Council, the Suwannee River Area Council, and the West Central Florida Council, serve hundreds of thousands of young Floridians between the ages of 7 and 20 in the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing,

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30 Exploring, and Learning for Life programs, and

31 WHEREAS, Scouting programs emphasize character development
32 by affording young people unique and increasing opportunities to
33 exercise leadership and responsibility and by the direct example
34 of cheerful service provided by thousands of volunteer adult
35 leaders, and

36 WHEREAS, Scouts and their leaders nationwide, through the
37 2012 Journey to Excellence, contributed more than 13.4 million
38 community service hours, providing \$293 million of value in
39 service to communities across America, through projects such as
40 Scouting for Food, Good Turn for America, Habitat for Humanity,
41 Litter Cleanup, Community Beautification, Armed Forces
42 Appreciation, and other unit and individual service projects,
43 and

44 WHEREAS, former Boy Scouts have excelled in their chosen
45 professions, with more than half of all NASA astronauts having
46 been Scouts and 39 of the total 181 having earned Scouting's
47 pinnacle of achievement, the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout,
48 and

49 WHEREAS, BSA can rightfully boast that former Boy Scouts
50 account for more than a third of U.S. Military Academy cadets,
51 nearly 15 percent of whom reached Eagle Scout; nearly a quarter
52 of U.S. Air Force Academy cadets, 12 percent of whom reached
53 Eagle Scout; 25 percent of U.S. Naval Academy (Annapolis)
54 midshipmen, 11 percent of whom reached Eagle Scout; 206 members
55 of the 112th Congress, who participated as youth or adult
56 leaders, 29 of whom reached Eagle Scout; and 15 current U.S.
57 governors who participated as youth or adult volunteers, 4 of
58 whom reached Eagle Scout, and

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59 WHEREAS, as one of the nation's largest and most prominent
60 values-based youth development organizations, the BSA enjoys a
61 sustained record of proven success in producing leaders for our
62 state and our nation who are trustworthy, loyal, helpful,
63 friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave,
64 clean, and reverent, NOW, THEREFORE,

65

66 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

67

68 That we commend the Florida councils of the Boy Scouts of
69 America for their distinguished service to Florida and the
70 nation and for their commitment to building a more
71 conscientious, responsible, and productive society.