



The Scouts of Troop 5 Maplewood Boys Scouts of America

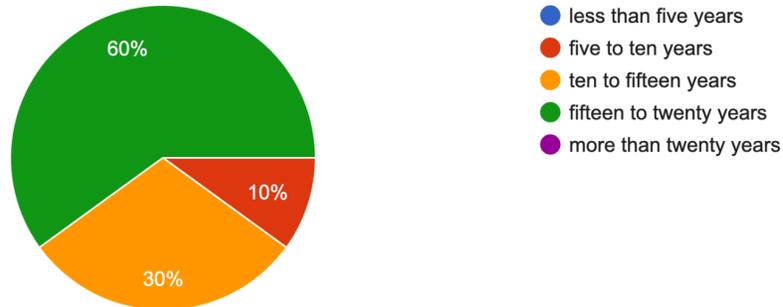
Villager of the Month Questionnaire

Troop 5 asked these scouts and former scouts to complete a short questionnaire developed in consultation with the South Orange Community Relations Committee (CRC). There were ten responses submitted in the time available.

1. How long have you lived in MAPSO? Note: Respondents range in age from 16 to 20 years old.

How long have you lived in MAPSO? [if you have moved away how long did you live in MAPSO? if you never lived in MAPSO please choose other]

10 responses



2. What is your favorite thing about living in MAPSO?

Common themes included our **vibrant community** and **easy access to both city and open space**. Some representative responses were:

"My favorite thing about MAPSO is the community. The people of this community are welcoming, friendly and passionate about a variety of causes, and constantly striving for growth." [Jack Barnett]

"I like how you can find anything you want here. It feels like the community has a little bit of everything, and if you need more excitement NYC is not far away." [Henry Donat]

"My favorite thing about MAPSO is the simultaneous proximity to dense urban life and open green space, whether the park down my street or the reservation. This provides both spaces to socialize and interact with a vibrant community as well as spaces to reflect and relax." [Max Coey]

Other more specific picks included by one or more respondents included vibrant commercial areas [in both towns] (3 mentions), Maplewoodstock (2 mentions), the SOMSD Orchestra programs, the Maplewood Skatepark, July 4 celebrations, and fond memories of celebrating birthdays at Ariyoshi.

3. Why did you decide to become a scout?

Top reasons for joining were:

- Love of outdoors / camping (7 responses)
- Encouraged by family or friend (3 responses)
- Opportunity for community involvement (2 responses)

4. How has being a scout influenced your perspective on community service and leadership?

Responses about community service were generally around **making a meaningful impact** for the community and the **rewards of serving others**. Comments about leadership were more varied but included the **challenges of leadership**, the need to take **initiative** and the **usefulness of leadership beyond scouting**. Some sample responses were:

"Leadership is hard. It's something you don't think about much until you have to wrangle 30 tweens and teens into a 5-mile hike. Likewise with community service - you don't realize how important it is until you're in the thick of it, running a food drive or building a dugout." [Tim Van de North]

"It has shown me the importance of contributing to my community and the value of working together with peers to teach others and achieve common goals." [Jacob Pross]

"It made me realize how important and rewarding it is. Spending time helping others is far more rewarding than sitting around doing nothing. Depending on the act of service it can also be extremely valuable to the recipient." [Henry Donat]

5. In what ways has being a scout helped you become a better citizen and contribute positively to your local community?

"Being a scout has opened my eyes to the importance of community, largely due to the fact that it has been the first real community I have been a part of independent of my parents and family; it has been my own place to grow up. As such, I now understand the importance of being a part of many communities and frequently go out and join other communities in and around town. Additionally, it has reinforced the cheerfulness I always had, encouraging me to always be a friendly face to those around me" [Max Coey]

"Being a scout has given me many opportunities to practice, improve, and learn new leadership skills while helping others by contributing to my community." [Jacob Pross]

"For one, the scout law has definitely rooted itself firmly in my day whether I mean for it to or not. Kindness and helpfulness in particular are daily occurrences when helping classmates understand the course work. The community as a whole is also positively impacted because of community service I've done through the university's sustainable garden, which frequently participated in farmers markets that the rest of the city can participate in." [Alexander Lopos]

6. How has being a scout influenced how you are viewed by your peers and by adults in your community?

"I feel being a scout has helped people view me as a leader and someone of good moral character." [Jack Barnett]

"Seen as someone involved with my community, a leader among my peers" [Rome Brachfeld]

"I feel that being a scout has caused others to view me as more responsible and reliable than most kids my age, and they grow to trust and respect me more than they would have otherwise [Max Coey]

7. If you are an Eagle Scout, have you noticed any changes in how others perceive you or treat you since earning this rank?

"Yes, in my experience people value the title of Eagle Scout. In some cases more than I had expected" [Henry Donat]

"It has positively influenced how my peers and adults see me for sure, it brings a sense of pride to my friends and the adults around me always say how proud they are of me that I got it. [Ola Fawole] [Note: this was Ola's response to the prior question but clearly about how is is perceived as an Eagle Scout]

"It's definitely seen as a sign of dedication by people like employers. They can see that you can get done what needs to get done, follow instructions but also take things into your own hands" [Grant Huebner]

"I'm not [an Eagle Scout], but completing the project is enough for people to garner attention. I'm seen as more capable than I otherwise would be considering the amount of management an eagle project takes." [Alexander Lopos]

8. What is the skill, lesson or attitude that you learned in scouts that you find the most valuable in your daily life?

Leadership and **communication skills** were the most common answers.

On **Leadership**:

"Scouting helped me learn how to deal with people. Leading others isn't an easy thing, but knowing how to manage people and get stuff done is a skillset that will probably benefit me for the rest of my life." [Henry Donat]

"The skills I found most valuable from scouting were leadership skills like learning how to organize a group, motivate others and make learning fun." [Jack Barnett]

"It's important to delegate bits and pieces of bigger projects to others, even if their vision or end results may be slightly different than yours. You can accomplish a lot more with a team than by micromanaging everything by yourself." [Jacob Pross]

On Communication:

"I feel that communication is the most important skill I've learned from scouts, as it is vital that you can share ideas with others in every aspect of life. I've learned that a strong communicator is a strong leader and a strong manager, which are all skills I've used in school as well as various other extracurricular groups" [Max Coey]

"Speaking. I've always been decent with conversation, but with scouts having me interact with a wide range of ages consistently, I've learned how to talk and appeal to all sorts of people. Also the ability to lead and take the plunge helps with the previously mentioned group projects. [Alexander Lopos]

On other topics:

"Perseverance. Scouts taught me that putting your best foot forward will work, but it won't always work the first time, and that's ok, just keep going." [Ola Fawole]

"learning how to manage a very large task with hard deadlines in mind, or how to break down something unmanageable into more digestible pieces. [Grant Huebner]

9. What is the outdoor experience that you had as a scout that you wish every scout could have?

6 of 10 respondents answered **Philmont Scout Ranch** in New Mexico (a trip that Troop 5 makes every 3-4 years next planned for July 2025).

"An outdoor experience I wish every scout could have is going to Philmont scout ranch. It was an amazing experience to be out in the wilderness like that with just my skills and my fellow scouts. It brought me closer to my friends and made me appreciate both nature and the comforts of civilization more." [Jack Barnett]

"Philmont! Particularly, hearing Sammy and Keegan's voices ahead of us on the way up Tooth of Time when we thought their crew had been wiped out by the grueling hike and thunderstorm the day before and were well behind us. With that, having breakfast at the summit and seeing that amazing panoramic view from the top was absolutely breathtaking" [Max Coey]

Two respondents mentioned hiking and camping in the **Adirondacks**.

"At Massawepie Scout Camps, I went for an overnight excursion with the Mountain Fox program. We hiked several miles to a small campsite on a lake, and we had a campfire, told stories, and slept in hammocks. It was one of the most "outdoorsy" things I've ever done, and it was incredible." [Tim Van de North]

And interestingly two respondents included learning lessons from campouts in which they faced **adverse weather conditions** including cold and heavy rain.

"Valley Forge, it really helped me to appreciate and understand everything we learn associated with camping, also what's better than freezing your toes off with your friends?" [Ola Fawole]

10. Looking ahead, how do you plan to continue leveraging your skills and experiences as a scout to make a difference in your community, both now and in the future?

"I plan to use my leadership experience to help the leaders in the Columbia Marching Band for our upcoming season and inspire confidence in my peers." [Tim Van de North]

"I'm using skills I've learned to help improve the community down in Trenton with some good organizations to help people with financial support, as well as repairing things overlooked by the local government. I plan to continue doing service projects wherever I live in the future as my way of giving back to the people I live alongside." [Grant Huebner]

"Through scouts, I have developed my leadership skills such that I now naturally assume a leadership role, whether formal or informal, in whatever groups I'm a part of. I know that this also applies to service to others, which I know will always be a part of my life. In the future, I plan to keep these habits, always open to guide or assist others however they may need it." [Max Coey]

"I plan to use the skills I learned in scouting to make connections in my community, as well as growing my leadership skills I learned in scouting, and applying them as I develop into an officer in the Air Force." [Jack Barnett]

Appendix: Eagle Project Photos



Henry Donat (in yellow) and volunteers painting the cottage at Wyoming Presbyterian Church (Millburn, June 2022)



Ola Fawole with wheelchair accessible picnic tables near Strawberry Fields garden at Seth Boyden Elementary School (Maplewood, about July 2022)



Max Coey with dugout at Cameron Field (South Orange, August 2022)



Grant Huebner (left) installing new bulletin board at Milo S. Borden Park (Maplewood, Oct 2022)



South Orange Rescue Squad members enjoying a new table provided by Jack Barnett (South Orange, about May 2023)



Lukas Wurster (back to camera) directing trail sign installation in South Mountain Reservation (June 2023)



Alexander Lopus (right) and volunteers delivering new orchestra instrument storage shelf to Columbia High School (Maplewood, about August 2023)



Aidan Sheridan (left) and volunteers laying stone around Memorial Rock in Meadowlands Park near South Orange Middle School (South Orange, September 2023)



Rome Brachfeld (in gray holding the ladder) and volunteers cleaning Founders Park memorial (South Orange, March 2024)



Tim Van de North (center, in hoodie) and volunteers with Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes (Maplewood, May 2024)