

“Scouting Builds Positive Character” Talking Points

A Tufts Study Outcomes Primer

Simple Explanation of Study

Over two-thousand Scouts and non-Scouts participated in a 3 year study designed to better understand character development, as it was happening. In the beginning of the study, there was no significant difference in character attributes between Scouts and non-Scouts.

Study Outcomes

Scout Outcomes

At the end of the Study...

- Scouts showed a four-fold increase in cheerfulness when compared to Non-Scouts.
- Scouts showed a four-fold increase in helpfulness when compared to Non-Scouts.
- Scouts showed a four-fold increase in obedience when compared to Non-Scouts.
- Scouts showed a two-fold increase in kindness when compared to Non-Scouts.
- Scouts showed nearly a three-fold increase in hopefulness when compared to Non-Scouts.

Non-Scout Outcomes

At the end of the Study...

- Non-Scouts showed a four-fold decrease in cheerfulness when compared to Scouts.
- Non-Scouts showed a four-fold decrease in helpfulness when compared to Scouts.
- Non-scouts did not show any change in their obedience when compared to Scouts.
- Religious reverence in non-Scouts decreased 11 fold when compared to Scouts.

Comparative Outcomes

When Compared to Non-Scouts, Scouts showed....

- Four times more growth in cheerfulness.
- Nearly three times more growth in hopefulness.
- Four times more growth in obedience.
- Twice the growth in kindness.
- Four times the growth in helpfulness.

Other ways to describe outcomes

- Scouts are significantly more likely to embrace positive social values than non-scouts.
- The more time kids spend in Scouting, the better the outcomes in character development.
- Post study, Scouts were twice as likely to show increased kindness, cheerfulness, trustworthiness and helpfulness when compared to non-Scouts.
- Post study, Scouts were four times as likely to show increased obedience and helpfulness when compared to non-Scouts.
- While Scouts showed a two fold increase in cheerfulness and helpfulness, non-Scouts showed a two-fold decrease in these characteristics.

Significant Conclusions:

Duty to God

Scouts were 11 times more likely to maintain their religious values and practices than non-Scouts. This is especially relevant as most chartered organizations are religious entities.

Hopefulness

Scouts showed a three-fold increase in hopefulness when compared to non-Scouts. When youth are hopeful about the future, it is proven they are more likely to do well in school, have higher career aspirations and make more thoughtful choices.