GOUCHER CHARTER ACADEMY
The Scout School



ABOUT GOUCHER CHARTER ACADEMY



- A free South Carolina Public Charter School authorized by the South Carolina Public Charter School District

- Uses building that was once Goucher Elementary School, a public school that was closed due to school consolidation

- School board is specific to Goucher Charter Academy made up of parents and community members

- Strong focus on breaking the cycle of generational poverty; 76.6% of students identified as living in poverty

- Served approximately 147 youth in year one (5k-6th)

- Currently serves approximately 311 youth in year 4 (5k-8th)

- Plans are in the work to expand to High School

SCOUTING TUFTS STUDY

“What’s more regular than every day at school.”

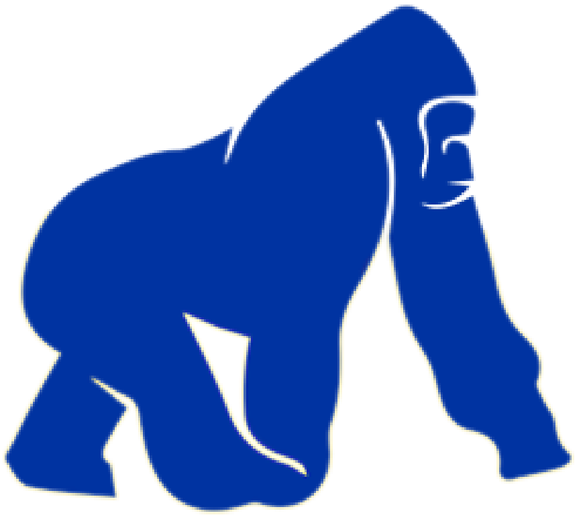
–GCA School Board Chair Jimmy Lamb

KEY FINDINGS:

- The **more time** kids spend in Scouting, the **better the outcomes** in character development
- **Those who attend meetings regularly report higher outcomes** virtually across the board when compared to Scouts with lower attendance
- Scouts are more likely to embrace **positive social values** than non-Scouts
- Scouts who are **more engaged** in the program report higher outcomes in nearly every category

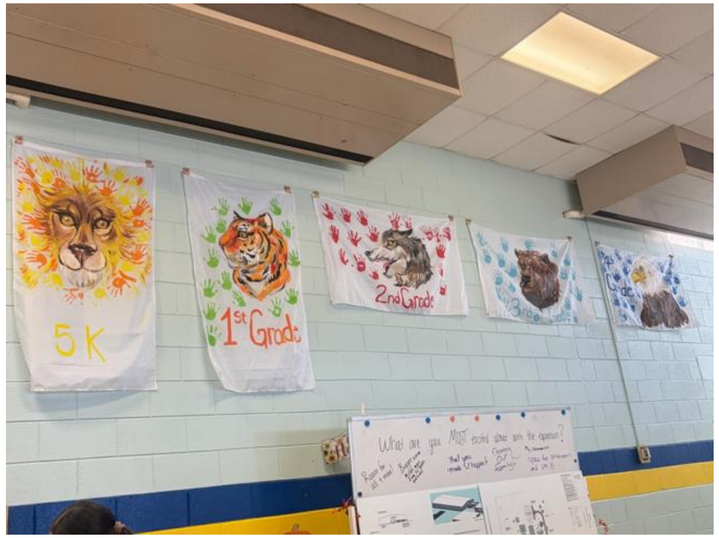
IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

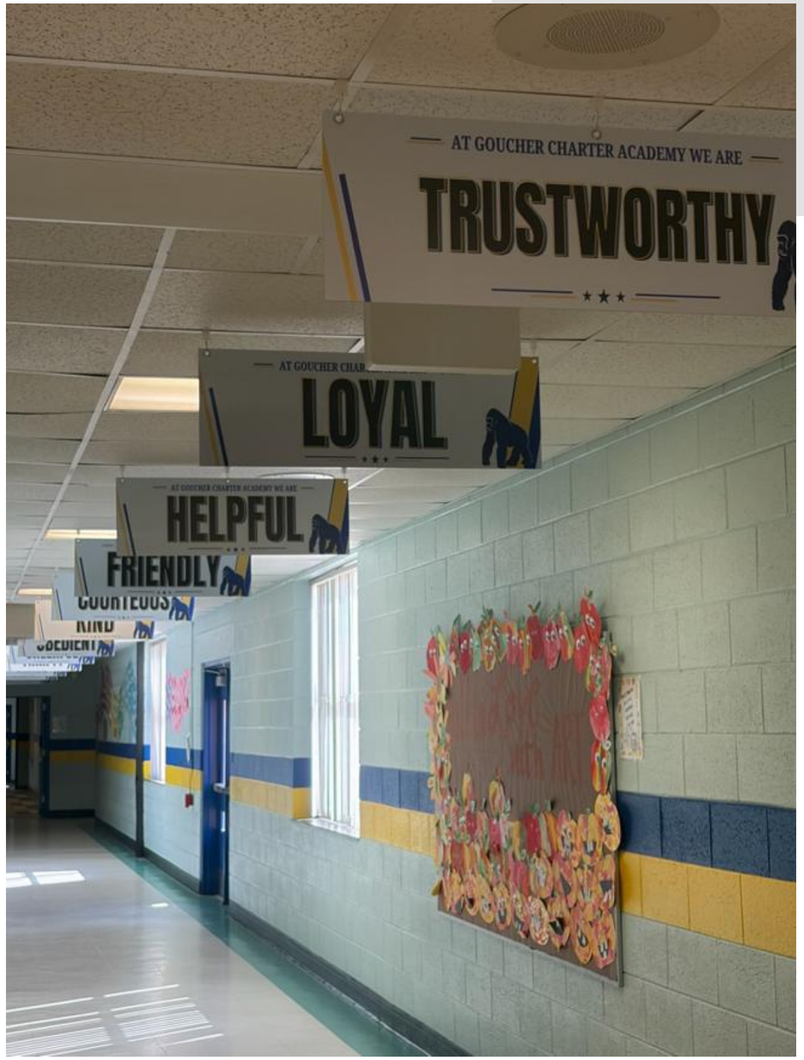
- School Board adopted Scouting program as character education program
- Principal appointed Cubmaster (Guidance Counselor)
- 5k-5th grade registered Cub Scouts; paid for by school
- 6th-8th grade are registered as Explorers; paid for by school
- Teachers provided Den Leader training during staff orientation week
- Every day starts with Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Pledge
- Bobcat Ceremony within first 45 days of school, at least one adventure earned each month
- Palmetto Council provides two half days of in-school programming each month in 5k-5th
- Council assists with guest speakers for Exploring Club
- Program funded through a combination of state educational funds, private donors, and local foundations



SCOUTING IS INCORPORATED THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL







CUB SCOUTS
LION CUB
TIGER
WOLF
BEAR
WEBELOS

EXPLORING™
DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

BOBCAT CEREMONY

Goucher Charter Academy

Bobcat Advancement Ceremony

The Bobcat Adventure is the first adventure required for each and every Cub Scout rank. It represents a first step for each Cub Scout, each Den (homeroom), and for our Pack 831 – a first step on the journey that is a new Cub Scout year. The Bobcat Adventure teaches us about character and leadership—how we can do our best, work together, and help our den, pack, and community. Tonight, we're going to celebrate each den that makes up Pack 831!

At arrival, parents/guardians will assist their student(s) in a face painting activity. It is optional, but highly encouraged!

Face Painting Directions & Meaning:



- **Yellow Curves under both Eyes:**
  - Represents the sun, symbolizing the bright spirit of Cub Scouting.
- **Red Stripe on Chin:**
  - Signifies courage, reminding participants to always speak the truth.
- **White Stripe on Nose:**
  - Stands for purity, helping to distinguish right from wrong.
- **Blue Paw on Forehead:**
  - Represents the spirit of nature, guiding participants to live in harmony with the outdoors.
- **Green Stripes on both sides of Face:**
  - Symbolizes the spirit of the bobcat, encouraging hard work and perseverance.



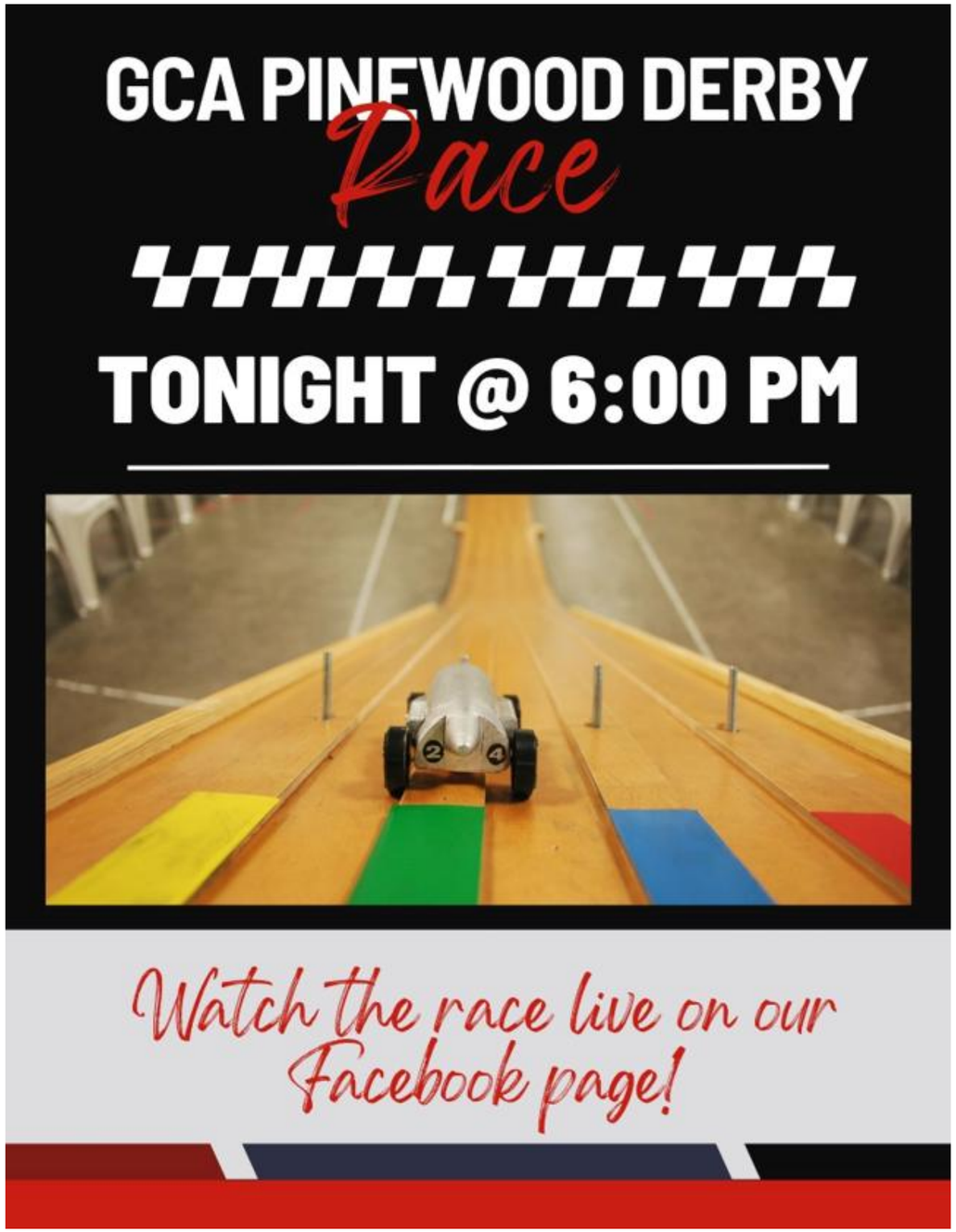


FALL FAMILY CAMPOUT









PINEWOOD DERBY



SCOUT SUNDAY



FRETWELL OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD



ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

- September: Bobcat Ceremony/Flag Retirement Ceremony
- October: Fall Family Camp
- November: Veterans Program
- December: Gaffney Christmas Parade
- December Service Project: Christmas Cards for Veterans
- January: Scouting for Food
- February: Scouting’s Birthday/Scout Sunday
- March: Pinewood Derby
- May: Rain gutter Regatta

CHALLENGES

- Teachers understanding how to incorporate program
- Parents understanding how this Scouting model works and how they can support
- Some Scout Adventures were not initially conducive to a school environment
- Deciding how to spend limited financial resources
- Scouts BSA program did not work in middle school, pivot to Exploring

KEYS TO PROGRAM SUCCESS

Clear communication channels between school and council

Translating scout speak to school speak

Top level engagement on both sides

Strong program leader (Cubmaster)

Great example of a successful charter school model

Significant community support

IS THIS ACTUALLY WORKING?

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR STUDENT SURVEYS

TOP 3 SURVEY RESULTS:

- 94% Agree and 85% Strongly Agree that their Scout leaders care about them
- 98% Agree and 82% Strongly Agree that they trust their Scout leaders
- 96% Agree and 78% Strongly Agree that Scouting helped them get better at science, technology, engineering, and math skills

BOTTOM 3 SURVEY RESULTS:

- 74% Agree and 46% Strongly agree that at Scouts they do things that they don't get to do anywhere else
- 69% Agree and 47% Strongly agree that Scouting helped them get better at talking with others
- 70% Agree and 48% Strongly agree that Scouting helped them get better at dealing with stress

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR SCOUTING ACHIEVEMENT

Scouting America
Palmetto Council

1,234 Adventures completed during 2025-26 school year

169 scouts earned their rank badge in 2025-26 school year (86.2%)

109 Explorers earned the Career Awareness Award in 2025-26 school year (95.6%)

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT

Goucher
Charter Academy

- 2023-24 (Year 1): Unsatisfactory (33 out of 100)
- 43.1% of students on level for Reading and Writing
- 31.9% of students on level for Math

- 2024-25: Average (47 out of 100)
- 65.7% of students on level for Reading and Writing
- 40% of students on level for Math
- *One of the largest jumps in state

School has no discipline policy outside of Scouting framework

MEDIA & LINKS



School Website



Promotional Video



Goucher Charter Academy Students embrace scouts honor with pride



SC Dept. of Education Newsletter

SCOUTING FORWARD