

# A Scout's Success

How United Way of Brevard and Boy Scouts changed James' life and gave him opportunity.



It was just an observation of a neat looking uniform from a peer that led James to discover Boy Scouts. And maybe the discovery came to James when he needed it the most. He was struggling in school as the new kid who had just moved into a local shelter with his single mom, who was in the process of job searching after leaving an abusive, drug-addicted husband.

James had no friends. His clothes were old, and his shoes certainly weren't brand name. Overall, he felt unhappy with life. But from his curiosity, James learned about the exciting opportunities at Cub Scouts from his new peer Fred.

While James thought it sounded fun, he assumed it wasn't free and his mother couldn't afford one of those neat uniforms for him. He told Fred he wasn't interested and that it sounded stupid, but Fred didn't take offense. Instead, he kept telling James about the fun activities they did. James eventually told Fred he just couldn't afford it.

Fred's reaction? Come with me anyway. Turns out through United Way funding, James could participate.

James never missed a Scout meeting after joining. It helped him all around, too. His reading improved, his behavior was better at school, and most importantly—he was happy.

James eventually becoming an Eagle Scout. He then attended the police academy and became a Sheriff's Deputy. According to James, he'll never forget that if not for Scouting, he would've ended up in trouble with the law, rather than helping people. Scouting gave him a safe place to go and a purpose. Your contributions give youth like James a purpose to succeed. Thank you.

**Changing Lives and Strengthening Communities**