This film is dedicated to all who ... Believe It and Live It.

The 8,000 volunteer leaders and 600 chartering organizations of the Capitol Area Council throughout fifteen counties of Central Texas provide the most proven youth development and character education program in American history - Scouting - to more than 21,000 young people and their families. To learn more about the Capitol Area Council and the Boy Scouts of America, or to order additional copies of the Believe It. Live It. program please visit www.bsacac.org.

MORE THAN WORDS. A WAY OF LIVING. From the beaches of Normandy to the streets of Fallujah, in a downtown alleyway and a Hill Country tree house, at a running track and on a stage ... in these places and others in between, you will join a film crew of nine Boy Scouts out to discover what it means to BELIEVE and to LIVE the Scout Law. Meet Rwandan genocide survivor Gilbert Tuhabonye ... Iraq War hero Alan Babin ... a U.S. Army rescue helicopter unit ... a young woman who shows us that attitude is everything ... and other everyday people who personify the timeless values of Scouting. From those who face adversity, do good deeds, or just go to work, the Scouts’ lens captures the power of Scouting put to practice by those who Believe It and Live It.
In 2006, Boy Scouts of America, Capitol Area Council (BSACAC) set out to find a tangible way to bring new meaning to the twelve words that comprise the Scout Law so that new and entering Scouts could clearly understand the principles behind each of the creed’s points. With support from The Brock Family Foundation, BSACAC collaborated with award-winning documentary production company Arrowhead Films to create a program that would examine Scouting’s values in a new video program.

Nine Boy Scouts, ages 13-17, with an interest in filmmaking spent the summer of 2007 learning the art and craft of filmmaking while examining the true meaning of the words recited in the Scout Law. Charged with finding and profiling individuals or groups in their community who personify the values through their daily lives, the Scouts scoured news articles, searched the Internet, and even looked to their own friends for subjects.
A SCOUT IS: TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, HELPFUL, FRIENDLY, COURTEOUS, KIND, OBEDIENT, CHEERFUL, THRIFTY, BRAVE, CLEAN AND REVERENT

“I’ve probably said those words a thousand times, but never thought about what they really mean until now. Telling the stories of people who live and believe the values of Scouting makes you really think about what the Scout Law means.”

Working on locations in and around Central Texas, the Believe It. Live It. Scout crew captured HD images and powerful stories on a U.S. Army base, in a backstreet alleyway, on the UT Longhorn practice field—and at many points in between. Documentary filmmaker Patrick Fries guided them through the filmmaking process, from planning and organizing location shoots to interviewing and filming subjects to editing footage into affecting stories.

Their work culminated in the documentary Believe It. Live It., a film made by Scouts for Scouts. In subjects ranging from military heroes to people for whom values like generosity, courage, and kindness are daily practice, the Believe It. Live It. Scout film crew found personification of the values they routinely recite, an experience resulting in an indelible new understanding of the Scout Law. This understanding will be magnified, as Believe It. Live It. is disseminated across Central Texas and ultimately, America.

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

“Every person who believes and lives the timeless values of Scouting makes society a better place. I hope Scout leaders and others who work with young people will employ Believe It. Live It. and this guide as the catalyst for discussion, and as inspiration to encourage youth to practice good values. We have included questions to help troops explore what it means to Believe It, and suggested activities that encourage youth to Live It. We invite you to join us in spreading the message, and to “Take the Believe It. Live It. Challenge” as we make the Scout Law more than words—as we make it a way of living.”

J Vaughan Brock
Executive Producer
A SCOUT IS LOYAL

A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation.

FRANK DENIUS IS LOYAL

“Loyalty means that a Scout is expected to be true to his family, his Scout leaders, his friends, his school, his nation, and himself. When we heard about Mr. Denius, we knew he was perfect because his loyalty has a lot of levels. In our town, being loyal to the Texas Longhorns is pretty common, but Mr. Denius is a case of true Longhorn loyalty. It’s really cool that Mr. Denius loves the Longhorns, but the thing is—he loves his country even more.

“When he was just 19 years old, Frank Denius was one of 175,000 Allied troops who landed at Normandy in the D-Day Invasion. Mr. Denius and his fellow heroes fought their way through Europe, and saved the free world from Hitler. Mr. Denius was awarded the first of four Silver Stars for valor in the face of the enemy for action in St. Lo. He saw lots of his friends die and was wounded himself in Normandy but Mr. Denius showed loyalty to his fellow soldiers by rejoining his unit to fight in the Battle of the Bulge where he was again wounded receiving his second Purple Heart.

“He fought for freedom in World War II and I think he understands that football is fun, but serving your nation in war is the real test of loyalty. Mr. Denius knows that we can enjoy things like football because we’re free. Mr. Denius is a hero.”

ORGANIZATION DOCUMENT PARTICIPANT
Frank Denius, Longhorn fan, patriot, and veteran.

TRY THIS!
Role play situations in which one’s loyalty is tested, such as whether to report a friend who steals, or how to behave when one friend turns against another. Talk about ways to demonstrate loyalty even when it is difficult to do so.

Organize a welcome home for troops at the airport or create and show a tribute to veterans at your local VFW or American Legion hall.

THINK ABOUT IT. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

To whom and to what are you loyal?
What builds loyalty? What destroys loyalty?
Who is loyal to you? How have you gained loyalty from others?
Loyalty is often tested. Can you think of a situation in which you might have to make a choice about loyalty? How would you choose?
Frank Denius said, “Loyalty to your country seems more distant today.” Do you feel the same way? How could we improve this loyalty?

“Frank Denius taught me that it’s great to be a fan, but what’s really important is to be a patriot. He knows what loyalty really means.”

— BILI Scout Crew Sound Operator Dakota Day, Eagle Scout, Troop 365, 9th grade, Stony Point High School
“Gilbert understands the gift of life, and the challenges it brings. He survived a nightmare most of us can not imagine, and yet he lives life with faith, enthusiasm, good will toward others and gratitude toward God.”

— BILI Scout Crew Producer Sean Moorhead, First Class Scout, Troop 403, 9th grade, Georgetown High School

“Gilbert’s Tuhabonye’s faith was tested in a murderous war. In 1993, the centuries-old war between the Tutsi and Hutu tribes erupted. Hutus organized a revolt in Rwanda and Burundi. Gilbert, from the Tutsi tribe, was attending high school in Burundi where he was the school track starter. On October 21, 1993, local Hutus surrounded the school and herded all Tutsi students into a building. With their Hutu classmates looking on, Hutu parents, teachers and tribesmen doused the building with gasoline and set it on fire. Those that survived the fire were beaten or hacked to death. Of the over 100 Tutsi, only Gilbert survived. He escaped by crawling under the smoldering corpses of his friends to hide from the machete wielding Hutu. At the right moment Gilbert, on fire, ran to freedom and was the sole survivor of this horrific event. He was badly burned and doctors told him he would never run again.

“Gilbert is reverent. He is also honest, loyal, friendly, courteous, kind, cheerful, brave, and clean. This genocide survivor who spends his life helping others to achieve their goals as he runs gently over the Earth personifies all the values of Scouting. When it comes to the values we all aspire to, Gilbert believes it. He lives it.”

A SCOUT IS REVERENT

A Scout is reverent toward God.
He is faithful in his religious duties.
He respects the beliefs of others.

GILBERT TUHABONYE IS REVERENT

Gilbert maintained his faith even in the face of horror. Has your faith been tested? How?

Gilbert considers running to be an act of reverence. When or where do you feel most reverent?

What are ways one can stay in a reverent mindset while doing his daily activities?

Reverence may be losing a foothold in society with the changing of the American culture and value focus. What steps can you take to ensure future generations are reverent?

THINK ABOUT IT. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

READ ABOUT IT. REVERENT DOCUMENTARY PARTICIPANT
Gilbert Tuhabonye, survivor/runner

Read Gilbert Tuhabonye’s book, “This Voice in my Heart” or another such biographical story of reverence.

TRY THIS!
Select a ritual, grace or ceremony your troop does regularly. Take time to talk about what it means.
“Everyone on the team has to be trusted to do what the others expect him to do.”

— BILect Scout Crew Director Clint Crabill, Eagle Scout, Troop 967, 12th grade, Jack C. Hays High School

TRUSTWORTHY DOCUMENTARY PARTICIPANTS
City of Austin Fire Department Engine Number Two
Battalion Chief Robert Ebert, Firefighter
Lieutenant Mark Moore, Firefighter
Robby Fumia, Firefighter
John McKinney, Firefighter
Mario Gonzalez, Firefighter

“A Scout is Trustworthy”

A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.

“Being trustworthy means telling the truth, keeping your promises, and being honest. It also means being someone people can depend on. When you think about someone who is trustworthy every minute, day or night, 24/7 … the kind of person you can count on to be there if you’re in real trouble, one thing comes to mind. Firefighters.

“We rely on firefighters to answer the call if we’re hurt, sick, or have a fire. We know we can trust them to be there for us. If you think about it, that’s really an amazing thing that we all take for granted. It was interesting to realize how many aspects of trust there are in the firefighters’ job. The people trust them. They trust each other. It’s even important to know they can trust the guy who makes sure all the equipment is working and ready—and the equipment itself. In firefighting, trustworthiness is literally a case of life and death. In an emergency, you don’t have time to worry about whether or not the hoses are leaking or the truck will start. The men and women who respond to emergencies are a great example of trustworthiness.

“Try This!”

Ride along with police officers or spend a day with firefighters or EMTs. Ask them how the public relies on them, and how they rely on each other to be trustworthy.

“Think about it. Questions for discussion:"

How do you know when you can trust someone?
Have you ever had a hard time keeping a promise?
Describe a time when someone relied on you.
What are the key elements that make someone trustworthy?

Being trustworthy is part of a firefighter’s job. What are some other careers in which trustworthiness is essential?

As a troop, commit to a year-long service project, such as providing regular yard maintenance for a daycare, school or church. Live trustworthiness by fulfilling your commitment.

“Firefighters Are Trustworthy.”

TRUSTWORTHY DOCUMENTARY PARTICIPANTS
City of Austin Fire Department Engine Number Two
Battalion Chief Robert Ebert, Firefighter
Lieutenant Mark Moore, Firefighter
Robby Fumia, Firefighter
John McKinney, Firefighter
Mario Gonzalez, Firefighter

“Take the BILI Challenge:"

As a troop, commit to a year-long service project, such as providing regular yard maintenance for a daycare, school or church. Live trustworthiness by fulfilling your commitment.
Tony Johnson knows what it means to not be clean. He learned to believe it the hard way, after a life of addiction and prison.”

— BIL Scout Crew Editor/Cinematographer Jackson McGovern, Scout First Class, Troop 9, 9th grade, McCallum High School

“A Scout is Clean.

Tony Johnson is Clean.

There are many ways for a Scout to be clean, and Scouts should keep their homes and communities clean. They should also stay clean in body and spirit. Tony Johnson and his Ministry of Challenge is a great example of people who have become clean, and who share that message with others.

Tony Johnson came from a background of abuse and violence. Before he was six, Johnson’s stepfather had been shot and killed by his mother and his seven-year-old brother was killed in a fit of rage by a blow to the neck with a fire poker wielded by his step-mother. At the age of six his grandmother was given custody of Tony, but she died in his arms when he was nine-years-old, and Tony became a street gang orphan that led him into selling and using drugs from age nine till age 27 when he was transformed from ‘Dirty to Clean.’ With the help of local business and pastors, Tony started the Ministry of Challenge to help others get clean—that was 15 years and 5000 addicts ago. Tony believes it’s essential to be clean, and he lives it by sharing that message with others. He’s had a very hard life, and now he’s using his life to help others. He definitely believes and lives it.”

“Tony Johnson knows what it means to not be clean. He learned to believe it the hard way, after a life of addiction and prison.”

— BIL Scout Crew Editor/Cinematographer Jackson McGovern, Scout First Class, Troop 9, 9th grade, McCallum High School

There are many ways to practice cleanliness. What are they?

How is cleanliness beneficial to you and to others?

Who does your current messiness affect? How does it affect others? Yourself?

What forces in our society get in the way of clean living?

What are ways you can clean up your community? Your body? Your mind?

Organize a clean-up of a park, waterway, or natural area in your community.

Invite the D.A.R.E. program to speak to your Scout troop.
A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.

“A world where so many people think that owning something is so important, the Barrs believe that giving is more important. They live kindness.”

— BILI Scout Crew Assistant Producer Jose Morales, Venture Scout, Troop 1209, 10th grade, San Juan Diego Catholic High School

The Barrs are kind.

“Kindness means that a Scout understands the strength in being gentle, and in treating others the way he’d like to be treated. Kindness also means giving unselfishly. When we talked about being kind we wanted to find someone who had really done something that was generous. We found Candlelight Ranch.

The Barrs have this beautiful property right on the lake in the Texas Hill Country. They could have used this land for a lot of selfish things, like building a dream mansion or a resort that would make them a lot of money. But they really live and believe the value of kindness, by generously using their land to help children with disabilities.

I learned a lot from the Barrs. They understand the importance of being gentle caretakers of their land, and of using it to do something truly kind for others.”

Following the completion of the Believe It, Live It project and its premiere, Jeri Barr succumbed to her illness although she never stopped believing and living being Kind.

Think about it. Questions for discussion:

What was the last kind act you committed?

Who benefits when you are kind?

Can you think of an example of a time you saw someone being unkind? How did you feel? What did you do?

Think of a time you were unkind. How did that person react? How could you have handled the situation differently?

What are some simple expressions of kindness we can all do?
Mike’s friendliness reaches out and inspires others to overcome their obstacles and become the best they can be.”

— BILI Scout Crew Cinematographer Emory Dunn, Life Scout, Troop 990, 11th grade, Westlake High School

“A Scout is a friend to all, and seeks to understand others and reach out to them by being friendly. Friendliness is something that is weirdly missing in our world. It sometimes seems like we’re all being friendly on the email and the text and the cell, but being friendly in person isn’t so common these days.

“Mike Haynes is a true inspiration. He was paralyzed by a stranger in a random act of violence, and yet he makes a point of reaching out to strangers. Mike personifies many values of Scouting by being brave, loyal, and helpful. But by being a friend to people at a time when they most need friends, Mike is really living it and believing it.”

Think About It. Questions for Discussion:

Mike Haynes was shot by a stranger, and paralyzed as a result. Some people might become unfriendly after a horrible experience like this, but Mike is just the opposite. What traits do you think Mike has that make him friendly to other despite his experience?

Why and how is it important to be friendly when texting, emailing, and otherwise using technology?

Why do some people think it’s funny to be unfriendly to others? What do you think it says about those people?

Explain a time when you were unfriendly. How did this affect all the people involved? How did the situation end?
BEHIND BELIEVE IT. LIVE IT.
A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

“Knowing that these soldiers are obedient to their nation, their command, and to each other is even more powerful when you realize that their loyalty is tested in life or death situations.”

— BILI Scout Crew Editor Eric Baemayr, Eagle Scout, Troop 511, 12th grade, Anderson High School

DUSTOFF SOLDIERS ARE OBEDIENT.

“A Scout follows the rules of his family, his troop, his school and his nation. No one lives the value of obedience like those who serve in our military. We went to Fort Hood, Texas to film ‘Dustoff,’ where its helicopter crews whose job is to take the wounded from the battlefield to the hospital.

Being able to go to the largest Army base in the world, and walk out on the flight line to meet the heroes who save lives was an incredible honor. These flight crews have been to war, and they have risked their own lives to save others. To be loyal even when someone is shooting at you—it doesn’t get more real than that.

American soldiers live it. American soldiers believe it.”

THINK ABOUT IT. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

Whom do you obey? Why?

Why is obedience beneficial?

What would you do if your troop leader told you to cross a river during a flood?

A person to whom you are obedient instructs an unethical action. How would you handle this situation? Are there times when you have weighed obedience against other factors? What are some examples?

What are the commonalities between the obedience standards of the Boy Scouts of America and the U.S. Army?

TRY THIS!

Write down every rule or law you have obeyed in the last week and share the lists. Discuss what would happen if you didn’t obey these.

OBEEDIENT DOCUMENTARY PARTICIPANTS:

Lieutenant Colonel David Heckenlively, United States Army
Major Edward Mandril, United States Army
Captain David Hylander, United States Army
Chief Warrant Officer Two Cyanan Picard, United States Army
1st Sergeant James Marvin, United States Army
Staff Sergeant Shane Pollock, United States Army
Staff Sergeant Christina Martinez, United States Army
Specialist Donald Jones, United States Army

Collect, create, and send care packages to American military troops serving overseas.
“By being thrifty, you can achieve your dreams.”

— BILI Scout Crew Assistant Producer Jose Morales, Venture Scout, Troop 1209, 10th grade, San Juan Diego Catholic High School

Scouts promise to be thrifty, but to be honest, it wasn’t easy to find people in our world who practice thriftiness.

Being thrifty means conserving your resources, and using time and money and property wisely. Mike Akel and Chris Mass were teachers who wanted to make a movie. We all know that teachers are not the most well-paid people in the world, and that making a movie is expensive, so when we heard about these teachers who made a movie with their own money, we knew we’d found someone who lives thriftiness. They used their resources wisely and the result was their movie. Because they were thrifty, Chris and Mike and their team not only made a movie, but they made a movie that was a success in film festivals and distribution, and now they have a contract to write a Hollywood screenplay.”

Besides monetary thriftiness, how else can you be thrifty?

In what ways are you wasteful? In what way is our society wasteful?

How can you encourage others to be thrifty?

What is a current goal you have that is limited by a lack of money? Similar to the makers of Chalk, brainstorm some creative ways to achieve that goal.

Invite an energy auditor from your local utility to teach your troop ways to conserve energy in their homes. Ask each Scout to conduct a home energy audit.

Have Scouts write down a goal and research and list the resources they need to achieve it. Encourage them to write an action plan for ways they could earn and save enough to meet the goal.
“When he was tested, he showed that he believed his oath, and he was willing to risk his life to live it.”

Alan Babin’s story points to many different kinds of courage. What are they?

What is the difference between bravery and heroism?

Have you ever been brave? How?

Who is a person in history whom you believe represents courage?

How about someone you know personally?

How can courage be a part of everyday decisions? What are some examples?

“Nowhere is courage more tested than for soldiers in a war zone. Imagine that you’re the person who has to go out into the bullets to save lives as the company medic. That’s courage. Alan Babin had his courage tested. When he was called, he didn’t lay under the Humvee and wait for the bullets to stop. He went directly into them to save others, even though he had to be afraid.

“Mrs. Babin, Alan’s mother, is also very brave. Facing her son’s injuries and caring for him takes a lot of courage.

“Meeting a hero like Alan is a really humbling experience, and it changes the way you see the world and how you think about the oath you take. Alan took a military oath, just the way we say the Scout Promise and Law.

“After meeting Alan, I know what courage really is. Courage is Alan Babin.”
“Just taking one hour to help someone can make all the difference in the world.”

— BILI Scout Crew Assistant Producer Jack Ikard, Scout 2nd Class, Troop 395, 8th grade, Bailey Middle School

“A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.”

“Scouts are concerned about others, and willing to do things for others without pay or reward. This is the third point of the Scout Law. It wasn’t hard to find people in our community who are helpful.

“We chose John Crismond, a businessman who volunteers to do something small every week that really makes a genuine difference in people’s lives. John uses his lunch hour once a week to take hot meals to people who are homebound. The Meals on Wheels volunteers are a great example of everyday people being helpful in a way that makes an every day difference by being willing to do something for others. All it takes is one hour a week. I think Meals on Wheels volunteers like John Crismond are living, believing examples of helpfulness for Scouts.”

“Try This!”

The Scout Slogan calls on Scouts to “do a good turn daily.” Challenge each troop member to do this every day until the next meeting, and keep a log. Share the logs at the next meeting. Talk about how it feels to be helpful every day.

“Many people in our society are very busy and find it difficult to volunteer to help others. John Crismond is a businessman who uses his lunch hour once a week to help others. Can you find one hour a week when you could help someone else? When? What would you do?”

“Why is it important to be helpful to others?”

“Take the BILI Challenge:

Conduct a collection drive for your community food bank or volunteer at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.”
A Scout is cheerful. But what does that word mean? Many of us whine and complain about the little things way too much. We wanted to find someone who approaches life with a really cheerful attitude. Sometimes you don’t have to look any further than your own friends to find people who live it and believe it.

“Jessica is always smiling. Even though she has a lot more to deal with everyday than most of us, she doesn’t complain or pout or hide. She’s a great inspiration. After meeting her, I think twice when I’m in a mood to complain. If we could all be half as cheerful as Jessica, the world would be a much better place.”

Think about it. Questions for discussion:

Talk about a time when illness or other hardship was a part of your or your family’s life. Were you cheerful? Were others? How can it be beneficial to be cheerful even in difficult circumstances?

Can you think of a time you cheered up someone else?

Males are not often considered ‘cheerful.’ Why do you think the Boy Scouts of America, a male organization, has included it as one of their virtues?

How has someone else’s cheerfulness affected you? Provide an example.

Are there times when it is inappropriate to be cheerful?
“Gene proves that being courteous makes life better for everyone.”

— Bili Scout Crew Editor Casey Blake, Life Scout, Troop 256, 11th grade, James Bowie High School

“Scouts are polite to everyone, and they know that good manners make it easier for everyone to get along. Courtesy is one of those things that gets lost a lot in our society. Everybody’s so busy and stressed out and everything, especially when they’re traveling. It’s important to be respectful of others all the time, and sometimes it’s a basic part of the job description. We decided to profile Gene Fackler, whose job depends on being courteous. It was fun to see people actually smiling at the airport.”

Why is it important to be courteous as an individual? How does being courteous to others make society better? How does Gene Fackler’s courtesy help his employer, Southwest Airlines? Can you think of other businesses where courtesy is expected? What about those where it isn’t? How does this affect customers? When was it the most difficult to be courteous? Why? Who regularly displays courtesy to you? What are some courtesies to practice when meeting an adult? A new friend? Using a cell phone? Driving?

Visit a courtroom, statehouse, city council, or school board meeting to observe. Afterwards, discuss the role of courtesy in conducting business and resolving conflict.

Divide scouts into two teams for their favorite competitive game. But this time, judge them not only on their skill but on their courtesy toward the other team.