



Dear

In these times, social and peer pressures can force our youth to make dozens of personal choices every day—choices with consequences they are not ready to handle; choices that can frighten, overwhelm, or confuse them; choices they might not be prepared to make. Sometimes making the wrong choice can damage self-esteem or endanger health, safety, or well-being. Some of the choices have serious consequences. But it doesn't have to be this way.

You can help youth learn to make the right choices today and throughout their lifetimes by supporting a powerful teaching program that promotes character, leadership, teamwork, and self-esteem. Youth develop these lifetime skills by sharing in the program's positive, character-building adventures—learning experiences.

The program is called Scouting, and faith-based and other community organizations have been using its time-tested youth development methods for decades to help prepare young people to make decisions that shape their lives and the lives of their families and communities.

It is my pleasure to share with you a very special movie called "Troop 491: The Adventures of the Muddy Lions." Told by an African-American first-time filmmaker, the movie's powerful story, inspired by the filmmaker's experiences, contains messages that resonate with today's youth. I encourage you to watch it and share it with other leaders in your organization. Then share it with the youth in your community. Use it to start a conversation about the choices that young people make and how these decisions impact their lives. The enclosed movie DVD contains a brief message from the filmmaker and a former National Basketball Association player who grew up in the inner city in Houston.

If you have Scouting in your community, you are using one of the nation's most respected youth development programs. If Scouting isn't a part of your community or your organization, organizing a Scouting unit can be the start of a journey that will deeply impact youth and families in your community. With Scouting, your organization can provide mentorship opportunities to help develop boys into men.

The decisions our children make are having an impact now. I look forward to talking to you about how we can work together to prepare our children for a bright future.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

Prepared. For Life.®

