

observance of the scout oath and law in daily practice and implying wider knowledge and practice of the application of this to the entire scout program and its relationships.

VETERAN SCOUT ASSOCIATION

There is an increase of over 4,000 in the Veteran Scout Association, which is most encouraging, since it proves definitely a longer tenure of boys. Only first-class scouts are eligible for veteran rank. During this past year over 20,000 of them became members of the Veteran Scout Association. We believe that the boy who achieves first-class rank and remains five years in scouting will govern his later life by the principles of the scout oath and law. In other words, here is definite and concrete evidence of the character building values of scouting.

Five-year summary of Veteran Scout Association

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
5-year veteran.....	9,929	12,340	14,784	18,072	20,664
10-year veteran.....	987	1,345	1,683	2,312	3,015
15-year veteran.....		92	206	392	574
Total.....	10,916	13,777	16,673	20,776	24,253

EMERGENCY SERVICE

The service of the Boy Scout troops in time of disaster has been mentioned in the highest terms by the American Red Cross and other relief agencies. Especially was this demonstrated at the time of the Florida hurricane.

Florida hurricane.—Boy Scouts rendered outstanding service in the Florida hurricane area and in other parts of the country where tornadoes devastated various sections.

In the area around Lake Okeechobee, Fla., where hundreds of persons were lost owing to the flooding of farm territory adjacent to the lake, all agencies were called out in relief work. Boy Scouts from neighboring areas not affected by the flood volunteered their services and rendered valuable assistance, according to the directors of relief in the devastated area.

Boy Scouts of many councils adjacent to the hurricane areas undertook relief work in connection with refugees. A local civic committee in Miami, where there was practically no damage from wind or water, organized for the relief of refugees who poured in from areas where the damage was great. Scouts worked with this committee. Scouts also assisted at Red Cross headquarters.

At Moore Haven, on Lake Okeechobee, Boy Scouts rendered especially fine service. Hundreds of homeless persons poured into Moore Haven, presenting a tremendous task to the Red Cross. Boy Scouts worked day and night to help take care of the refugees and in general assistance to the Red Cross organization. Boy Scouts at Fort Myers collected a big truck load of clothing which was shipped to the refugees.

The north end of the territory of the Fort Lauderdale Boy Scout Council was hit by the hurricane and considerable damage done, but without loss of life. Scout emergency units were promptly at work,