

# Utah Refugee Scouting

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## Requester Information

**Legislator: Cullimore, Kirk A.**

Creation Date: 2024-01-23

Submission Date: 2024-01-23

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## Section 1: Request Details

### Description:

The proposed funding is essential for enabling refugee youth, both boys and girls who have been legally and permanently resettled in the Salt Lake Valley, to participate in a comprehensive Boy Scouts of America program. This program plays a crucial role in guiding these young individuals towards making ethical and moral decisions, a foundational step towards thriving in their new homeland. At the core of Scouting is the spirit of discovery – whether through camping, career exploration, or nature trails, each adventure is a step towards self-discovery. The Utah Refugee Scouts program is dedicated to building a strong base of humility and compassion, fortifying character through action, and grooming these youths for lifelong leadership roles. Our aim is to integrate these refugee youths into the heart of our community, transforming them from peripheral participants to actively engaged and positive contributors.

### Legislative designee contact information:

- Name: Michael Smith Nebeker
  - Organization: Utah Refugee Scouts
  - Position: Executive Officer
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## Section 2: Funding Information

### How will the appropriation be used?

	One-time	Ongoing
Personnel Services	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
In-State Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$30,000.00	\$0.00
Out-of-state Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$20,000.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$30,000.00	\$0.00
Technology Purchases	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$20,000.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$50,000.00	\$0.00

Other Charges/Pass Thru	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$100,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Expenditure Total</b>		
One-time 2024 \$0.00	One-time 2025 \$250,000.00	Ongoing 2025 \$0.00

**Funding Sources:**

General Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$250,000.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2024 \$0.00	One-time 2025 \$250,000.00	Ongoing 2025 \$0.00
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**Should unused funding be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year?**

No

**Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?**

Yes

**A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled**

Utah Refugee Scouts' program is scaled by the number of activities, camp-outs, summer camps, uniforms purchased and use of other donations received throughout the year.

**Section 3: Agency Information**

**Subjects:**

Economy  
Education and Research

**Agency:**

063 / Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

**Type of entity to receive pass-through funding**

- Private Not for Profit

**Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement**

**Who would benefit from this request (who is the target audience)?**

Refugee youth resettled to the Salt Lake Valley (ages 11-18), their families and communities from Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria. Utah and especially the greater Salt Lake Valley benefits by lower crime rates among refugee youth who may otherwise turn to gang activity, self-sufficient families who move up the economic ladder, and extraordinary multi-racial and ethnic diversity contributing to the ever unfolding of the the Utah mosaic.

**What is this project or program intended to accomplish?**

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program offers a range of benefits and accomplishments for refugee youth, focusing on their holistic development and integration into American society: Cultural Integration and Socialization: The BSA program helps refugee youth assimilate into American culture while respecting and preserving their own cultural identities. It provides a platform for them to interact with peers from diverse backgrounds, fostering mutual understanding and respect. Character Development: Scouting

emphasizes character building, teaching values such as honesty, respect, and responsibility. Refugee youth learn to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by adhering to the Scout Oath and Law. Leadership Skills: The program encourages leadership development through various activities and roles within the Scout troop. Refugee youth learn to lead by example, develop decision-making skills, and gain confidence in their abilities to guide others. Outdoor Skills and Environmental Stewardship: Scouting is renowned for its focus on outdoor activities. Refugee youth gain practical skills in camping, hiking, and survival, and develop an appreciation for nature and environmental conservation. Education and Career Exploration: Many scouting activities are educational and can spark interests in various fields, encouraging refugee youth to explore different career paths and educational opportunities. Community Engagement and Service: The BSA program involves community service projects, teaching refugee youth the importance of giving back and contributing positively to their communities. Physical Fitness and Healthy Living: Activities in Scouting promote physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle, important for refugee youth as they adapt to new environments. Personal Growth and Resilience: Through the challenges and experiences in Scouting, refugee youth develop personal resilience, adaptability, and a sense of achievement, which are crucial for their overall well-being and future success. Overall, the BSA program provides a supportive and enriching environment for refugee youth to grow, learn, and become active, contributing members of their new community in Utah.

**How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?**

Since 2008 we have witnessed over 600 Refugee Scouts advance in the BSA program with more than 33 earning the Eagle Scout Award. Our Refugee Scouts pursue higher education at universities and colleges across Utah, serve in the military, embark upon missions for their churches, provide countless hours of community service, and secure gainful employment to support their families. Other indicators of success of the Utah Refugee Scout program include: social integration; behavioral and attitudinal changes; collaborations and partnerships with schools, community organizations, and other entities.

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## **Section 5: Other Supporting Documents**

**Intent Language**

**Previous State Funding**