

Southern Division Departments,

I have to say that I was truly impressed how every Department sent in a report showing how they worked the program despite the many restrictions we had over the last 18 months. Some of your Units donated school supplies to help ease the burden on families who suffer from financial hardship. Units donated food bags for families to make sure their children receive a warm meal, others contacted the County's School Board of Education's social worker to see were the greatest need was.

The 4th of July provided a great opportunity to educate children about the importance of this date. Did your Unit discuss the American Flag and flag etiquette or sing patriotic songs like "The Star-Spangled Banner, God Bless America, This Land is Your Land" etc? I know everyone loves the BBQs, fireworks and gatherings but let's not forget the true meaning behind this date. As this summer is in full force and the COVID-19 restrictions are slowly lifted we have great opportunities now to work our program. As always, please send in pictures to capture your events. As a reminder, we are still accepting Good Deed and Youth Hero nominations. We don't want to miss an opportunity to honor our children's achievements.

As this administrative year comes to an end I would like extend my gratitude to you for diligently working our Children & Youth program despite all the hurdles we had to overcome. I appreciate each and every one of you. If you continue to serve in this capacity please keep up the great work, if not, please pass down the torch and may mentor someone that is new.

Thank you again.

Gabriele Barnett

Southern Division Children & Youth Chairman

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