

Austin Area Boy Scouts Help in Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts

HOUSTON — More than 250 Boy Scouts from Austin, Texas, and surrounding areas, with their parents, joined forces in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts in Houston several weekends in September and October, 2017, volunteering in excess of 2,000 hours.

Boy Scouts of America Capitol Area Council partnered with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Austin which provided a command center to support the ground efforts, a list of houses for the Boy Scouts to muck out, and trained leaders to help volunteers.

The Boy Scouts were divided into groups of ten and assigned two to three houses per day for their teams to muck out. Upon arrival at previously flooded out homes, each team would help homeowners remove furniture, household items, sheetrock, tile, wood flooring, carpet, and kitchen cabinets to facilitate the rebuilding.

Their volunteer efforts were valuable as time went by, as houses would sit without being mucked out, mold levels would rapidly increase.

Volunteer Tricia Romriell, mother of three Eagle Scouts, said that even though they were stong in numbers, they were “just a spit in the bucket compared to what needs to be done.”

Boy Scout leader Steve Tedjamulia, an Eagle Scout and head of the command center said, “It was great to see all the Boy Scouts helping out with the relief effort. I know these boys were humbled today and left inspired that they can make a difference in this world by helping someone in need.”

Lloyd George, Boy Scouts leader said, “Everyone made a difference on this trip. No matter how young they were, they made a big difference in the lives of many people today that were in desperate conditions.”

Homeowner Jason Saunders expressed gratitude. He said, “My house flooded after Harvey and we did not know what to do. We had some great volunteers help us. Two different crews on two separate days came out and helped us get in a position where things were working for us again, and we could focus on moving forward, and things were getting better.”

Kris Hollingsworth, district commissioner for the Thunderbird District who went with the Boy Scouts to volunteer, said, “The home we worked on belonged to an 84-year-old woman. She was rescued by a couple of neighbors when water started flowing under her front door. They took her to a two-story home across the street to wait out the flood waters with them on the second story of the home.

“This woman was so devastated by the damage done to her home that she couldn’t come back to even look at it,” Hollingsworth said.

Hollingsworth’s son, Dallin, participated in the cleanup. He said, “I’m glad I had the chance to go down to Houston to help. I learned that there were a lot of people that needed help because they were not physically able to do the work themselves.”

Among the Boy Scout volunteers, more than 50 were Eagle Scouts.



Brett Allen, Scout Master for Troop 585, leads a crew of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Boy Scouts from Dripping Springs to help with hurricane relief efforts in Houston.



Troop 201 pays attention during a training session on what to expect as they go down to help with the Hurricane Harvey relief effort.



Boy Scouts see devastation all around the area as they go down to volunteer.



Kris Hollingsworth, the Thunderbird District Commissioner for the Boy Scouts, and her son Dallin Hollingsworth remove debris after mucking out a house.



Dallin Hollingsworth, a Boy Scout, is mucking out a house in Houston.



No person too young to make a difference. Boy Scouts cleaning up after a house was mucked out.



A house cleared out by the Boy Scouts during one of their trips down to help with the Houston relief effort.