Ed & Jeanne Arnold

Pennsylvania couple finds synergy in giving to the Boy Scouts of America.

Ed Arnold spent just a few years in Scouting when he was a boy and, by his own estimation, he was an average Scout, achieving Life rank while focusing mostly on camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities. As adult supporters of Scouting, however, Ed and his wife, Jeanne, have taken it to a new level. With a series of extraordinary gifts, the Lebanon, Pa., couple have helped define the term “BSA Philanthropist.”

Ed and Jeanne believe that, as an institution, the Boy Scouts of America has the capacity and the need to secure outright major gifts of $10 million or more. Their ultimate vision continues to be that the BSA raise funds to secure the perpetuation of Scouting. In order to help achieve this vision, Ed and Jeanne provided the first $11 million gift to launch the initiative, which raised the bar and paved the way for other philanthropists to contribute more than $300 million to date in support of local and national Scouting programs.

While the Arnolds provide pivotal assistance to the BSA, they’ve also worked closely with the BSA National Council to direct their support to local Scouting programs meeting their interests, such as Scoutreach and, in particular, a Scoutreach program called Soccer and Scouting. Scoutreach targets minority and financially disadvantaged children. Soccer and Scouting encourages youth to join a soccer-training program as a means of exposing them to Scouting. “Scoutreach became my hot button,” Ed says.

Ed also likes Scoutreach because the gift produces enormous leverage by paying to train staff, who then train more volunteers to reach more youth. He appreciates the way Soccer and Scouting recruits boys who might never have heard of Scouting, giving them an opportunity to learn Scout principles while also enjoying outdoor physical fitness. Through Scoutreach, the Arnolds help remove financial obstacles so that more kids can join Scouting.

Ed and Jeanne Arnold have dedicated major gifts to Scouting, including reconstructing and dedicating a dining hall at Bashore Scout Reservation in Lebanon, Pa.; supporting the Soccer and Scoutreach program; and, most recently, building the Ed & Jeanne Arnold Logistics Center at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

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