

Venture Crew helps Toys for Tots in Fulton County

Since 1947, the United States Marine Corps Reserve has been distributing toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. For more than 15 years, Scouts in Fulton County have been helping the American Legion in Delta, OH, carry out the Toys for Tots mission locally.

Venture Crew 265 unpacked and filled the entire legion hall with tables of toys on a recent snowy Friday evening. When families came the next day, a Scout escort helped them choose toys based on age and gender of their children. More than 35 families received toys, and the Scouts even offered gift-wrapping service.

Matthew Schroeder is one of the Scouts who served during distribution day. "It was nice to see we can still provide service to the community despite the pandemic conditions," says Schroeder, who also relayed stories of building camaraderie with fellow Scouts while they worked.



Toys for Tots believes children are one of our nation's most valuable resources. Today's children are tomorrow's leaders. When Scouting partners with Toys for Tots through local organizations such as the American Legion, it's a win-win-win situation. Scouts see hope when they escort a single mom to pick out toys for her toddler. Families see hope when they receive the generosity of the community to put gifts under their trees. Organizations like the American Legion see hope in the future watching Scouts lead, organize and carry out service to community.

Venturing is a program of the Boys Scouts of America for co-ed youth ages 14 to 21 that emphasizes adventure, leadership, personal growth and service. Crew 265 is advised by Wendy Grindstaff who has been a Scout volunteer for more than twenty-five years. Venture Crew 265 is partnered with American Legion Post #265 in Wauseon, OH.

If you'd like to learn more about joining the local Venturing program or other Scouting programs like Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA, go to www.BeAScout.org.