



Scouting Extracurricular Program in Character Building for Students at Junior High School 18 Padang

Mutathahirin¹, Zainal Asril², Rafil Mulya³ Abd Rahman³, Dwi Wahyuni Az-zahra³

¹UCYP University, Malaysia

²Imam Bonjol State Islamic University, Padang, Indonesia

³STAI Yayasan Tarbiyah Islamiyah (YASTIS) Lubuk Begalung Padang, Indonesia

✉ mulyarafil98@gmail.com*

Abstract

This research is motivated by initial observations at Junior High School 18 Padang, which has implemented a Scouting extracurricular program as an effort to develop student character. The purpose of this study was to determine the forms of Scouting activities that contribute to character formation, as well as to identify supporting and inhibiting factors in the implementation of the program. This study used a qualitative descriptive approach with field research. Primary data sources included the Vice Principal for Student Affairs, Scout Leaders, and students participating in the extracurricular activities, while secondary data were obtained from the Principal. Data collection techniques were carried out through observation, interviews, and documentation studies, with data analysis through the stages of reduction, presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results showed that the forms of Scouting activities at Junior High School 18 Padang include camping, hiking, pioneering, and community service, each of which plays a role in forming character values such as independence, cooperation, and social care. Supporting factors for the program include government support, the active role of the school, competent leaders, and high student participation. Inhibiting factors include limited transportation, difficulty in obtaining permission from parents, academic schedule conflicts, and minimal supporting facilities. This study recommends the need for synergy between schools, parents, and the government to optimize the implementation of the Scout program as a means of developing student character.

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INTRODUCTION

Article 1 of the 2003 National Education System Law states that one of the goals of National Education is to develop students with intelligence, personality, and noble morals (Hadi, 2019; Sampe & Aslan, 2025). Character education must be integrated into the curriculum to address the moral challenges of the younger generation (Iksal et al., 2024). Based on the researcher's observations at Junior High School 18 Padang, it appears that the school has implemented character development

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through various efforts. However, some students still exhibited inappropriate behavior before participating in extracurricular scouting activities.

These behaviors included disrupting friends and disrespecting teachers (Aliyah & Masnawati, 2022). There are several facts related to this phenomenon. These facts were reinforced by an interview with a local scout leader, who stated that extracurricular activities in Scouting can transform students' character from negative to positive. For example, students who previously lacked independence become more independent and responsible through participating in scouting activities such as camping and hiking. Camping teaches students to live independently, work in teams, and face natural challenges wisely (Hasriani et al., 2025). Hiking, on the other hand, trains students to be more resilient and disciplined.

Furthermore, the school environment at Junior High School 18 Padang also helps foster students' spiritual character through congregational prayer activities in the school prayer room (Andini et al., 2024; Nabillah et al., 2024). Regular congregational prayer activities foster spiritual values such as honesty, discipline, and togetherness (Mulyani, 2025). Students are taught to always maintain a good relationship with Allah SWT and fellow human beings through consistent worship (Komalasari, 2019). Another fact found is the support from teachers and school staff who play an active role in fostering students' character. They provide concrete examples of good behavior and serve as role models for students. This creates a positive and conducive learning environment for character development (Cholifah, 2024; Puyo, 2021).

Overall, these facts indicate that extracurricular scouting activities and the school environment at Junior High School 18 Padang play a significant role in shaping students' character (E. Engkizar et al., 2025). Character development carried out through these various activities can help students become better individuals, possess noble morals, and be ready to face the challenges of life in the future (Zakiah, 2024). Worrying symptoms related to the morals of the nation's generation can be seen in various behavioral problems among adolescents among students, such as delinquency, indiscipline, and lack of empathy. This problem indicates that character education has not been fully implemented effectively. The consequences show the negative impact of student behavior on the school environment and society (Dewi & Alam, 2020; Nurrohman, 2023).

The development of information and communication technology has a significant impact on the social life of teenagers (Andika et al., 2020). Content that is easily accessible via the internet is often not in line with character education. Forms of extracurricular activities carried out to improve student behavior, such as religious extracurricular activities and scouting. This activity can still instill religious and moral values in students, based on the above phenomenon, the author wants to conduct research on this problem.

METHODS

This research method is a qualitative descriptive approach and the type of research is field research (*field research*), which is a study that aims to analyze and present facts systematically about the actual state of the object, the primary data sources are the vice principal for Student Affairs of Junior High School 18 Padang, Scout Leader of Junior High School 18 Padang and 5 Scout Students while for the secondary data is the principal of Junior High School 18 Padang (Hall & Liebenberg, 2024). Data collection techniques used in this study are observation, interviews and documentation studies and managing data through data reduction steps, data presentation, and drawing conclusions/data verification (Engkizar Engkizar et al., 2021; Khoa et al., 2023; Stanley, 2023).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study: 1) The forms of scouting programs at Junior High School 18 Padang are: (a) Camping, an activity of spending the night in the open air using a tent as a temporary residence. (b) Hiking, an activity of walking along natural paths, such as mountains or hills. (c) Pioneering, a technique of making constructions from wooden sticks and ropes, such as making towers, gates, shelves, or simple bridges. (d) Community Service, a volunteer activity to help others, especially those in need. 2) Supporting factors for the scouting program at Junior High School 18 Padang are: (a) The government plays a role as a policy maker and provider of structural support. (b) The school is the main forum for implementing Scouting activities. (c) The instructor is the spearhead who directly guides students. (d) Students are the main subjects in the Scouting program. Active participation, enthusiasm for learning, and curiosity from students greatly support the success of the activity (Kibga et al., 2021).

3) Inhibiting factors for the scouting program at Junior High School 18 Padang are: (a) Transportation limitations making it difficult for participants to access the activity location, especially those outside the school or in remote areas. (b) Difficulty getting permission from parents due to concerns about security and costs. (c) Schedule conflicts with academic activities makes it difficult for students to divide their time between lessons and extracurricular activities (Rahayu & Dong, 2023). (d) Inadequate facilities such as tents, pioneering equipment, or open fields hinder the smooth running of scouting activities and learning (Mawadda et al., 2024).

Based on the findings of the interviews conducted by the researcher, the Scouting program at Junior High School 18 Padang has become an important platform for character building and talent development for students (Hasriani et al., 2025; Malik & Nasiwan, 2025). Various activities, such as camping, hiking, community service, and skills training, are designed not only to enrich the students' experiences but also to instill the values of togetherness, independence, and leadership. Camping activities, for example, provide opportunities for students to learn to live independently, work together in teams, and face challenges in the outdoors (Rohim & Mutiara, 2024).

In an environment far removed from everyday comforts, they are challenged to think creatively and find solutions in unexpected situations (E. Engkizar et al., 2023). Meanwhile, hiking trains physical and mental endurance, while introducing students to the beauty of nature and the importance of environmental protection. Community service strengthens empathy and concern for others. Through various social activities, students learn to share with the community and understand the importance of their contributions to social life (Daniel et al., 2019; Moudatsou et al., 2020).

Meanwhile, skills training activities, whether in carpentry, communication, or leadership, further open up opportunities for students to explore their interests and equip them with valuable skills for the future (Deckha et al., 2025). Overall, this program serves not only as an extracurricular activity but also as a holistic educational tool, fostering strong character and unlocking the full potential of each student involved (Waeber et al., 2023) (Hlophe, 2019). With its comprehensive approach, the scouting program at Junior High School 18 Padang serves as a model for other educational institutions in developing an empowered young generation ready to face future challenges (Malik & Nasiwan, 2025).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results that researchers have conducted, it can be concluded that the forms of Scout Programs in Junior High School 18 Padang has become an effective instrument in shaping the character, discipline, and skills of students. Through various forms of systematically designed activities, such as: Camping, Hiking, Community Service, Pioneering. Students gain valuable experiences that not only enrich their insights, but also strengthen the values of responsibility,

cooperation, and mental resilience. Amidst the challenges of the times, Scouts play a role as a bulwark that helps students avoid negative associations and build positive and productive attitudes.

The supporting factors for the success of the Scout program at Junior High School 18 Padang cannot be separated from the synergy and strong support from various parties who are committed to ensuring this activity runs optimally such as: the Government, the school, Scout leaders and students. The main inhibiting factors faced by the scouting program at Junior High School 18 Padang are: Limited transportation is an obstacle in activities outside of school, which results in reduced student participation in outdoor-based programs that should be an important part of learning, Difficulty in getting permission from parents is still an obstacle, especially for students who are in a family environment that does not understand the benefits of Scouting activities for child development, Schedule conflicts with academic activities often make students have to choose between academic obligations and participation in Scouting, thus reducing their level of involvement.

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