

Of the 312 pilots and scientists selected as astronauts, 180 were Scouts or have been active in Scouting.

This includes all three astronauts who lost their lives in the Apollo 1 accident, and also all six Americans who perished in the space shuttle Columbia accident.

Of the 27 men to travel to the moon, 24 were Scouts, including 11 of the 12 men who physically walked on the moon's surface. Two of the 11 attained the rank of Eagle Scout—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—including Neil Armstrong who was the first man to walk on the moon [note: Charlie Duke was the other]

If Apollo 13 had landed on the moon, Jim Lovell, an Eagle Scout, would have been the third. The other two members of the crew of Apollo 13 were also Scouts.

(You may recall that Jim Lovell was the commander of Apollo 13, whose near-disaster was chronicled in the movie of the same name. Among other lessons that might be pulled out of the story: When your moon-bound spaceship explodes and loses power on the way to the moon, it is often good to have an Eagle Scout handy to help get through the experience and return safely!) Not every Eagle can go to the Moon, but every Eagle has already won an award that most of those who did go to the Moon wish they had.