Mission
Founded in 1973, the Ensemble strives to seek out, conserve, and teach the folk arts of ethnic Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin of central Europe to local youth. By making these dying arts our own we are then able to share them with our wider community. These arts include:
- Dance
- Music
- Traditional songs and ballads
- Costumes
- Customs
- Folk art forms

Culture cannot be inherited. Ancestral traditions evaporate rapidly unless each generation reacquires them for itself.
—Zoltán Kodály, composer and ethnographer

Would you like to know more?

HUNGARIAN SCOUT FOLK ENSEMBLE
c/o American Hungarian Friends of Scouting
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Sponsored by the American Hungarian Friends of Scouting, a 501(c)(3) organization. More info: www.csbk.org

Witness traditions centuries in the making!
Roots
The Scouting movement spread to Hungary in 1910 and immediately flourished. Despite blossoming into a 60,000-strong youth movement, Hungary’s communist regime repressed and then banned Scouting activities in the years immediately following World War II, forcing many Scout leaders to flee their homeland and continue their activities in exile.

In the United States, Hungarian Scout troops first organized in 1951, in Cleveland. Since then, hundreds of Hungarian youth have taken the Scout Oath and become members of the worldwide Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris. Never forgetting our homeland’s culture, but instead yearning to preserve its thousand-year-old, rich history, we work ceaselessly to keep our culture alive and pass it on to future generations. Today, Cleveland boasts nearly 250 active registered Scouts in four troops, supported by the American Hungarian Friends of Scouting, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Beginnings
In 1973, inspired by the large numbers of Hungarian youth in Cleveland, Andrew and Magda Temesváry formed the Hungarian Scout Folk Ensemble with the purpose of preserving and promoting our precious Hungarian heritage, and sharing this richness with audiences throughout Northeast Ohio, the U.S., and abroad.

Members
Membership in the Ensemble is reward-based, with a primary requisite of taking on an active leadership role in the local Hungarian Scout troops’ weekly meetings. Successful Scout leaders—who read, write, and speak fluent Hungarian—are thus invited to join the Ensemble, where they experience cultural preservation in a fun but disciplined manner. We dance, make our own authentic costumes, sing as a choir, and celebrate holidays with traditional Hungarian customs. Research, woodcarving, painting, embroidery, and performances throughout the year round out the highly active and rewarding experiences for each member.

Benefits
Members eagerly share their colorful heritage with friends and neighbors in the communities in which they live, and welcome opportunities to display their hard-won knowledge and feature their dancing skills, woodcarvings, paintings, and bright embroidery. These vibrant and memorable performances take place in all areas of the community, including theaters, community festivals, churches, theme parks, formal balls, nursing homes and private residences.

Travel
Traveling has always been a favorite of the Ensemble. We attend two yearly weekend workshop camps, one near Cleveland and one in upstate New York, where we learn new dances and techniques from guest instructors and artists. The Ensemble has performed in many places both nationally and internationally, including:

- Michigan
- New York
- New Jersey
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Hungary
- Transylvania
- Romania

Locally, we have performed in venues such as:
- Cleveland State University
- Kent State University
- Canton Civic Center
- E.J. Thomas Hall
- The Palace Theater
- Blossom Music Center

Audiences have included many dignitaries: mayors, governors, members of Congress, ambassadors, as well as Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and President Ronald Reagan.