



COUNCIL LEADERSHIP NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 8, 2024

*The Council Leadership Newsletter is a weekly digest of information for key local council and council service territory volunteers from various BSA sources, including the Scout Executive Council Packet, Scouting magazine, Training Times, information from national committees, and more. Learn more about the items that are important to you and **please share appropriate content with other Scouters.***

Territory Lead and Council Key 3 Meetings

Just a reminder of the upcoming Zoom meeting on *Thursday, January 11th* for the Council Service Territories Key 3+2 and functional leads. There will be two other options for the council Key 3's to learn of these important updates. If you did not receive your invitation, check with your territory or council leadership.

Unit Renewal Update

On *March 1, 2024*, the charter renewal process will change. Membership fees will be separated from the unit charter renewal. Payment of yearly membership fees will be completed with a family/self-pay option. Alternatively, the unit can elect to pay BSA membership fees for any member of the unit.

Units due to recharter December-February will not see a significant difference in the charter renewal process. However, new members who joined after *July 31, 2023*, will not pay additional BSA membership fees since they paid for 12 months when they joined. Those families will renew each year on the anniversary month of joining the BSA.

Units due to recharter in December will have a lapse period that ends *February 29, 2024*. January and February units have a reduced lapse period of 30 days to complete the recharter process. January units will drop on *February 29, 2024*, and February units will drop on *March 31, 2024*. All recharterers should be submitted in advance of the due date so council registrars have time to post the unit.

Sterling Is Providing Councils with Updated Reports

Sterling, our partner in processing background checks is providing a new service to support BSA's ongoing focus on safety. Sterling will conduct monthly rechecks using nationwide criminal and sex offender searches for one year following the original background check order date. Should a record be found upon recheck as "Consider," the applicable council will be notified via email directly from Sterling. The email will be directed as "Confidential" to the Scout Executive.

Details on Adult Application Flow

A new adult application flow process will be implemented beginning *Tuesday, January 16th*. At that time, the adult application flow will change to require the completion of the background check (results received) before the new adult volunteer can assume a leadership role. Once an adult application is processed the person is put in "pending." The adult leader will get an email notice informing them their registration is being processed and they are not to assume any leadership role until the completion of the background check. The unit Key 3 will also get an email. See your Scout executive for additional details.

Short Term Camp Administrator Online Classes - National Camping School

The Short-term Camp Administrator plays a crucial role in the Boy Scouts of America National Camp Accreditation Program, ensuring that short-term camps meet the organization's high standards for safety, program quality, and overall experience. This role involves overseeing the accreditation process for council-sponsored camps with one, two, or three nights of camping involved. This role plays a vital part in maintaining the high standards associated with the Boy Scouts of America, ensuring that short-term camps contribute positively to the overall Scouting experience. See your Scout executive for more information and the registration link for first time certification and recertification courses.

Registration Portal for 2025 High Adventure Treks

For units starting planning for 2025 activities, please tell them that the registration portal for 2025 treks at multiple BSA High Adventure Bases will begin on *January 18, 2024*. They can begin planning by visiting [here](#) and reviewing the planning steps in this document: *Seven Steps for Planning a High Adventure Trek*.

2024/5 PADI Training Scholarship Link

The Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) offers a multilevel scholarship program to introduce Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts to the exciting underwater world. PADI recognizes that adventure is one of the key elements of Scouting and scuba diving is an exciting avocation or vocation that can be enjoyed in just about every part of the country. Scholarships are available for multiple training levels. Look [here](#) for details and share with your Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts. Deadline for BSA/PADI Applications is *December 31, 2024*. Applicants will be notified of their status at the end of the First Quarter 2025.

Roger Krone at Northern Tier

BSA President and CEO Roger Krone shares [details](#) from his recent visit to the Northern Tier High Adventure Base.

Advancement News

Take a look at the final edition (and previous editions) of *Advancement News* [here](#).

Letter from the Chief Diversity Officer

On January 15th, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the annual holiday established to celebrate, commemorate, and honor the life, legacy and impact of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an American civil rights hero and a pioneer in empowerment.

This day was established to unite people in honoring his legacy and celebrating his impact. As we prepare youth to serve lives of impact, we reflect on our proud heritage, including Dr. King spending time as a member of BSA in his youth, learning about leadership and service to others.

As Scouts, our motto is "Be Prepared," and we pledge to be kind, courteous, helpful and reverent (among other things) – basically, to do the right thing – as Dr. King so eloquently stated:

"The time is always right to do what is right."

Yours in Scouting,
Lisa Schuchart, Chief Diversity Officer

Back Issues of the Packet

We have created a repository of the most recent back issues of the *Newsletter* and its predecessor *Packet*. Find them [here](#).

Reminders from Previous Newsletters

Cub Scouting updates [Linktree page](#)

Council Duty to God Award due by *January 31, 2024* - [here](#)

National Duty to God Award due by *February 29, 2024* - [here](#)

2024 National Annual Meeting Hotel Reservations, *May 5-9, 2024* - [here](#)

2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference, *July 29-August 3, 2024* - [here](#)

National Camping School Schedule - [here](#)

National Marketing Awards – [here](#)

Webinar Links

Council Finance and Development - [here](#)

Implementing Scouting's Barriers to Abuse in the Outdoors – *January 18* – [Registration](#)

National BSA Special Needs Accessible Camps Certification Process – *January 25* – [Registration](#)

Cub Chat Live (every Friday at 2pm CT) - [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Troop Talk Live (second Wednesday of each month at 2 pm CT) - [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Leading our Adventures (every other Friday at 5pm CT) - [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Important Links

Youth Safety - [here](#)

Program Updates - [here](#)

News for Commissioners - [here](#)

National Council Videos - [here](#)

BSA Event Management – [here](#)

Abilities Digest - [here](#)

National Camp Accreditation Program 2024 - [here](#)

Philmont Training Center - [here](#)

Training Quicklinks - [here](#)

BSA Retiree Newsletter - [here](#)

Marketing and Recruitment Resources - [here](#)

Health and Safety - [here](#)

Scouting News - [here](#)

Scouting Newsroom - [here](#)

Language of Scouting - [here](#)



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