

Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter



Scouting  America

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Week of May 25, 2026

*The Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter is an official weekly digest of information for key local council and council service territory volunteers from multiple official Scouting America sources. Learn more about the items that may be important to you and **please share appropriate content with other Scouters.***

Conversation with the New National Chair

Ricky Mason assumed his role as chair of the Scouting America National Executive Board at the National Annual Meeting in Dallas. *On Scouting* caught up with him to discuss priorities during his tenure in 2026-27. Read the conversation [here](#).

Simpler Renewal Cycle

Scouting America announced an important change at the recent National Annual Meeting to simplify the membership and unit renewal process. By February 2028, all members and all units will have a single, common renewal month of February. This change is in response to feedback from unit leaders and other Scouters who asked for a simpler, more consistent renewal experience. Key updates include:

- Beginning September 2026, all units due for renewal will renew to February 2028.
- All memberships and unit charters will have a common renewal month of February by February 2028.

To simplify the process and in response to unit leaders' requests, Scouting America is returning to unit control of member renewals. If the unit does not renew a member, that member may renew themselves after the unit-only period closes. To support the transition during 2026 and 2027:

- Beginning in September 2026, new and renewing units will use the standard charter fee plus pro rata fees through February 2028.
- There will be no changes for new and renewing members through 2026.

Unit leaders should watch for updates from their local council, as additional guidance and implementation details may vary by council during the transition period. This is a significant operational change designed to reduce complexity and create a more streamlined experience for volunteers, families, and councils alike.

End of Lapsed Period

The two-month lapse period will end on *December 31, 2026*. All members must be current by this date to maintain active status. Members with an *October 2026* renewal date are last to receive a two-month lapse period. Members with a *November 2026* renewal date will receive a one-month lapse period, and members with a *December 2026* renewal date will not receive a lapse period.

Annual Grade and Program Rollover Scheduled for June 3

The Annual Grade and Program Rollover to update member records will occur on *Wednesday, June 3*. This process will begin at *7:00 pm Central*.

Expired Membership Renewal Policy Change

This policy change was shared with registrars on *May 21*: Effective immediately, anyone whose registration expires (youth or adult) who reregisters within 12 months of expiration, can reregister without completing a new application. The only exception that would require a new application would be if it is an adult going to a different unit with a different chartered organization than their previous unit.

Military Fee Waiver

The Military Fee Waiver will become effective **June 1, 2026**. Find additional information [here](#) and [here](#).

Gift Planning Webinar

Please join us on *Thursday, June 4th at Noon Eastern* for our June gift planning webinar. The Zoom link can be found [here](#). This month we will discuss several fund types available to donors to help them build a tailor-made approach to giving back. Our library of past gift planning webinars, including sessions on how to record planned gifts, how to find gift planning prospect lists, and tons more is available [here](#).

National Camp Accreditation Program Prepares for 2027 Standards Review

As council staff arrive and final preparations begin for the 2026 summer camp season, now is the time to make sure all readiness steps are complete. Your Declaration of Readiness should already have been sent to your National Camp Accreditation Program Team Leader, and most councils are now focused on final checks before campers arrive. At the same time, the National Camp Accreditation Program is beginning work on the 2027 Standards. Councils are encouraged to review and share National Camp Accreditation Program [Circular No. 27](#) and submit comments on the proposed standards changes by *June 26, 2026*, to ncap@scouting.org.

Special Philmont Opportunities

Philmont's "Hut to Hut" program is a unique luxury trekking experience designed for adults who want to explore the Philmont backcountry while enjoying added comfort along the way. Read more [here](#). Or experience a journey through time on horseback with Philmont's "Founders Ride." Explore the scenic locations that Waite Phillips showcased to his guests, highlighting the beauty of New Mexico. Read more [here](#).

Promote Cub Scout Family Fun at Philmont

The Philmont Training Center is hosting a very special Week this summer from *July 26-August 1* – Cub Scout Family Fun at Philmont. Every Cub Scout who attends day camp in their local council receives \$100 off their week at Philmont. Please promote on all your channels and distribute during Day Camp using the code Cub100 or this downloadable [coupon](#). For every Cub Scout attending Cub Scout Family Fun at Philmont, their council receives \$100.

Alumni Newsletter

Here are the articles in the *May Scouting Alumni Newsletter*. Find it and subscribe [here](#).

- Elevate Your Summer: Staff July's National Jamboree
- Scout Battles Cancer While Completing Eagle Service Project
- A Lost Scout Discovers an Eagle Scout Service Project
- How Scouts and Veterans Built a Culture of Collaboration
- Master Started Carving as a Scout and Never Looked Back
- Leave a Legacy: Become a Merit Badge Counselor

Commissioner Newsletter

The *May 25* Special Edition of the Commissioner Newsletter is available [here](#).
Scouting America Trail Map Released

Minimum Age for Commissioner Service Changed
Change to Reregistration Policy
New Eagle Scout Study Results Shared During 2026 National Annual Meeting (NAM)
Reminder: Commissioner Week at Philmont Training Center, June 7 – 13
Follow Us On Social Media
Ask A Commissioner

Back Issues of the Volunteer Leadership Newsletter

We have created a repository of the most recent back issues of the *Newsletter*. Find them [here](#). Be sure to check them out if you are new to this newsletter and/or to review earlier issues.

Reminders from Previous Newsletters

Trail Map - [here](#)
Military Family Fee Waiver - [here](#)
New Eagle Scout Study - [here](#)
Fall Recruitment Local Council Marketing Playbook - [here](#)
National Meeting graphics and video assets - [here](#)

Program Livecasts

Cub Chat Live (every Friday at 3 pm Eastern) - [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
Troop Talk Live (second Wednesday of each month at 2 pm Central) - [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
Leading our Adventures (every other Friday at 4 pm Mountain) - [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
Trek on Tuesday (Tuesdays at Noon Pacific) - [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
Exploring Live Hour (second Wednesday at 1:00 pm Central – Schedule and registration [here](#))

Webinars

Monthly Finance and Fund Development Webinar – *Third Wednesday at 2:00 pm Central* - See recordings [here](#)
Gift Planning Webinar - *Thursday, June 4th at Noon Eastern* - [here](#)
Scouts BSA Advancement Demystified Series - Recordings may be found [here](#) and the links to the webinars may be found [here](#)
Monthly Membership Rally - Future Rallies *June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, and November 12* – Register [here](#)
Alumni Webinars - 3:30 PM Pacific – Read more [here](#)
 How to Create an Eagle Scout Mentoring Program – *June 7* - Register [here](#)
National Jamboree - Register for upcoming and view past webinars [here](#)
Venturing – See recordings of program webinars [here](#)

Newsletters/Blogs/Podcasts

Scouting Safety - [here](#)
On Scouting - [here](#)
Marketing – Subscribe [here](#)
Aquatics - [here](#)
Scouting in the Boardroom - [here](#)
Commissioner - [here](#)

Trail To Adventure - [here](#)
Scouting Alumni - [here](#)
Training Times - [here](#)
Abilities Digest - [here](#)
Scouting Wire - [here](#)

Important Links

Youth Safety - [here](#)
Incident Reporting - [here](#)
Health and Safety - [here](#)
Safety Moments - [here](#)
Scouting America Brand Guidelines and Materials - [here](#)
Language of Scouting - [here](#)
Training Resources - [here](#)
Merit Badges - [here](#)
Online Registration Information - [here](#)
Scouting America Membership Standards - [here](#)
Philmont Training Center Conferences - [here](#)
National Council Videos - [here](#)
High Adventure Bases - [here](#)
National Jamboree - [here](#)
Scouting Forms - [here](#)
2027 World Scout Jamboree - [here](#)
Council Support - [here](#)
National Eagle Scout Association - [here](#)
National Camping Schools - [here](#)
Scouting Forums - [here](#)
Order of the Arrow - [here](#)
Commissioners - [here](#)
Program Updates - [here](#)
Summer Camp Staff Jobs - [here](#)
Awards Central - [here](#)
Marketing and Recruitment Resources - [here](#)
Scouting Newsroom - [here](#)
Scouting Emergency Assistance Fund - [here](#)
Brand Center - [here](#)
America250 Visual Identity Guidelines - [here](#)
America250 Generic and Local Council Logos - [here](#)

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Council Services Territory Operations

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