

Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter



Scouting  America

Prepared. For Life.®

Week of February 23, 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.***

2026 Quality Council Performance Standards

The 2026 Quality Council Performance Standards are designed to give our councils measurable goals to ensure that they are meeting the required benchmarks of the organization. The standards are divided into three categories: Safeguarding, Financial Health, and Membership Health. Information is attached.

2026 National Scouts BSA Spring Recruitment Kickoff

Families are looking for new adventures, and we want to help you welcome them into your troop. Join the 2026 National Scouts BSA Spring Recruitment Kickoff on **February 26 at 8:00 pm Eastern** to learn and share proven strategies, creative ideas, and helpful resources to make spring recruitment efforts a success. Register in advance [here](#).

Officer and Board Training

This is the time of year when many councils have new officers and new board members. Please encourage them, and others who have not taken it, to visit My.Scouting and complete the “Council Executive Board” and/or “Council President/Vice President” learning plans. They can find the training by clicking on the Scouting U logo in My.Scouting and searching “executive” in the catalog.

Gift Planning Webinar

The next gift planning webinar is set for *March 5 at Noon Eastern*. The topic will be Individual Retirement Account giving, with featured guest Bill Larson of Larson Financial Group and Service Territory 1. Discussion will include current and legacy gifts from an Individual Retirement Account and gift planning success stories from fellow councils. Join the webinar [here](#).

2026 National Jamboree Day Visitor Tickets

Get ready to be part of Scouting’s biggest celebration! The 2026 National Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve invites you to experience the excitement as a day visitor. Spend the day exploring high-energy activities, live demonstrations, hands-on exhibits, and the unforgettable spirit that defines Scouting’s premier national event. Find more information and purchase tickets [here](#).

Voice of the Scout

Councils receiving at least 50 Voice of the Scout survey responses will have a report available in the Voice of the Scout folder on MyBSA. If your Scout executive is unable to find a 2025 report for your council, it means fewer than 50 responses were received from your council.

Extend Your Summer of Scouting at the 2026 National Jamboree

The CAST (Climbing Aerial Support Team) Program is an opportunity for camp staff from the local council to allow camp staff 16-29 years of age to apply to be a part of the CAST TEAM, no experience necessary. This is an unpaid Summit Staff member opportunity and free way to be on the 2026 National Jamboree Staff. CAST members who are approved will be assigned to Aerial (Zip Lines) and Boulder Cove (Climbing Area). Learn more [here](#).

Adams Award Submissions

As we celebrate the achievements of Eagle Scouts across Scouting America, please remember to submit your council's Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award winners by **February 28**.

Commissioner Impact Session

The next Commissioner Impact Session - "Racing to Impact – Making Strides to Retain, Grow, Thrive" - will be *April 11* in Louisville, Kentucky. Find more information and register [here](#).

Alumni Newsletter

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

Staff is Needed for 2026 Jamboree

Eagle Scout Foils Car Jacking

Eagle Scout Suits Up for Team USA's Olympic Bobsled Team

What connects a baseball signed by Babe Ruth, a pair of spies, and a Scouting alum?

Scouting Alum Coined the Term "Wind Chill"

The Merit Badge That Changed My Life

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

Exploring Training and Live Hour - [here](#)

America250 Visual Identity Guidelines - [here](#)

America250 Generic and Local Council Logos - [here](#)

Scouting U National Volunteer Training Conference - *March 26-28* - Nashville - [here](#)

2026 National Annual Meeting – *May 11–15* – Dallas - [here](#)

2026 Philmont Training Center Conferences - [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

Outdoor Program and Properties

2026 Pre-Camp Leadership Meeting – *March 19 at 7:00 pm Central* – [here](#)

Mental, Emotional, Social Health at Camp – *April 16 at 2:00 pm Central* – [here](#)

Alumni Webinars - 3:30 PM Pacific – Read more [here](#)

Planning and Conducting National Eagle Scout Association and Other Council Events – *March 1* – Register [here](#)

Scouting America Alumni Awards and Recognitions – *April 19* - Register [here](#)

How to Create an Eagle Scout Mentoring Program – *June 7*

National Scouts BSA Spring Recruitment Kick-Off - *February 26 at 8:00 pm Eastern* – Register [here](#)

Scouts BSA Membership Webinars

“Empowering the Patrol Leaders Council and Youth Leadership in Membership Growth” - *March 8 at 4:30 pm Pacific*. Register [here](#)

Scouts BSA Advancement – *First Wednesday of each month* - Recordings may be found [here](#)

Monthly Finance and Fund Development Webinar – *Third Wednesday at 2:00 pm Central* - See recordings [here](#)

Gift Planning Webinar – See recordings [here](#)

National Jamboree - Register for upcoming and view past webinars [here](#)

Newsletters/Blogs/Podcasts

Scouting Safety - [here](#)

Aaron on Scouting - [here](#)

Marketing – Subscribe [here](#)

Scouting in the Boardroom - [here](#)

Commissioner Newsletter - [here](#)

Trail To Adventure - [here](#)

Scouting Alumni - [here](#)

Training Times - [here](#)

Abilities Digest - [here](#)

Scouting Wire - [here](#)

Important Links

Youth Safety - [here](#)

Training Resources - [here](#)

Health and Safety - [here](#)

Safety Moments - [here](#)

Scouting America Brand Guidelines and Materials - [here](#)

Language of Scouting - [here](#)

Merit Badges - [here](#)

Online Registration Information - [here](#)

Scouting America Membership Standards - [here](#)

National Council Videos - [here](#)

High Adventure Bases - [here](#)

National Jamboree - [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](#)

Scouting America

Council Services Territory Operations

Scouting America

Council Services

2026 Quality Council Performance Standards

The 2026 Quality Council Performance Standards are designed to give our councils measurable goals to ensure that they are meeting the required benchmarks of the organization. The standards are divided into three categories: Safeguarding, Financial Health, and Membership Health.

Councils that earn Three-Star Level scores in all three categories have achieved the rating of Three-Star Level Council.

Councils that earn Two-Star Level scores in all three categories have achieved the rating of Two-Star Level Council.

Councils that earn Minimum Quality Standard scores in all three categories have achieved a rating of Quality Council.

SAFEGUARDING

Minimum Quality Standard:

- Zero preventable fatalities and zero adult-to-youth abuse
- All activities approved, follow the Guide to Safe Scouting, and enforce Scouting's Barriers to Abuse and Safeguarding practices
- Timely and appropriate reporting to local authorities and Scouting America

Two-Star Level:

- Meet all minimum Safeguarding Standards plus ...
- All known incidents are reported through Riskconnect within 48 hours

Three-Star Level:

- Meet Two-Star Safeguarding Standards plus ...
- Have an active Safeguarding Committee which meets at least quarterly and submits report and/or minutes to Council Key 3 for review

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Minimum Quality Standard:

- End 2026 with operating surplus (without below-the-line transfers to achieve surplus)

Two-Star Level:

- Meet minimum Financial Health standard plus ...
- Increase total direct support over 2025

Three-Star Level:

- Meet Two-Star Financial Health standards plus ...
- At least two of the last three years have an operating surplus

MEMBERSHIP HEALTH

Minimum Quality Standard:

- Achieve at least 1.5% growth in overall membership

Two-Star Level:

- Meet minimum Membership Health standard plus ...
- Increase traditional new youth (non-Scoutreach) by a minimum of 5% over 2025

Three-Star Level:

- Meet Two-Star Membership Health standards plus ...
- Net increase in Cub Scout packs

