

Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter



Scouting  America

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Week of February 16, 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.***

National Exploring Live Hour

The National Exploring Live Hour is a monthly Zoom video conference that will help engage and equip Exploring volunteers and professionals to grow, support, and learn more about Exploring. Each month the National Exploring Live Hour will be led by the national Exploring program chair and the national director of Exploring. The next Live Hour will be on *March 11 at 1:00 pm Central*. The topic is “Exploring Explosion (Growth Strategies).” Register [here](#) and see more [here](#).

Family Troop Model for National Youth Leadership Training

National Youth Leadership Training will retire the use of the Linked Troop Model and align with the Family Troop Model. Courses that began planning for 2026 under the Linked Troop Model may continue without modification. Beginning *January 2027*, all National Youth Leadership Training courses will operate under the Family Troop Model. Details are included in the *February 1, 2026*, update of the curriculum and the “What’s New with NYLT for 2026 Courses?” document provided to attendees at a Course Director Conference.

Gift Planning Webinar

The next gift planning webinar is set for *March 5 at Noon Eastern*. The topic will be IRA giving, with featured guest Bill Larson of Larson Financial Group and Service Territory 1. Email invitations will be sent out closer to the date.

2026 Catholic Scouting Summit

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting has invited Scouters to the Catholic Scouting Summit 2026, their annual gathering to celebrate, strengthen, and advance the mission of Catholic Scouting across the nation. *April 16 -19* in Wichita, Kansas. Registration may be found [here](#).

Honor Donors at the 2026 Good Turn Society Reception at the National Annual Meeting

The National Office of Development invites councils to nominate outstanding donors for recognition at the 2026 Good Turn Society Reception, held in conjunction with the National Annual Meeting this May. This special gathering provides an opportunity to celebrate the generosity, leadership, and lasting impact of donors who help advance Scouting America’s mission. See your Scout executive for details.

David Montgomery Champions Impact365 During Super Bowl Week

Last Friday, David Montgomery appeared on Entertainment Tonight to help launch the new Impact365 service initiative, shining a national spotlight on Scouting's commitment to building character through service. See the video [here](#).

Merit Badges

Merit badge pamphlets are getting a modern upgrade. Instead of printed requirement lists inside each pamphlet, Scouts and counselors will now find a QR code and URL that link directly to the latest requirements and information in the Merit Badge Hub on scouting.org. Visit the Merit Badge Hub [here](#). Additionally, 80 merit badges have been updated for 2026. Read more [here](#).

Umbrella Movie License for Council Events and Training

The Umbrella Movie License eliminates the liability exposure for the local council and the National Service Center concerning the presentation of movies or movie clips in connection with council facilities and events, such as camps, camporees, unit movie night, Order of the Arrow events, Wood Badge courses, National Youth Leadership Training courses, or any other activity where a movie is part of the program. Read more [here](#).

Commissioner Newsletter

The *February 16* Commissioner Newsletter is available [here](#).

Reminder: Commissioner Week at Philmont Training Center, June 7 – 13

Introducing Impact365: Scouting's New National Service Initiative

Scouting is For All!

2026–2027 Academic Year Calendar Now Available

Have You Earned the Commissioner's Key?

Latest Enhancement to Scoutbook Plus

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

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 – Register [here](#))

Webinars

New Venturing Program Helps - *February 18 at 7:30 pm Central* - Register [here](#)

Council Financial Management Webinar - February 19 at 2:00 pm Central - [here](#)

Outdoor Program and Properties

Non-Scout Use of Your Camp – HOW TO – February 19 at 2:00 pm Central – [here](#)

2026 Pre-Camp Leadership Meeting – April 16 at 2:00 pm Central – [here](#)

MESH at Camp (Mental, Emotional, Social Health) – March 19 at 7:00 pm Central – [here](#)

Key-3 to Key-3 Webinar - February 23 at 1:00 pm Central

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

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](#)

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](#)

Training Resources - [here](#)

Marketing and Recruitment Resources - [here](#)

Scouting Newsroom - [here](#)

Scouting Emergency Assistance Fund - [here](#)

Brand Center - [here](#)

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