

Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter



Scouting  **America**

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Week of September 15, 2025

*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 Silver Antelope Nominations

It is time to nominate deserving Scouters for the 2026 Silver Antelope Award. Complete nominations must be submitted to awards@scouting.org by **November 30, 2025**. Read more and find the nomination form [here](#). A listing of previous recipients may be found [here](#).

Exploring Explosion 3.0

Exploring Explosion 3.0 is a nationwide Exploring membership campaign focusing on Exploring membership growth through the training, inspiration, and recognition of all professionals and interested volunteers. As part of Exploring Explosion 3.0, national coordinated trainings led by the national director of Exploring and the National Exploring Committee. Everyone can get involved and create an Exploring Explosion in every council. We will start the campaign with the 1 NEW Post/Club challenge for every district. The idea is to kick-start the campaign by organizing one new post or club, in every district, within every council across America. There will be more challenges announced along the way. Stay tuned, there is more to come on Exploring Explosion 3.0.

World Scout Jamboree Registration is Open

The World Scout Jamboree is one of the most significant events in the global Scouting movement, bringing together thousands of young people from around the world to celebrate unity, adventure, and cultural exchange. The next one is **July 30 - August 8, 2027**, in Poland, and registration is now open for the USA Contingent. Check out the website [here](#).

2025 National Cub Scout Conference

Registration is now open for the **December 12-14** National Cub Scout Conference at the Florida Sea Base. At this conference, attendees will become experts in the Cub Scout program, including current resources, research, data, and what the committee is working on for 2026-27 program year. They will also participate in developing program resources and provide feedback to the National Cub Scouting Committee on projects for 2027-28 program year. Costs are \$350 per person for double occupancy room and \$300 per person for dorm-style room. The costs do not include travel to and from the Florida Sea Base. Costs do include Friday and Saturday night accommodations, all meals (Friday – dinner, Saturday – breakfast, lunch, dinner, Sunday – breakfast and lunch), snacks, conference materials, and a custom conference neckerchief. Please promote this conference to key volunteers or staff leaders in your council who support the Cub Scout program and are willing to present the newest resources available for Cub Scout leaders within your council and to other councils. Registration may be found [here](#).

Monthly Fundraising Webinar

Please join, and encourage all fundraising volunteers and staff to join, the monthly fundraising webinars held on the third Wednesday of each month (**September 17**, *October 15*, *November 19*, and *December 17* in 2025) at 2:00 PM Central. Join the webinar [here](#) (advance registration is NOT required) and see recordings of prior webinars [here](#).

Office of Development Bi-Monthly Gift Planning Webinar

Join the Office of Development's upcoming bi-monthly gift planning webinar on *October 3* at 12:00 pm Eastern. The discussion will include One Big Beautiful Bill Act charitable giving impacts and gift planning success stories from other councils. As always, they will reserve the last 15 minutes for a review of the October gift planning e-newsletter. This part of the agenda is for our gift planning marketing collaboration partners, though all participants are welcome to stay on. Register to attend this helpful webinar [here](#) and view past gift planning webinars, [here](#).

National Eagle Scout Association Webinar

The National Eagle Scout Association will host a webinar on *October 12*, at 3:30 PM Pacific on how to complete outstanding applications for the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award, the Silver Wreath, the National Eagle Scout Association Distinguished Service Award, and the Adams Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year. The speaker will be Rick Bragga, a member of the National Eagle Scout Association training committee. Participants will learn about the requirements for these recognitions and how to write successful nomination forms for these awards. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Raise More, Do More Fundraising Summit

Make plans to join volunteers and staff members from councils across the country for a great day of fundraising education hosted by the Las Vegas Area Council and conducted by the National Finance and Fund Development Committee and the Office of Philanthropy. Topics will include Changing Culture from Transactional to Philanthropic, Finding Prospects from Within your Database, How to Ask for Bigger Gifts, A Blueprint for Staff and Volunteers Working Together, and more! *Monday, September 29*, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM. Get information and register [here](#).

Digital Tools Guidance Released for Merit Badge Counselors

Merit badge counselors now have new support for incorporating digital resources through the recently released guidance document "Using Digital Tools to Strengthen the Merit Badge Experience." The resource tackles a key challenge many counselors face: how to embrace new technology while preserving the personal mentorship that defines the Scouting experience. This guidance complements the ongoing expansion of digital merit badge materials by helping counselors maintain meaningful connections with Scouts. Counselors can find the complete resource and implementation strategies [here](#).

Two New Badges Join the Test Lab for Potential Merit Badges

The Test Lab has expanded with Sewing and Needlework and Physics badges, both responding to specific requests from the field. National added these experimental options based on direct feedback from Scouts and leaders nationwide. Scouts can now test these potential merit badges alongside the existing Test Lab options: Auctioneering, Wildland Fire Management, and Life Skills. The feedback process is designed to help determine which badges should advance to official status. Your Scouts' participation and input directly influence future merit badge offerings. Find more information [here](#).

Law Merit Badge

The Scouting Alumni Affinity Group, The Legal Eagles, are offering the Law Merit Badge to Scouts in southern California, but inviting all Scouts interested Scouts: [Here](#) is the link to the registration, which also includes a video of last year's Law Day.

Digital Merit Badge Resources Expansion

Scouts BSA has launched a major expansion of digital merit badge resources, updating materials for over 25 merit badges including Nuclear Science, Environmental Science, Robotics, Digital Technology, and various nature study badges. These enhanced resources feature new instructional videos, updated online materials, and streamlined access through the centralized Merit Badge Hub. Find information on all merit badges [here](#). Click on a merit badge to find the resources.

Commissioner Newsletter

The *September 15* Commissioner Newsletter is available [here](#).

- Monthly Membership Mixer – September 21
- Developing Post Programming - September 30
- Advancement Myths – BUSTED! Webinar – October 1
- Fall Impact Session – October 18
- Have You Checked Your Leads Today?
- Commissioner Feedback About Virtual Impact Sessions Requested
- Please Share the Commissioner Newsletter
- Stay Informed With Timely Information
- Your National Commissioner Service Team Serves You
- 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

2025 National Outdoor Conference - September 17-21- [here](#) (May 12 issue)

Jamboree on the Air and Jamboree on the Internet - *October 17-19, 2025* - [here](#) (August 25 issue)

Fall Recruitment Media Campaign and Assets - [here](#) (July 21 issue)

Messengers of Peace – [here](#) (August 4 issue)

National Cub Scout Program Update Conference – *December 12-15* – register [here](#) (July 28 issue)

Uniform Discount Offers - [here](#) (September 1 issue)

2026 National Annual Meeting - *May 10–16, 2026* – Dallas (August 18 issue)

Program Livecasts

Cub Chat Live (every Friday at 2 pm 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](#)

Trek on Tuesday (Tuesdays at Noon PT) - [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

National Exploring Live Hour (Monthly) - Dates and information [here](#)

Webinars

Monthly Membership Mixer - *September 21* - Advance registration [here](#)

Monthly Membership Rally – *September 25* – Register [here](#)

Outdoor Programs Lessons Learned Webinar - *September 25* - [here](#)

Raise More, Do More Fundraising Summit - *September 29* - [here](#)

National Eagle Scout Association Awards - *October 12* – Register [here](#)

Scouts BSA Advancement – *First Wednesday of each month* - Register [here](#)

Monthly Fundraising Webinar – *Third Wednesday* at 2:00 PM Central - [here](#) and see recordings [here](#)

National Jamboree - Register for upcoming and view past webinars [here](#)
2025 National Fall Membership Recruitment Kick-Off recording - [here](#) for Cub Scouting and [here](#) for Scouts BSA

Newsletters/Blogs/Podcasts

Scouting Safety - [here](#)
Aaron on Scouting - [here](#)
Scouting in the Boardroom - [here](#)
Commissioner Newsletter - [here](#)
Marketing – Subscribe [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](#)
2025 National Annual Meeting Presentations - [here](#)
Language of Scouting - [here](#)
Merit Badges - [here](#)
National Council Videos - [here](#)
High Adventure Bases - [here](#)
National Jamboree - [here](#)
Council Support - [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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Council Service Territory Operations

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Council Services