

Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter



Scouting  America

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Week of March 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.***

Safeguarding Youth While Keeping Scouting Open to All

Safeguarding youth is Scouting America's first responsibility. The safety of every young person shapes how Scouting programs are designed, delivered, and supervised. Clear safeguards, defined boundaries, and strong partnerships with parents and guardians are essential to protecting youth and maintaining the trust families place in Scouting. To see full details on Implementation Guidance for Privacy-Based Accommodations and Safeguarding Practices, please review the [Letter](#), [Standards](#), and [FAQ](#) from Chief Safeguarding Officer Glen Pounder.

Marketing Webinar - Fall Marketing Plans

Join us for an energizing national marketing webinar designed to help councils gear up for a powerful fall recruitment season. We will walk through the media plan, priority tactics, and ready-to-use messaging that will drive families to join Scouting this fall. From digital strategy and creative assets to local amplification ideas and timelines, this session will equip you with the insights and tools needed to grow membership and elevate your campaign impact. Council staff and volunteers working with marketing and/or membership should attend. Register [here](#) for the Council Scout executive/Staff Session - April 16 at Noon Central and/or the Council Volunteer Session - April 16 at 7:00 pm Central

Annual Giving - National Earth Month and Volunteer Appreciation Council Toolkit

The Annual Giving team developed a Council Toolkit that unifies National Earth Month and Volunteer Appreciation messaging into a single, streamlined micro-campaign for local councils. By combining these two meaningful themes, the toolkit enables councils to celebrate the impact of volunteers while highlighting Scouting's commitment to conservation and stewardship. The campaign provides ready-to-use digital assets, messaging, and outreach strategies to help councils easily engage supporters across email and social platforms. Together, these efforts help councils inspire gratitude for volunteers and encourage broader support for Scouting's mission. Find the toolkit [here](#).

Webinar Series for Unit Commissioners Serving Explorer Posts

The leadership aspect of Exploring will be the focus of the April Zoom session "Youth Leadership in Exploring." Number four in a series for unit commissioners serving Explorer posts. It will explore the role of youth officers in running a post's program and how commissioners can support the election and training of officers in their units. The session will also preview the Exploring Leadership Experience, a new mentored leadership development program for individual Explorers. It involves interactive instruction, self-reflection, and practical application. Explorers will be formally recognized for completing the requirements. April 23 at 8:00 pm Eastern. Register [here](#).

Alumni Webinars

“Scouting America Alumni Awards and Recognitions” will be held on *April 19 at 5:30 pm Central*, featuring Ian Romain, Ph.D., Scouting Alumni Awards & Recognition Lead. Participants will learn about the various Alumni awards and recognitions that could be presented to Scouting Alumni in their councils and communities. Register [here](#). Visit the Alumni Awards & Recognition website [here](#).

“How to Create an Eagle Scout Mentoring Program” will be held on *June 7 at 5:30 pm Central*, featuring Tom Parker and Mark Fredrick, Ph.D., members of the National Eagle Scout Association training committee. This webinar equips adult leaders to mentor Scouts on their journey to Eagle and after achieving this recognition, offering a roadmap for building a council-wide mentoring program rooted in trust, transparency, and youth-led growth. Participants will gain practical tools for ethical mentorship, safe practices under Safeguarding Youth guidelines, and scalable strategies for recruiting, training, and supporting mentors across their council. Register [here](#).

Commissioner Newsletter

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

- Doctorate of Commissioner Science Update
- Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Discontinued
- Two Great Updates to Scoutbook
- New Recruitment Tools For Crews and Ships
- National Flagship Competition
- Reminder: Commissioner Week at Philmont Training Center, June 7 – 13
- Reminder: Spring Commissioner Impact Session, April 11
- Reminder: 2026 National Jamboree Day Visitors
- Follow Us on Social Media
- How Can We Help You?
- Ask A Commissioner

Voice of the Scout Survey Results

To impact membership growth, Scouting America must focus on supporting unit leaders and provide them with the information, tools, and support they need to execute our world-class programs. In 2025, the satisfaction index score was 46.1 – which was an increase from 2024 (43.3%), but still, fewer than half of our volunteers were satisfied with the support and service they received. We also know what drives satisfaction with the council and district. Find more information [here](#).

Jamboree Utility Terrain (Task) Vehicle Training Request

If your council plans to conduct the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association's Recreational Off-highway Vehicles Basic Driving Course between now and July 1 please email the details to nj26jamboreedriving@gmail.com. Include date, time, location, and how to register for the course. In order to drive a utility terrain (task) vehicle at the National Jamboree you must complete this course one time (the certification does not have to be renewed - it does not expire).

Recruitment Tools for Crews and Ships

The Brand Center has new “Recruit More Campaign” materials for Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships, including flyers, posters, social media graphics, and business cards designed to help ships and crews attract new members. Some items may be customized with your unit’s information, while others are ready to use now. Find Venturing materials [here](#) and Sea Scouting materials [here](#).

Local Council Guide to the Audit

The *Local Council Guide to the Audit* has been released and is available for download from the Finance Impact website, [here](#). This guide has been updated for the most recent Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) changes. In addition

to the audit guide, the “Sample Notes to Financial Statements,” which your auditor may find useful, has been included as a Word document for easy use.

National Annual Meeting

We strongly encourage you to attend the Scouting America National Annual Meeting (*May 11-15*) in Dallas. This valuable meeting and be “in the room, at the table, and face-to-face” with other leaders of Scouting America to share, learn, give input, and build important relationships to help youth, your council(s), and you in your Scouting role – and to recognize fellow Scouters receiving National-level awards. Register, make hotel reservations, see the schedule, and get other information [here](#).

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](#)

Scouting U National Volunteer Training Conference - *March 26-28* - Nashville - [here](#) (Registration closes *March 22*)

2026 National Annual Meeting – *May 11–15* – Dallas - [here](#) (Registration closes *March 31*)

Philmont Training Center Summer Start Up Volunteer Crew - *May 16-20*. Learn more [here](#) and register [here](#)

2026 Silver Buffalo and Silver Antelope Recipients - [here](#)

2026 National Jamboree Day Visitor Tickets - [here](#)

Program Livcasts

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

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

Monthly Membership Rally - *March 19 at 3:00 pm Central*. Register [here](#)

Future Rallies - *April 16, May (in-person at the National Annual Meeting), June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, and November 12.*

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](#)

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

How to Create an Eagle Scout Mentoring Program – June 7

Scouts BSA Advancement Demystified Series – *8:00 pm Eastern* - Recordings may be found [here](#) and the links to the webinars may be found [here](#)

Special Needs – Accommodations, Modifications, Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility, and More - Wednesday, April 22

Merit Badge Counseling - Moving from Good to Great - Wednesday, May 5

Monthly Finance and Fund Development Webinar – *Third Wednesday at 2:00 pm Central* - 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](#)
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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Council Services