

Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter



Scouting  America

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Week of December 16, 2024

*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 important to you and **please share appropriate content with other Scouters.***

2026 National Jamboree

Staff registration for the 2026 National Jamboree is now open. Read more [here](#). Council contingent registration is also open.

Merit Badge Updates for 2025

Scouts BSA has shared the planned updates to Merit Badges that will take effect on *January 1, 2025*. These updates will be reflected in Scoutbook and on the online [Merit Badge Hub](#) towards the end of December. These preliminary updates are subject to change before final implementation. Download the Merit Badge Requirement Updates file [here](#).

Guide to Advancement

The updated 2025 *Guide to Advancement* may be found [here](#).

December All Commissioner Newsletter

Each month, the National Commissioner Service Team sends out an all-commissioner newsletter via email. If you are a commissioner and did not receive it, you will soon be able to find this month's newsletter and re-read the previous editions of the newsletter [here](#). Also, make sure your email is correct in your My.Scouting profile(s). This month's newsletter includes:

- The Next Five Years
- The Unit Renewal Process is Changing
- New Conservation Awards
- Troop Program Features
- Commissioner Week 2025
- Colorado Scout Gives Back
- Scouting Improves Health

Council Election Procedures

As we enter the time when many councils conduct annual meetings, it is a good time to take a look at council bylaws and election procedures. Be sure you are in compliance with your bylaws. Items such as notifications, quorums, who votes (and when and for whom!), annual resolutions, and other details are important for proper, and legal, governance of a local council. Find resources [here](#).

Alumni Newsletter

The December edition of the BSA Alumni Newsletter has been emailed to subscribers. If you do not receive it you can read it and/or subscribe [here](#).

- Note from the Chair
- Four Alums Make A Movie
- Scouting's Critical for the Health of Today's Youth
- Alum Addresses Campus Food Insecurity
- The Perspective of a Scout Dad
- Eagle Scout Attorneys Give Back
- Alum Supports Hurricane Helene Response
- Alumni Store

2025 Target Age Youth Data Now Available

The Target Age Youth data (TAY) for councils can be found by Scout executives on MyBSA. The folder contains two spreadsheets, one with the TAY by program and ethnicity and one with the TAY by gender and age. This data is provided by Experian and is based on the 2020 Census with yearly changes calculated by Experian algorithms for population growth and mobility. Nationwide TAY declined slightly from 2024 to 2025, and a slight downward trend was seen in most councils.

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 to review earlier issues.

Reminders from Previous Newsletters

Key Steps for Membership and Unit Renewal Resources - [here](#)
2025 National Camping School Registration - [here](#)
Philmont Training Center 75th Anniversary Conference Registration - [here](#)
National Commissioner Impact Session at the Sea Base - [here](#)

Program Livecasts

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

Important Links

Youth Safety - [here](#)
Health and Safety - [here](#)
Summer Camp Staff Jobs - [here](#)
Scouting Forums - [here](#)
Scouting America Brand Guidelines and Materials - [here](#)
Executive Communications - [here](#)
National Council Videos - [here](#)
High Adventure Bases - [here](#)
Council Support - [here](#)
National Camp Accreditation Program 2025 Standards - [here](#)
Order of the Arrow - [here](#)
Aaron on Scouting - [here](#)

Commissioners - [here](#)

Abilities Digest - [here](#)

Program Updates - [here](#)

Awards Central - [here](#)

Trail To Adventure Blog - [here](#)

Alumni Association - [here](#)

Training Resources - [here](#)

Marketing and Recruitment Resources - [here](#)

Scouting Newsroom - [here](#)

Language of Scouting - [here](#)

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