

Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter



Scouting  America

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Week of April 28, 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.***

National Meeting Exhibit Hall

In two weeks, we will meet at the National Annual Meeting to experience all the opportunities the event provides to connect, inspire each other, and propel our movement forward. An important part of this year's event will be an Exhibit Hall specifically aimed at growing your council's success—it is a powerful hub for strengthening your operations, enhancing your camps, and finding innovative solutions that create growth.

Special Incentives for Early Jamboree Troop and Staff Registrations

We are excited to offer exclusive incentives for councils that register at least one unit (of any size) for the 2026 National Scout Jamboree on or before the close of the National Annual Meeting. Councils registered by this deadline will be entered into a drawing to win one of these unforgettable Jamboree experiences: VIP Seating at an Arena Show, Lead the Flag Ceremony at an Arena Show, or First Choice of Campsite Within Your Subcamp. See your Scout executive for details.

All staff who complete their Jamboree registration by the deadline will be entered into a drawing for roofed housing at the Jamboree. Upgrade your Jamboree experience with a roof over your head—comfortable, convenient, and coveted.

A New Era in Digital Fundraising

The National Office of Development is thrilled to announce a game-changing upgrade to our fundraising toolkit: Scouting America is partnering with Bonterra to adopt EveryAction as our official online donation platform, nationally and for local councils. This decision comes after more than a year of thoughtful research, product demos, expert insights, feedback from Scout executives and development directors, and careful budget planning. We are currently rolling out the platform with select Alpha Test councils to ensure a smooth transition. A broader Beta Test will follow this summer, and our goal is a full national launch by *September 2025*. On *Thursday, May 15 at 1:00 PM Eastern* there will be a breakout session and demo at the National Annual Meeting. Bonterra will also have a booth at the meeting.

National Annual Meeting Mobile App

In alignment with our environmentally conscious Scouting values, the National Annual Meeting will be (mostly) paperless. The materials participants received in paper packets at the onsite registration desk in previous years will be available via the mobile app. To access your personal schedule, general information about the hotel, electronic copies of the agenda, and materials for your meetings and events, please be sure to bring your smartphone, tablet, or laptop computer. All registered participants will receive an email message with instructions for downloading the National

Annual Meeting App - Scouting Events - before the meeting. If you prefer a paper agenda, before you depart home access the web version of the app from your desktop or laptop computer. Then download and print any meeting materials you prefer to carry with you. We will be unable to print them onsite.

Scouts Read Sacred Texts

Join Scouts from all over Scouting America on **Thursday, May 1**, as Scouts Read Sacred Texts on the National Day of Prayer. Sponsored by the National Religious Relationships Committee's council support subcommittee, this program connects Scouts with their Duty to God in a meaningful way. Register [here](#) and learn more through Aaron on Scouting's article [here](#).

Scouting America Joins #MyFriendToo

In a powerful step for safeguarding, Scouting America is proud to announce its role as a national partner in #MyFriendToo US, a groundbreaking initiative and resource – MyFriendTooUS.org – launched during Child Abuse Prevention Month to help children support their friends in disclosing sexual abuse to safe adults. Read more [here](#).

Updated Crew Officer Seminar Training

The National Venturing Committee and Scouting U have announced the release of the updated *Crew Officer Seminar*, also known as the Planning Session, which builds on information from *Crew Officer Orientation*. This training allows the crew to understand and create their annual program. The training will cover the three Tiers of Adventures, review the Venturing ALPS model, explore recruitment ideas, and walk through the steps of planning for an event or activity. It is strongly recommended all crews complete this training annually, ensuring that every member has a clear understanding of planning their annual calendar and is expected to be taken by crew officers. This updated training replaces the previous online version hosted on the Volunteer Learn Center. It is now brief, engaging, and interactive, and is intended to be delivered in-person by crew officers during crew meetings. You can access the *Facilitator's Guide* [here](#).

Updated Sea Scout Quartermaster Application

Now available as a fillable PDF, an updated version of the Quartermaster Award Application may be found on the Sea Scouts BSA Advancement Central page, in the Quartermaster section [here](#).

Membership Conference at Philmont

As you plan the action steps you will personally take to ensure Scouting grows significantly in the coming months, we encourage you to attend our Membership Conference at Philmont, *July 6-12, 2025*. You will develop a wealth of specific ideas about how you can change the game and be ready to take action at home. Are you encouraging your local Scouting colleagues to attend? Your time at the Philmont Training Center will be great fun as well as change-the-game purposeful, and it will be better still if you bring a group of passionate membership builders with you. Learn more about the Training Center and register [here](#).

Commissioner Newsletter

The *April 28* issue of the *Commissioner Newsletter* may be found [here](#). This issue includes:

- May is Mental Health Awareness Month
- Commissioner Session on New Unit Metrics for Exploring, April 29
- Scouts Read Sacred Texts, May 1
- Scouting Alumni Reception at National Annual Meeting, May 12
- Register for Commissioner Week at PTC, June 8 – 14
- Den Meeting Activity Card Deck
- Growing and Strengthening Our Unit Service Teams Guide
- New Forms Available
- Training Code S21
- New Venturing Crew Officer Orientation Guide
- Incident Reporting in Scouting

- Breaking News
- Your National Commissioner Service Team Serves You
- Ask A Commissioner

Council Commissioner Confab

Council and territory commissioners - check your email for an invitation to the **May 4** Council Commissioner Confab. If you are a council commissioner and are unable to attend, please send someone from your team in your place - only one representative per council, please. We have been hearing a lot of questions about changes to how we serve units and the updates to Commissioner Tools that support this shift. This session will cover the most frequently asked questions, followed by breakout discussions to explore other areas where more information is needed.

Supply Chain Issues

From Roger Krone - As you are likely aware, global retailers and organizations across industries are currently facing significant challenges related to the evolving tariff landscape. These impacts stem from a variety of geopolitical, economic, and regulatory changes, and are creating widespread strain on production timelines, sourcing strategies, and pricing structures.

For our organization, the implications are particularly meaningful. The products we provide directly support the youth who participate in our programs—and ensuring access to safe, high-quality, and ethically made products remains central to our mission.

As such, we want to inform you that we will soon begin to experience service disruptions in product delivery and potential impacts on pricing. While we are working tirelessly to minimize these effects, the reality of shifting tariffs and supply chain instability means that short-term interruptions are likely.

Please know that mitigating pricing impacts is our highest priority. Our Product Merchandising vendors are actively relocating production to qualified factories that can support our needs and help stabilize costs. However, we want to be crystal clear: any product bearing the Scouting America brand must continue to meet our strict social compliance standards. Every factory must pass our social compliance audits. This is critical to maintaining the safety and integrity of our brand and upholding our commitment to ethical production.

As we manage these fast-paced transitions, we urge all councils to be prepared for temporary delays and adjustments in not only stocked product but in customized products produced through our licensed partners. It is imperative that you continue to work only with authorized, licensed vendors. This is a non-negotiable policy. These protocols are in place to protect our Scouts, our brand, and each of you as valued partners.

We appreciate your understanding, patience, and partnership as we navigate these temporary challenges together. Your adherence to our standards ensures we emerge stronger, more aligned, and more resilient.

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.

Good Stories from the Service Territories

Service Territory 8 – Cherokee Area Council sustainability impact – [here](#)

Reminders from Previous Newsletters

National Annual Meeting - May 12-16 - [here](#)

Distinguished Eagle Scout Award – July 31 deadline - [here](#)

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

2025 National Camping School Registration - [here](#)

Scouting U at Philmont - [here](#)

New Aquatics Supervision Manual - [here](#)

National Scout Jamboree – Scholarship Program - [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](#)

Webinars

2026 National Jamboree - Register for the webinars [here](#)

- *May 8* – ELEVATE Your Planning

Important Links

Youth Safety - [here](#)

Health and Safety - [here](#)

Scouting Emergency Assistance Fund - [here](#)

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

Executive Communications - [here](#)

Philmont Training Center 75th Anniversary Conference Registration - [here](#)

Commissioner eBlast - [here](#)

Scouting the Boardroom Podcast - [here](#)

National Council Videos - [here](#)

High Adventure Bases - [here](#)

National Jamboree - [here](#)

Council Support - [here](#)

National Camp Accreditation Program 2025 Standards - [here](#)

Scouting Forums - [here](#)

Order of the Arrow - [here](#)

Aaron on Scouting - [here](#)

Scouting America News & Events - [here](#)

Commissioners - [here](#)

Abilities Digest - [here](#)

Program Updates - [here](#)

Summer Camp Staff Jobs - [here](#)

Awards Central - [here](#)

Trail To Adventure Blog - [here](#)

Scouting Alumni - [here](#)

Training Resources - [here](#)

Marketing and Recruitment Resources - [here](#)

Scouting Newsroom - [here](#)

Language of Scouting - [here](#)

