

# Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter



**Scouting America**

**Prepared. For Life.®**

## **Week of December 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**.*

### **Scouting America Partners with America250**

Scouting America has announced a national partnership with America250 to inspire Scouts everywhere to celebrate this historic milestone. To help councils promote this, Scouting America has created a suite of materials and information, found in [this folder](#) in the Brand Center.

### **National Camp Accreditation Program 2026 Standards**

The 2026 standards document is now available [here](#). We highly recommend that all camp directors, program directors, rangers, short-term camp administrators, council National Camp Accreditation Program chairs, and staff advisers obtain a copy of the National Camp Accreditation Program Standards, either via free download or by purchasing a printed version through National Supply. Replacement pages are also on the website so you can easily convert your 2025 National Camp Accreditation Program Standards to the National Camp Accreditation Program Standards.

### **New Unified Scouts BSA Handbook**

Based on significant feedback from youth and volunteers, Scouting America has announced the release of a unified *Scouts BSA Handbook* designed for all youth who are part of the Scouts BSA program. This handbook does not replace the current 14th Edition of the *Scouts BSA Handbook*, and this unified version has no major program changes. It is simply a single, unified version of the handbook that can be used by boys or girls in Scouts BSA. The text remains the same, but photos now reflect all youth in Scouts BSA. Leaders, youth, and units spoke about their desire for this unified version, and we listened. The handbook will be available for purchase at Scout Shops nationwide in January 2026.

### **2026 Special Needs Prepared Camp Pilot Program**

Please see the new overview and sign-up [link](#) for the form for councils to be included in the 2026 Special Needs Prepared Camp Pilot Program. This is for new councils to take part and/or councils who are in the pilot but want to add more camps to become certified. Deadline for signing up starting in 2026 is *January 15<sup>th</sup>*.

### **Family Troop Option**

The family troop model became available as a third option to all chartering organizations on *December 15, 2025*. The Scouts BSA Committee has prepared an “Intent to Convert” form for all troops intending to convert to the family troop model, along with a “Family Troop Registrar Guide” to assist your council registrar with processing family troops. Please share both documents with your appropriate council/district staff and volunteers. The “Intent to Convert” form should

also be shared with all interested troops. Once complete, troops should submit this form to their council registrar to assist in processing the change. This form is for local use only and should not be submitted to the National Service Center. As a reminder, you should also be sharing the “Family Troop Decision Guide” and “Family Troop Best Practices Guide” with your council/district staff and volunteers and all interested troops in your council. All troops who wish to discontinue the family troop model should be provided with the “Converting From a Family Troop Guide.” These materials have been distributed to local council Key 3s and territory leadership in an email from the Office of the President and CEO on *December 10*.

### **Register for Your 2027 High Adventure Experience**

Registration opens next month for Scouts and crews looking to experience the Sea Base, Northern Tier, and Summit Bechtel Reserve in 2027. If you are looking for a Philmont Scout Ranch option, registration is open. Read more [here](#).

### **Philmont Training Center 2026**

Registration for the Philmont Leadership Challenge, the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience, the Philmont Advisor Skills School, and Leave No Trace Level II is now available [here](#). Other conference registration is coming soon, but you can view the current schedule of conferences and other information and more about the Training Center to make your plans [here](#).

### **Alumni Newsletter**

Here are the articles in the December Scouting Alumni Newsletter. Find it [here](#) and subscribe [here](#).

Staff is Still Needed for 2026 Jamboree

Cub Scout Awarded One of Scouting America’s Highest Honors

Scouting Alum Reaches 500 Days in Space

Scouting Partnerships Share Visions and Missions

Scouting for Clean Waterways a Beneficial Partnership

The Merit Badge That Changed My Life

### **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.

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### **Reminders from Previous Newsletters**

**Membership Mixer - December 21 at 8:00 pm Eastern – Register [here](#)**

Alumni and National Eagle Scout Association Award Deadlines - [here](#) and [here](#)

Scouting for Everyone – Los Angeles - *January 16 and 17* - [here](#)

Scouting U National Training Conference - Nashville - *March 26–28, 2026*

2026 National Annual Meeting - *May 10–16, 2026* – Dallas

Exploring New Unit Trainings - Sign up for the trainings [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](#)

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

### **Webinars**

**National Venturing Program Updates – December 17 – Register in advance [here](#)**

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

#### Outdoor Program and Properties

How to Develop a Wheels and Boards Committee in Your Council – *January 15 at 2:00 pm Central* – [here](#)

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](#)

Alumni Webinars - 3:30 PM Pacific – Read more [here](#)

A Discussion with the National Eagle Scout Association President - *January 11* – Register [here](#)

Earning Your Scouting Alumni Award - *February 8*

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

Scouts BSA Membership Webinar – Find recording [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](#)

#### 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](#)

