

Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter



Scouting  America

Prepared. For Life.®

Week of April 13, 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.***

National Annual Meeting Electives

Registrants for the Scouting America National Annual Meeting may now sign up for electives [here](#). You will need the Reg Code (include dashes) you received in your registration confirmation or the electives email. Descriptions of the electives may be found [here](#). Selections must be made by **April 17**.

New Four-Month Program Planner for Cub Scout Packs

The planner will be available as both a two-page guide and a card deck with detailed instructions and QR codes linking to resources for each activity. Both formats will be showcased at the National Annual Meeting. [This video](#) provides a brief introduction to the planner.

National Governance Updates

The Scouting America National Executive Board periodically approves amendments to the National *Charter and Bylaws*, and the National Executive Committee periodically approves amendments to the National *Rules and Regulations*. The following updates were approved during their February meetings:

Updates to National *Rules and Regulations*

- Art. III. Local Councils was amended to eliminate the exception related to grandfathered plans. There are no longer any grandfathered plans to exempt from participation in Scouting America benefit programs.
- Art. VI. Unit Service was amended to reduce the minimum age of commissioners to 18.
- Art. VIII. Commissioned Professional Leadership was amended to clarify the role of the Chief Executive Officer in the commissioning and decommissioning of professionals, and to provide consistency with the National Bylaws.

Updates to National *Bylaws*

- Art. VIII. Adult Leadership. Clauses 3 and 4 were amended to eliminate the inconsistency with the *Rules and Regulations* and to clarify that professional commissioning and decommissioning is an operational issue under the control of the Chief Executive Officer. Under this authority, the Chief Executive Officer may issue a Professional Commissioning Policy from time to time.

Report to the Nation

Read about the recent Scouting America Report to the Nation [here](#).

Safeguarding Youth Refresher Training Has Launched

The new *Safeguarding Youth Refresher Training* has launched. If someone has completed the full *Safeguarding Youth Training* course and it is currently active or has expired within the last 7 days, they are eligible to take the *Refresher Training*. If their full *Safeguarding Youth Training* has been expired for 7 days or more, they will need to complete the full *Safeguarding Youth Training* course again before receiving credit. **If they have not taken the full 90-minute *Safeguarding Youth Training*, they must take that before taking the 20-minute refresher. If they take the 20-minute refresher but do not take the full course, they will not get credit for *Safeguarding Youth Training*.**

Participants taking the *Refresher Training* must successfully pass the exam on the first attempt to receive credit for the Y01 training code. If the exam is not passed, the system will automatically route them to the full *Safeguarding Youth Training* course to ensure a complete review of the material. Once the refresher exam is failed, the refresher course cannot be relaunched, and the full course must be completed. *Safeguarding Youth Refresher Training* is available in English and Spanish in the Volunteer Learn Center on My.Scouting.

Scouting Alumni Guidebook

This manual serves as the authoritative standard for council-level operations, covering:

- Current Policies: The latest official guidelines for organizing and administering Alumni and National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) Committees.
- Strategic Frameworks: Proven structures and best practices to help you deliver a robust, high-impact alumni program.
- Actionable Insights: Practical strategies to re-engage former members and foster lifelong connections.
- Resources & Accessibility

To ensure consistent program delivery, each alumni member and local council should maintain a copy of this guide for frequent reference. Download the electronic version [here](#).

Update for VIP Experience at 2026 National Jamboree

Scouting America is excited to share an update regarding the VIP Experience for the 2026 National Jamboree. We are now offering a 20% discount on VIP Experience packages. See the informational flyer [here](#).

Commissioner Newsletter

The *April 13* Commissioner Newsletter is available [here](#).

- New Four-Month Program Planner for Cub Scout Packs
- Scoutbook Plus Added Features
- Recruiting Resources for Venturing
- Philmont Advisor Skill School (PASS)
- Summer Camp Jobs
- Scouting for Clean Waterways
- Teaching About Disability Awareness Through Simulated Experiences
- Safeguarding Youth Refresher Training Now Available
- Reminder: National Marketing Webinar, April 16
- Reminder: Youth Leadership in Exploring Webinar, April 23
- Reminder: IMPACT 365 - Scouts Trash the Trash Day, May 2
- Reminder: Scouts Read Sacred Text, May 7
- Reminder: Commissioner Week at Philmont Training Center, June 7 – 13
- Social Media Is Where We First Share
- 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

Safeguarding Youth Refresher Training Launched - [here](#)
Read Sacred Texts Event - May 7 - Learn more [here](#)
Scouting America and Artemis - [here](#)
2026 National Annual Meeting – May 11–15 – Dallas - [here](#)
2026 Silver Buffalo and Silver Antelope Recipients - [here](#)
2026 National Jamboree Day Visitor Tickets - [here](#)
Exploring Training and Live Hour - [here](#)
Family Adventure Camp at High Adventure Bases - [here](#)
Distinguished Eagle Scout Award Application Cycle - **April 1** through July 31 - [here](#)

Program Livestreams

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

Monthly Membership Rally - April 16 at 1:00 Central – Register [here](#). Future Rallies 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

Mental, Emotional, Social Health at Camp – April 16 at 2:00 pm Central – [here](#)

Marketing Webinar - Fall Marketing Plans - Council Scout executive/Staff Session - April 16 at Noon Central and Council Volunteer Session - April 16 at 7:00 pm Central - Register [here](#)

National Membership Mixer - April 19 at 7:00 pm Central. Register [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 - Register [here](#)

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 – Register [here](#)

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

Webinar Series for Unit Commissioners Serving Explorer Posts - April 23 at 8:00 pm Eastern. Register [here](#)

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](#)

Scouting America

Council Services Territory Operations

Scouting America

Council Services