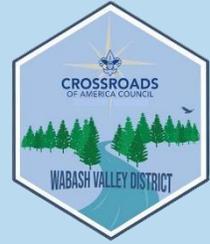


Wabash Valley District Dispatch

Your Quarterly Newsletter – March, 2026



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Wabash Valley District Dispatch: Spring Edition

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Wabash Valley District newsletter! As the season of renewal unfolds, we're excited to share updates, celebrations, and opportunities that reflect the energy and dedication of our district. Spring reminds us of growth, collaboration, and the promise of what's ahead, and we're grateful for the students, families, staff, and community partners who make our work meaningful every day. In this issue, you'll find highlights from across the district, upcoming events, and stories that showcase our shared commitment to excellence.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Wabash Valley District. We look forward to a successful and inspiring spring together.

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A Look Ahead to Spring Activities

As we move through the spring months, the Wabash Valley District is entering one of the most active and exciting times of the Scouting year. Our spring camporee will bring Scouts together for outdoor adventure, skill-building, and fellowship, while units are also turning their attention toward preparing for summer camp. From merit badges and advancement planning to leadership development, these experiences remain at the heart of what Scouting offers our youth.

Looking ahead, participation in the national jamboree, along with continued Order of the Arrow and Firecrafter activities, provides meaningful opportunities for service, tradition, and deeper engagement across the district. These programs help strengthen our Scouts' commitment to leadership, service, and brotherhood while reinforcing the values that unite us.

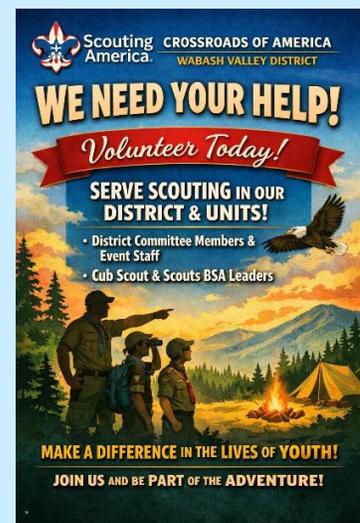
None of this would be possible without strong support for Friends of Scouting. FOS efforts continue to provide essential funding for programs and operations across the district and council, with camperships playing a vital role in ensuring every Scout has access to life-changing experiences, regardless of financial circumstances. Your continued support directly impacts the reach and quality of our programs.

At the same time, recruiting remains a shared responsibility. Ongoing efforts—especially at the Cub Scout level—are critical to sustaining and growing Scouting in our communities. Every leader, parent, and Scout plays a part in welcoming new youth and adult members. By sharing our Scouting story and inviting others to join, we ensure the program remains strong for years to come.

Adult Volunteer Recruiting

Recruiting adult volunteers is essential to the success of Scouting at both the unit and district levels. Recruiting adults is not the responsibility of one committee or position; it is something we all share by inviting, encouraging, and supporting others to serve.

Volunteering brings deep, rewarding, and meaningful personal benefits as well. Adults gain leadership experience, build lasting friendships, and find fulfillment in making a positive impact on young lives. Many also discover renewed purpose, personal growth, and the joy of giving back to their community. By working together to recruit adult volunteers, we ensure Scouting remains strong, accessible, and ready to serve every youth who wants to join.



Please Contribute to the Dispatch

We'd love to hear from you! If you have news, upcoming events, photos, announcements or reflections to share, please send them to mark@parabolicvision.com and become a contributor to our newsletter.

“Save the Dates”

District Awards Dinner

To Register:

<https://scoutingevent.com/160-110475?>



Indy 500 Parade



District Cub Day Camp



Council Notes



by

Doug Band, CAC District Director

We are a team and will change the lives of many families in 2026.

One of our goals is increase membership within the district by 5% over last year! This can only be accomplished by a team effort.

Fred Light our District Membership Chair has been working with many local parks and fishing locations to do a fishing event in each county and invite all the Cub Scout age youth to come fish with us and learn about Scouting. If you can be a part of this initiative, please reach out to Fred and let him know, I am in and can help and support. Fred can be reached at Fed.Light@live.lcom More information coming soon.

We are asking that each unit have a New Member Coordinator.

The New Member Coordinator plays a vital role in growing and sustaining Scouting across the district. This position focuses on supporting unit-level recruiting efforts, coordinating district-wide membership initiatives, and helping ensure a positive joining experience for new youth and adult members and works closely with District, unit, and council staff to help welcome new families and volunteers. In addition, the New Member Coordinator strengthens retention, supports long-term growth, and helps ensure Scouting remains accessible and welcoming throughout the district.

Family Friends of Scouting

Thanks to your leadership and the generosity of our families, the Wabash Valley District saw a meaningful impact from the Family Friends of Scouting program in 2025. By year's end, support provided camperships for 10 Scouts totaling \$1,000 and registration assistance for 68 Scouts totaling \$12,000. Behind every number is a Scout who was able to remain in the program, attend camp, or take part in opportunities that might otherwise have been out of reach. Family Friends of Scouting remains one of the most powerful ways to ensure cost is never a barrier to participation.

As one local volunteer shared, affordability has long guided their Scouting service, from a Wood Badge focus to unit leadership today. Additional personal donations, including \$3,000 contributed this year, reflect a shared commitment to never turning a Scout away due to finances.

At the council level, reduced fees for new Scouts and incentives for new leaders, combined with Family Friends of Scouting, continue to strengthen units and support families. This year, each unit is asked to identify a trusted "Unit Champion" to deliver the presentation at a dedicated gathering, with all presentations completed by April 15. Donor recognition items will again be offered as a small thank-you. Please share your selected presenter's information so resources can be provided. Thank you for partnering with us to keep Scouting accessible, welcoming, and strong.

As a small token of appreciation, we will be offering thank-you gifts to recognize our donors:

- **FREE Cloth rank advancement**, for units who achieve 50% participation
- **Window cling**, for anyone who donates
- **Council patch** for a commitment of **\$165** (supporting one Scout)
- **Council travel mug** for a commitment of **\$500** (supporting three Scouts)
- **Council padfolio** for a commitment of **\$1,000** (supporting approximately an entire Den or Patrol)

The Progress of Troops Welcoming Both Male and Female Scouts

In recent years, the growth of Scout troops that include both male and female youth has marked an important and inspiring step forward for the Scouting movement. This shift reflects Scouting's long-standing belief that character, leadership, and service are values for all young people, and that every youth deserves access to the same high-quality program. As more troops adopt this inclusive structure, we are seeing remarkable progress, not only in membership, but in the richness of the program itself.

Troops with both male and female members report stronger collaboration, increased teamwork, and a broader range of strengths within their patrols. Youth learn to lead and support one another across different perspectives and experiences, building life skills that mirror the diverse environments they will grow into as adults. At the same time, families appreciate the convenience and unity that comes from having siblings participate together in the same troop, sharing adventures, service projects, and achievements.

This evolution has also strengthened the spirit of Scouting. Troops embracing this model demonstrate flexibility, compassion, and a forward-thinking commitment to reaching more youth across our communities. As these units continue to thrive, they remind us that Scouting is at its best when it opens doors, welcomes all, and empowers every young person to grow into a capable and confident leader.

[**Click Here to See Our New Events Calendar**](#)