HIGH DESERT NEWS

November 2026

Scouting America
High Desert Council

AMERICA 250

Changes Coming to Recharter!

Scouting America is making changes to the recharter process. They are moving ALL units to a February recharter date. That means this year's recharter will be prorated to February 2028. The majority of our units recharter in December - meaning their next recharter cost will be for 14 months.

THERE WILL BE NO LAPSE OR GRACE PERIOD THIS YEAR! PER NATIONAL, ALL CHARTERS MUST BE POSTED BY 12/31/26 OR THE UNIT WILL DISAPPEAR!! DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY - CHARTERS MUST BE COMPLETED AND TURNED INTO THE RESPECTIVE OFFICES BY 12/11/26.

If your unit's charter is expiring on 12/31/2026, the online recharter tool opened on 11/2/2026. (Exception: Scoutreach units expiring 12/31/2026 must contact the El Paso Registrar, Adilene Salas, adilene.salas@scouting.org, 915-772-2292, for instructions and printouts to do a paper recharter; Scoutreach units cannot do an online recharter)

All of the 118 units expiring on 12/31/2026 have been sent an email asking for a Recharter Champion. Contact Dale Balmer, the Council Recharter Champion, dbalmer8@comcast.net, to verify who the contact is going to for your unit. He will be sending weekly updates to them on the recharter process, progress-to-date, and other pertinent info

More information on recharter is available on the Council's website: https://www.scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org/about-5

Any questions:

- Albuquerque office Registrar: Kathy Ferdig, kathy.ferdig@scouting.org, 505-345-8603, x100; Kathy is in the office M/W/F from 9am to 3pm.
- El Paso office Registrar: Adilene Salas, adilene.salas@scouting.org, 915-772-2292, office hours of M-F, 8:30am to 5pm.
- Council Recharter Champion: Dale Balmer, dbalmer8@comcast.net

Important Info

Website:

https://www.scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org/

Newsletter Signup:

Go to our website (above) - and click “join our email list” in the upper right corner to ensure you get this newsletter directly each month!

Social Media:

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news and updates!

Roundtable - Council Wide

1st Thursday of every month starting at 7:00pm

Info here - Each session starts with general info and then breaks into separate “rooms” to discuss Pack/Troop/Crew/Commissioner/Special Interest Topics

Zoom Meeting ID: 881 9890 3974
Passcode: 540846
(Meeting Code is good for next 3 years)

Scan or Click to enter Meeting

ABQ Metro Area Hybrid Roundtable for November is at
Community of Joy Lutheran Church - 841 Saratoga Dr NE, Rio Rancho

El Paso/Las Cruces Area Hybid Roundtable
South Area Council Office
7601 Lockheed Dr - El Paso

Questions: contact Ruben Berumen r.b.berumen@gmail.com or Kym Maldonado kym_maldonado@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

Check https://scoutingevent.com/573 for up-to-date Info

Date	Event	Location
Nov 7th	Health MBU	ABQ, NM
Nov 9th	2026 Eagle Golf Tournament	El Paso, TX
Nov 11th	Council Offices Closed - Veteran's Day	All
Nov 13-15	OA Fall Fellowship	Peralta, NM
Nov 14th	Cub Scout Range Day	Ft. Bliss, TX
Nov 21st	Cub Scout Range Day	Albuquerque, NM
Nov 21st	Scout Night at NMSU	Las Cruces, NM
Nov 21st	Scout Expo	El Paso, TX
Nov 26th	Sun Bowl Thanksgiving Parade	El Paso, TX
Nov 26-27	Scout Offices Closed - Thanksgiving	All
Dec 4-6	OA Winter Banquet/Elections	Peralta, NM
Dec 11-12	NRA Rifle Course	ABQ, NM
Dec 19th	Wreaths Across America	Multiple Locations
Dec 24-26	Scout Offices Closed - Christmas	All
Jan 1-2	Scout Offices Closed - Christmas	All
Jan 16th	Scouts BSA Klondike	Cloudcroft, NM

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In the News

Splashing into Success: Meet Your High Desert Council Aquatics Committee

Did you know the High Desert Council has a dedicated Aquatics Committee ready to support your unit? Whether you're planning a calm day on the water or gearing up for an adventurous river run, we're here as your go-to resource.

Here is how we can help your unit:

- Answer Your Aquatics Questions: We utilize the Aquatics Supervision Manual to provide expert guidance for your safety and planning needs.
- Review Plans: Send us your Float Plans and Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for review before heading out to ensure a smooth, safe trip.
- Support Merit Badges: We review and make recommendations to Council on aquatics-related Merit Badge Counselor applications.
- Training Opportunities: We are actively working to bring quality aquatics training opportunities both inside and outside our council!

Have questions? Don't hesitate to reach out.

Contact: Meghan Ripple - Cell: 850-586-3714
Aquatics Committee Chair, High Desert Council
highdesertcouncilaquatics@gmail.com

In the News

Help Needed!

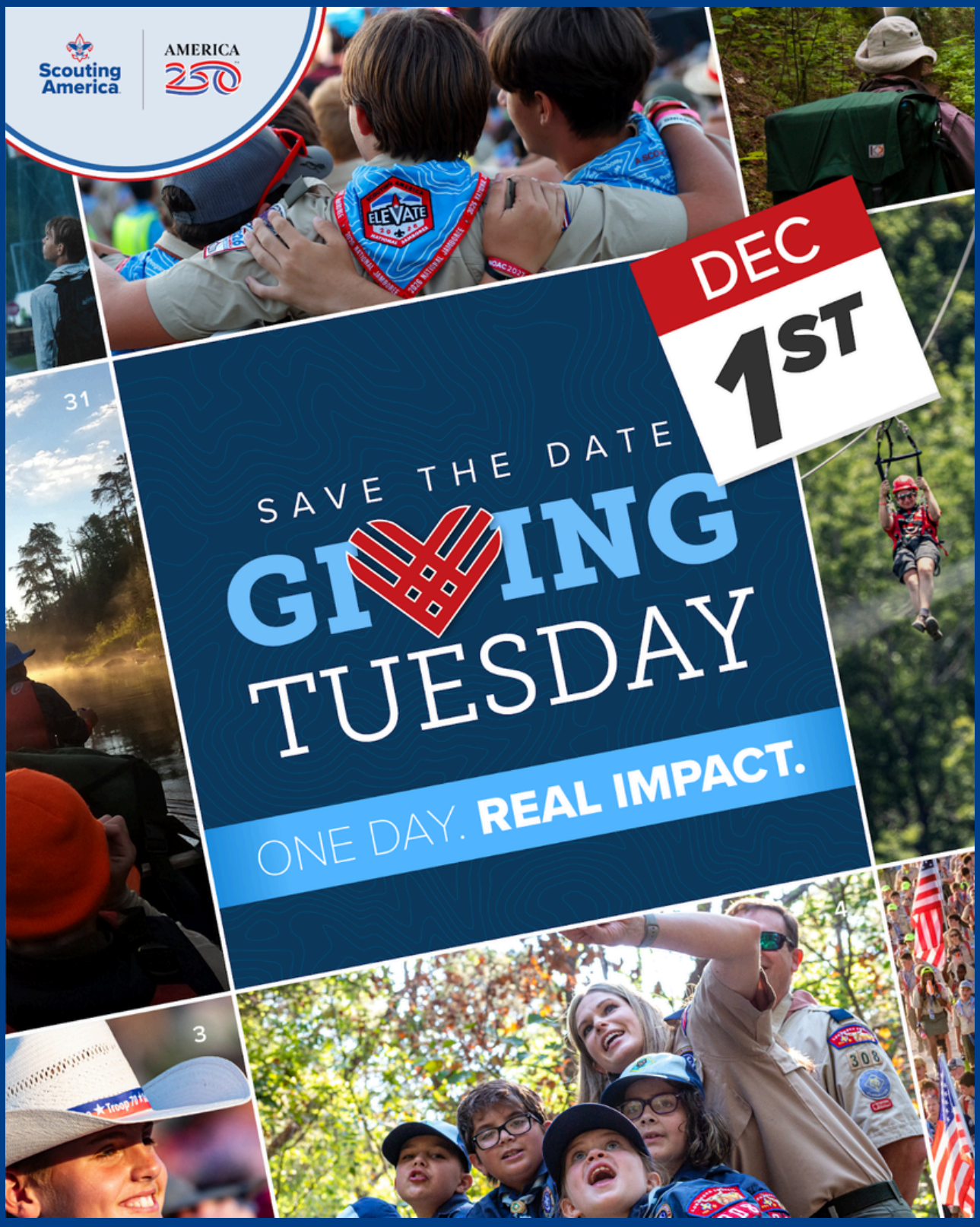


We had a very productive two work weekends at Gorham. A very big thank you to everyone who made it up to help prepare camp for the winter. We were able to get all the buildings, pool and campsites winterized. We have taken down most of the tents and cleaned up around the Maintenance/Storage shed and took 2 full loads to the dump.

We have one more day of work on Saturday Nov 13th. Please volunteer as an individual or as a unit. The youth should be Scouts BSA or Venture age. Just let us know the number of volunteers. If you have cordless drill please bring it along with a T25 bit. This is really the only tool we will need to take down the tents.

If we can get a good crew at camp we should be able to get all the tents down on Saturday. Please plan to arrive by 9:00 am on Saturday, Oct 31st. Please plan to pack a sack lunch since the dining hall is closed. If you would like to camp overnight you are welcome to do so. We have water at a couple of the campsites.

In the News


Scouting America
AMERICA 250
DEC 1ST
SAVE THE DATE
GIVING TUESDAY
ONE DAY. REAL IMPACT.

Training Trail



NRA Basic Rifle Course Dec 11-12, 2026

Location: Albuquerque

Looking to learn the fundamentals of rifle safety and marksmanship? Join us for the NRA Basic Rifle Course, taught over two days:

- December 11th: Classroom session at a local Albuquerque church (location to be announced)
- December 12th: Live-fire range session at the Shooting Park

Spots are limited. To register visit https://scoutingevent.com/573-122943. If you have any additional questions, contact Mike Cutter at 435-730-2837.

Mark Your Calendars for a BALOO/IOLS session in the ABQ Metro Area next spring! More info coming soon! Volunteers needed to help facilitate - reach out to greveret86@gmail.com if you are willing to help!



Advancement

Advancement Celebrates an Attitude of Gratitude

Thank you!
TO EVERY YOUTH AND ADULT!

Your positive attitude, enthusiasm, and energy help every Scout and Adult in your unit to do their best. Thank you! Set your personal and unit goals and work toward them together.

Adults: if you have any online training expiring soon, it would be wise to get it done in early November. The happy and distracting Holidays are happening soon.
(and our Recharter Target is Dec 11!)



Aquatics

Scouter Mom

Safe Swim Defense

The Eight Points of Safe Swim Defense

S Supervision

A responsible adult (at least 21 years of age) must supervise.



L Lookout

Station an adult on shore where he or she can see and hear everything in all areas.



M Med Check

Require evidence of fitness for swimming activity, using a health history.



B Buddy System

Pair each participant with another person in his ability group. They must stay together the entire time they are swimming.



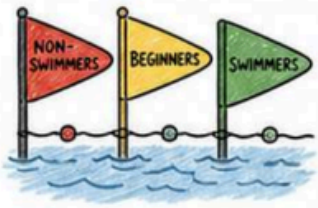
A Area

Before swimming in unknown waters, check the swimming area for varying depth, currents, holes, rocks, or other dangerous conditions.



A Ability Groups

Divide Scouts into nonswimmers, beginners, and swimmers. Mark off areas in the swimming area for the different ability groups.



L Lifeguard

Swim where lifeguards are on duty.



D Discipline

Insist upon strict but fair discipline.



Remember: SMALLBAD

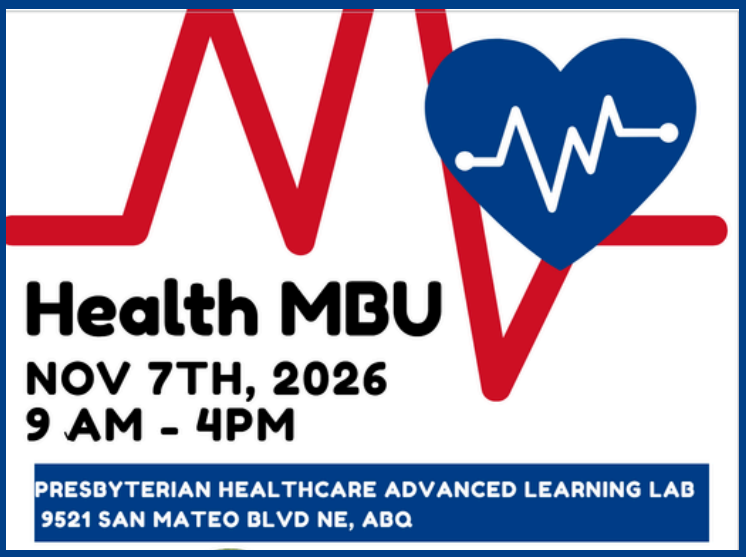
Supervision, Med Check, Area, Lifeguard, Lookout, Buddy System, Ability Groups, Discipline

scan for more

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Events

(Click graphic for more information)



Health MBU
Nov 7th, 2026

Location: Albuquerque

Health Merit Badge University is hosted by the Presbyterian Healthcare Advanced Learning Lab. Merit Badges Offered will include Disabilities Awareness, Health Care Professions, First Aid (2 classes offered) and Public Health. For More information and to register - visit https://scoutingevent.com/573-100970

We are looking for volunteers in classrooms, as well as adults who work in health care professions to be interviewed by Scouts for the Health Care Professionals Merit Badge. Please let Jessie Brown know your interest at 505-710-3277 or jessie.k.brown@icloud.com.

Eagle Golf Tournament
Nov 9th, 2026

Location: El Paso, TX

Enjoy a fantastic day at Coronado Country Club featuring golf, lunch, dinner, exciting raffle prizes, and on-course contests, including Closest to the Pin and a Hole-in-One Challenge. Every dollar raised directly supports Scouting programs that provide young people with opportunities to develop leadership skills, build character, serve their communities, and experience the outdoors!



Visit https://givebutter.com/2026-eagle-golf-tourn-fdg9xz for information about tickets or sponsorships!

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

OA Fall Fellowship - Nov 13-15

Location: Location Peralta United Methodist Church

Please join us for Fall Fellowship. There will be fun and games along with a special activity planned! More to be announced as we get closer to the event.



Scout Expo - Nov 21, 2026

Location:
El Paso
Council
Office



Come discover what Scouting is all about at our Scout Expo 2026!
Join us for a fun-filled day as Cub Scout Packs and Scouts BSA Troops come together to showcase their units, activities, skills, and adventures. Families will have the opportunity to visit different unit booths, meet local Scouts and leaders, and participate in fun, hands-on activities along the way!

The Scout Expo is open to current Scouting families and families interested in learning more about Scouting. Whether you're already part of the Scouting community or just curious about getting involved, this is a great opportunity to see everything Scouting has to offer.

Events

(Click graphic for more information)



Cub Scout RATA Day (El Paso, TX) Nov 14, 2026

Location: Ft. Bliss, TX

Scouts will enjoy archery and BB sports while building confidence, practicing focus, and learning range safety. (Note - Per Scouting America Policy - Lions are not permitted to do BB Guns) Whether trying these activities for the first time or sharpening their skills, Scouts can look forward to a day of hands-on fun and adventure!

Visit https://scoutingevent.com/573-122781 for details about time slots and how to register.

Cub Scout Range Day (Albuquerque, NM) November 21, 2026

Location: Albuquerque

Cubs will be able to earn their Archery and/or BB Gun Adventure! (Note - Per Scouting America Policy - Lions are not permitted to do BB Guns) Most slots are full at this point but there are still a few openings. Visit https://scoutingevent.com/573-121238 for all the details about time slots and how to register



Events

(Click graphic for more information)



Scout Night at NMSU Nov 21, 2026

Location: Las Cruces, NM

Bring your Scouts, families, and fellow Scouters for a fun-filled evening of Scouting fellowship and Aggie spirit. Scout Night at NMSU is a great opportunity for units to enjoy a memorable outing together while connecting with other Scouts from across the council.

Sun Bowl Thanksgiving Parade Nov 26, 2026

Location: El Paso, TX

Come show your Scout spirit by marching alongside fellow Scouts and Scouters as we celebrate this community tradition. Wear your full Scout uniform, bring your enthusiasm, and help represent Scouting America with pride!

The parade travels along Montana Avenue, beginning at Ochoa Street and ending at Copia Street in El Paso, TX.

For more info - visit https://scoutingevent.com/573-119310



Long Term Planning!

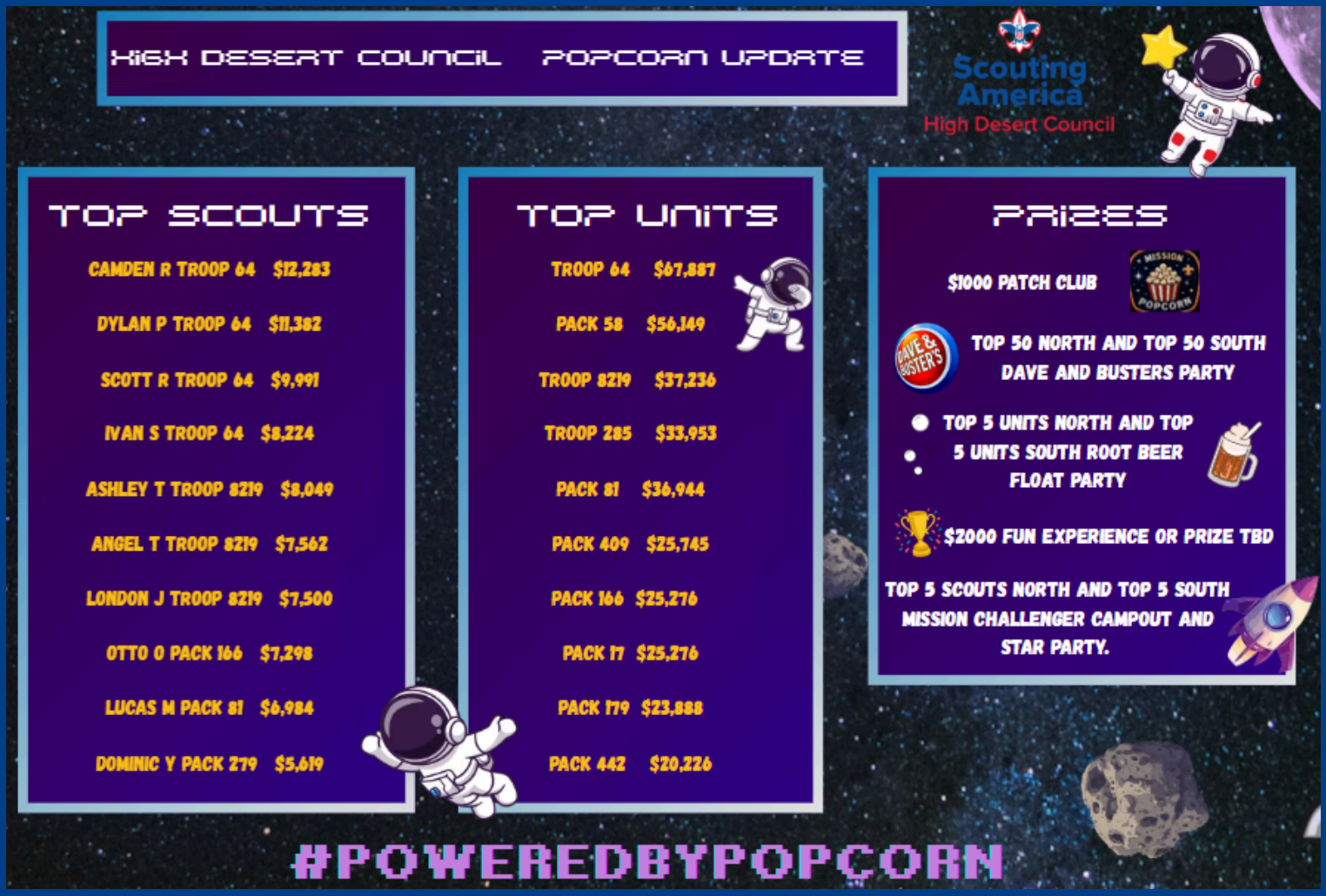








Popcorn Info



Need help, have questions, or running into a challenge? Don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to support you every step of the way!
Keep up the amazing work, Scouts. The sky isn't the limit when you're reaching for the stars!

For more information - visit our Mission Popcorn Website

Scout Shop

SCOUT **November** SHOP

NEWSWIRE

YOUR DIRECT LINE TO THE LATEST ARRIVALS, SEASONAL OFFERS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS.

STORE ASSOCIATE GUIDANCE & EXPERTISE

UNIFORM SIZING & FITTING

SEWING SERVICES

SCOUT ESSENTIALS & BRANDED GEAR

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
FROM SCOUTING AMERICA OUTFITTERS

We're thankful for the families, volunteers, and communities who make every adventure possible! Please note that Scout Shop locations will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday.

WHAT'S HAPPENING *at Scout Shop*

THE GIVING TREE IS HERE



Visit a participating Scout Shop from Nov. 8–Dec. 14 to pick a tag from the Giving Tree and help provide gear, uniforms, and handbooks for Scouts in need. Your support helps ensure more Scouts can experience the magic of Scouting!

Available at participating Scout Shop locations. Call your local store for availability.

FIND THE PERFECT GIFTS
FOR YOUR SCOUTS

Explore our Holiday Gift Guide for stocking stuffers, outdoor essentials, and more, with gifts starting under just $25. View the Holiday Gift Guide online, or stop by your local Scout Shop and let our team help you check everyone off your list!

MILITARY SERVICE KNOT
AVAILABLE IN-STORE



Reserved exclusively for those who currently serve or have served in the U.S. Military, full-time or in the reserves. Every knot sold helps fund FREE Scouting registration for youth in military families.

Call your local Scout Shop to check availability!

Scout Shop

IN-STORE MONTHLY OFFERS STOP IN & SAVE!



25% OFF* THORLO SOCKS WHEN YOU BUY 2+
Nov. 22 – Jan. 2



25% OFF* GSI OUTDOORS
Nov. 27 – Dec. 7



20% OFF* SAWYER
Nov. 21 – Nov. 28

* Offers valid while supplies last.

NEW ARRIVALS



NEW KNIFE GIFT SET
SKU: 666325

New for the season and **specially priced at just $19.99** from Nov. 2–29. Stop by your local Scout Shop to find this gift-ready favorite while supplies last.



NEW MILITARY SERVICE AND VETERANS MERIT BADGE
SKU: 666327

Launches Nov. 11 on Veterans Day! Honor service. Understand sacrifice. Inspire leadership. The new Military Service & Veterans Merit Badge gives Scouts a new opportunity to learn about the history, veterans, and values of the U.S. Armed Forces.



BRING GNORM HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
SKU: 666453

Welcome Gnorm to your holiday collection! Born from a compass point in the official 2026 National Jamboree logo, this beloved Scouting character is now available as a limited-edition holiday ornament. Pick yours up online or in select Scout Shops before supplies run out!



NEW NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE EMBLEM
SKU: 666553

Do a Good Turn on Nov. 14! Join Scouts nationwide in making a difference through Impact365, Scouting America's multi-year service initiative. Wear the official emblem to represent your participation and service hours!

STAY CONNECTED
DON'T MISS A THING



Follow us @ScoutShopBSA for the latest arrivals, upcoming events, and seasonal highlights!

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