

HIGH DESERT NEWS

August 2025



Prepared. For Life.®

**IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL
TIME OF THE YEAR.....**

#ADVENTUREON!

FREE

... RECRUITMENT SEASON!

We all know that Scouts are welcome to join units at any time during the year but we also know that these early days of the school year are often the best opportunity to recruit new Scouts at both the pack and troop levels. What is your unit doing to help bring in new members?

On August 30th from 9am to 1pm - All Scout families - Current, New and Prospective - are invited to the High Desert Council offices in Albuquerque for a free taste of all the exciting things they could be doing in Scouting.

**AUGUST 30, 2025
9AM - 1PM**

5841 OFFICE BLVD NE - ABQ, NM

This free fun filled day is for EVERYONE - Cubs, Scouts BSA and their families. With help from troops around the area and organizations like New Mexico Game and Fish Department, Sandia National Laboratories and the City of Albuquerque, come explore activities like pioneering, camp cooking, first aid, archery, and more! Share this event at your upcoming pack and troop meetings and invite your prospective families to see how much fun they could be having in Scouting! Boys and Girls in from Kindergarten - Age 18 are invited!

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 and select “newsletter” to ensure you get this newsletter directly each month!

Social Media:

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



Roundtable - South

1st Wednesday of every month [Info here](#)

Roundtable - North

2nd Thursday of every month [Zoom Link here](#)

If you missed Roundtable for the North Service Area - you can check out the slides here!

<https://www.scoutingamericahighdesertcouncil.org/resources>



The new Council Shoulder Patches are here! They are available for purchase at the Scout Shops in El Paso and Albuquerque for \$4.99+ tax! Get yours now!!!



Upcoming Events

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

Date	Event	Location
Aug 22 - 24	OA Summer Fellowship - Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge	ABQ Metro Area
Aug 22-24	Wood Badge Week 1	Gorham Scout Ranch
Aug 30 th	Adventure Day	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 1 st	Labor Day - Offices Closed	North and South
Sept 6 th	Scout Day at the Isotopes	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 13 th	Life To Eagle Seminar	ONLINE or ABQ Office
Sept 19-21	OA Fall Fellowship - Gila Lodge	Camp Dale Resler (Cloudcroft)
Sept 20 th	Catholic Scouting Mass/Retreat*	Santa Fe, NM
Sept 20 th	Radio MB Workshop*	Albuquerque
Sept 20 th	Sporting Clays Tournament	Bernardo, NM
Sept 20 th	Camp Tyler Francis Day of Service	El Paso, TX
Sept 26 - 28	OA Fall Fellowship - Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge	Gorham Scout Ranch
Sept 27 th	National Public Lands Service Day*	Las Cruces, NM
Sept 27 th	Fiesta Fanatics Cleanup*	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 27 th	Massing of the Colors	El Paso, TX
Sept 27 th	NRA Basic Rifle Course	ABQ Metro Area
Sept 28 th	Railroad MB Workshop*	ABQ Metro Area
Oct 3-5	Kirtland Camporee	ABQ Metro Area
Oct 11 th	Pinewood Derby Build Days	El Paso, TX
Oct 19 th	Scouting Day at NM United	Albuquerque

- Items marked with an asterik are events coordinated/run by an organization other than the High Desert Council but may be of interest to our members

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In the News

Thank You for Celebrating Our 2025 Eagle Scouts in the North Service Area

On Saturday, August 2nd, we gathered to celebrate the achievements of our Scouts who earned the rank of Eagle between March 2024 and May 2025. Hosted by Sandia Presbyterian Church, this wonderful event was a capstone to their Journey to Eagle. While not all new Eagle Scouts were able to attend - those who did represented all the excitement and promise these young adults embody and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the entire 2025 class.

A special congratulations goes to:

- Dick Minick, recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award – a fantastic volunteer from the Albuquerque area who has selflessly given his time and dedication to our program.
- Justin DeGroat, from Troop 1 in Albuquerque – recipient of this year's Anderson Family Eagle Scout Scholarship.

We thank everyone who attended and those who worked so hard to make this celebration so special for these incredible Scouts!



Membership



When you invite a friend to join Scouting, you'll get the official Recruiter Strip Patch—a free patch that shows you helped grow the adventure.

How to Get Yours:

1. Talk to a friend about Scouting.
2. Invite them to a troop meeting, pack event, or activity.
3. If they join, you qualify.
4. Click [HERE](#) for more info on how to claim your FREE patch. No purchase required. Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA and Venturing Scouts are all eligible to participate!

Check out [this](#) article from Aaron on Scouting with more great info!

Training Trail

Range and Target Activities Upcoming Trainings - ABQ Area

NRA Basic Rifle Course
September 27, 2025



NRA Basic Shotgun Course
November 14-15, 2025



NRA Range Safety Officer Course
December 6, 2025
(Registration opens 9/1)



CONTACT: MIKE CUTTER,
MICHAEL.CUTTER@MSN.COM,
435-730-2837

THE MINIMUM
CLASS SIZE IS 4
AND MAXIMUM
IS 8.

Scouting  America
High Desert Council



NRA

Advancement

Merit Badge Counselor Training/ Additional Qualifications Requirements for Aquatic Merit Badges



Merit badge counselors for certain subjects, including aquatic activities, must have specific qualifications. The High Desert Council is currently looking for volunteers to help with its aquatics program. (GTA section 7.0.1.0)

Calling All Aquatics Merit Badge Counselors

If you are a qualified merit badge counselor for any of the following subjects, please contact Lois Caipen at LOCAIPEN@AOL.COM:

Swimming
Canoeing
Kayaking
Lifesaving
Watersports

Motorboating
Rowing
SCUBA
Small boat sailing
Whitewater rafting

Even if your certifications have expired, you may still be able to serve as a merit badge counselor if you can demonstrate continued experience.

Did You Take Aquatics Training This Summer?

If you or another adult in your unit attended camp this summer and completed BSA Swim & Water Rescue or Paddle Craft Safety training, please email a picture of your certification cards to the Council Registrar and to Lois Caipen at LOCAIPEN@AOL.COM. These certifications qualify you to supervise aquatics activities and become a canoeing or kayaking merit badge counselor.

Help Us Organize Aquatics Trainings

The High Desert Council is seeking 1-3 volunteers to help organize aquatics training this fall. The training will tentatively be held in October at Elephant Butte and in November at an indoor pool in or north of Albuquerque. Volunteers will also help follow up with former merit badge counselors.

If you are interested or have experience in aquatics, please contact Lois Caipen at LOCAIPEN@AOL.COM.

Advancement

Questions? Who Do You Contact? --It Depends, Where do you Live?

- **FARMINGTON/AZTEC/BLOOMFIELD**
 - JOHNNA DOWNING - JOHNNADOWNING@YAHOO.COM
- **DURANGO/BAYFIELD/IGNACIO/PAGOSA SPRINGS/CORTEZ**
 - JULIE HARRIS - HARRISFAMILYDGO@GMAIL.COM
- **SANTA FE/LOS ALAMOS**
 - TIM NEAL - TIMRNEAL@GMAIL.COM
- **WEST ABQ/RR/CORRALES/LOS LUNAS/BELÉN/GALLUP**
 - STEPHEN BARTHOLOMEW - LIFE2EAGLEHELP@YAHOO.COM
- **EAST ABQ/EAST MNTNS/TIJERES/EDGEWOOD**
 - MIKE CUTTER - MICHAEL.CUTTER@MSN.COM
- **NOT SURE**
 - LOIS CAIPEN - LOCAIPEN@AOL.COM

Merit Badge Counselor Position Specific Training

As of August 4, 81.1% of registered Merit Badge Counselors have completed all the training requirements. Our goal is to have 100% Trained Merit Badge Counselors by 31 December 2025.

Log in to my.scouting.org - Click on My Training, and then "Scouts BSA" box.

- If you see "Select your position" then you click "Merit Badge Counselor (34 minutes)"
- If not, hit the word Catalog and type "Merit Badge Counselor"

Only 34 minutes worth of training!

- **"MBC - Before the first meeting" (3 courses, 24 mins)**
 - SCO_472: Aims & Methods of Scouts BSA (8:30)
 - SCO_474: Introduction to Merit Badges (8:00)
 - SCO_486: What is a Merit Badge Counselor (7:00)
- **"MBC - Position Trained." (1 course, 10 mins)**
 - SCO_471: Advancement (10:00)

Awards Central

2025 Awards Timeline

Nominations due to Council Office by January 5, 2026:

- Silver Beaver
- Venturing Leadership Award
- District Award of Merit
- Council Duty to God
- Scouting Service Awards (Vale La Pena; Asian American Spirit of Scouting, Whitney M. Young, Jr.)

The High Desert Council Annual Business Meeting and Awards ceremony will be held on April 11, 2026 at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, in Mescalero NM!

- Not too early to start writing nominations!
- A full timeline document is posted [HERE](#) on Council's website.
- More information about these and other awards can be found at Scouting America's Awards Central home page [HERE](#)

**Point of contact for this class is: Brian Tolson
email: briantolson99@yahoo.com or text to : 505-967-6139**

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area

Order of the Arrow - Summer Fellowship



LOCATION - Albuquerque Metro Area

August 22 - 24, 2025

Join the Yah-Tah-Hey-Si-Kess Lodge for their "Summer of Love" Themed event. Gila Lodge members are invited to join as well!

Scout Day at the Isotopes



LOCATION - Isotopes Park - Albuquerque, NM

September 6, 2025 - Gates open at 5:00pm for on field experiences! Game begins at 6:35pm

Come cheer on the Isotopes! All Scouts, families, and leaders are invited to attend. Wear your uniform, bring your troop or pack, and enjoy special Scout activities and recognition on the field.

Come and support this event and get a super cool patch!

Tickets must be purchased by 8/25 and picked up at the council office the week of 8/26

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)

Life to Eagle Class Saturday Sept 13, 2025



LOCATION - ONLINE and ABQ METRO

We invite the Life Scout, their parents, and their Leaders to attend physically or via Zoom. The Advancement Committee offers this training each Fall and it usually runs from 10 am to noon on a Saturday. Join us at the GSWC Office or with Zoom. Changes to the Eagle process are frequent and this training will help you succeed within the current expectations that apply to you.

Radio Merit Badge Clinic

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Sharing for our friends in the Ham Radio Community - More Information about registration will be shared as soon as we receive it!

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DUKE CITY HAM FEST

RADIO MERIT BADGE CLINIC



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, FROM 9-3.

AT EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON - 1000 WOODWARD PLACE NE, ALBUQUERQUE

(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)

9th Annual Sporting Clays Tournament - Sept 20, 2025



LOCATION - Bernardo, NM

Join us for this exciting annual event that is an important fundraiser for our council. Teams of 5 people complete 20+ shooting stations in this fun event for all ages. Youth age 10 and up may participate if they are accompanied by an adult and have completed the New Mexico Hunter Safety Online Course. Targets, 12 and 20 gauge ammunition are provided - Participants need to bring a shotgun, eye and ear protection. For more information - [Registration Link](#)

Conferral Mass and Retreat

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Sharing for our friends in the Catholic Scouting Community. Click/scan image to the right for more information

ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)

Conferral Mass and Retreat

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

This Mass will recognize scouts from Scouting America, Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls who earned a religious emblem or award in the previous year.

Retreat will be held following Mass with activities designed to jump start each scout's endeavors in working toward Catholic scouting emblems and awards including the 2025 Jubilee Activity Patch.

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION
CATHOLIC CHURCH

2621 VERMONT ST NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

REGISTRATION: 8:30 AM
MASS: 9:00 AM
RETREAT: AFTER MASS - 3:00 PM

WWW.CATHOLICSCOUTSNM.ORG

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)

CABQ Fiesta Fanatics

(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)

ONE ALBUQUE
KEEP NEW MEXICO TRUE

Weeks
IMAGINE. APO

Fiesta FANATICS

Saturday, September 27, 2025
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
9201 Balloon Museum Dr NE
(South Parking Lot)

To Register Visit:
CABQ.GOV/FIESTAFANATICS

Let's ignite the spark with our annual Balloon Fiesta Litter Cleanup! Join us at the park or clean up in your neighborhood.

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Sharing for our friends with the City of Albuquerque! It's that time again - help get our city ready for the biggest event of the year - the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta! Whether you do a cleanup in your neighborhood or join the community at Balloon Fiesta park... do your part to make the community look great! Registration with the City of Albuquerque is required - visit <https://www.cabq.gov/solidwaste/events/fiesta-fanatics-cleanup-event> for more information!

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Sharing for our friends with New Mexico Heritage Rail and New Mexico Railroad Days! Click/scan image to the right for more information



Railroad Merit Badge Day



Come Join New Mexico Heritage Rail during New Mexico Railroad Days for a day of fun, learning all about railroading. Start the morning off with a pancake breakfast, then learn from professionals and hobbyists and tour the historic AT&SF 2926 steam locomotive. Scouts will complete the Railroad Merit Badge.

Register here:

<https://form.jotform.com/252118161743149>

Date: Sept 28, 2025

Time : 8am-1pm

Where: Albuquerque - South Rail Yards,
1300 2nd Street SW, 87102

Cost: \$10

(family members welcome to also register and pay for breakfast)



(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

North Service Area (con't)



Kirtland AFB Camporee

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Join us for a fun camporee opportunity with Merit Badges related to Criminal Justice and Law plus demonstrations by Base Personnel (*TBD but possibly including Bomb teams, fire, police, etc.*) Sunday morning optional services at Base Chapel.

**IN ORDER TO ENSURE BASE ACCESS -
REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE SEPT 15TH -
THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Scout Night at NM United - October 19th, 2025

LOCATION - Albuquerque, NM

Join us for a night of high-energy fun as New Mexico United takes the field!

All Scouts in uniform will be recognized during the game, and special activities may include pre-game or halftime field access, a shoutout on the scoreboard, and exclusive Scout patches and post-game meet and greet with the players.

There is also an opportunity for scouts to join the players on field to help be a ball manager 14 years and older for this job.

SCOUT NIGHT AT NM UNITED



Gates open at 1:30pm for on field experiences! Game begins at 3:00pm

**Tickets must be purchased through NM UNITED by 10/16.
For more info and link to purchase - visit
<https://scoutingevent.com/573-102924#>**

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area



**CAMP TYLER FRANCIS
DAY OF SERVICE**

Calling all Scouts BSA Troops and leaders to Join us for a day of service at CTF!
Let's come together to improve and beautify our campgrounds. It's a great opportunity to make a positive impact and enjoy the outdoors with fellow Scouts and volunteers.

BRING WATER, SUN PROTECTION, shovels, rakes, brooms, gloves, shears, and Scout 10 essentials. MUST WEAR CLOSED TOED SHOES.

LOCATION - El Paso Area

Where:

- Camp Tyler Francis, 4200 Girl Scout Lane, Sunland Park, NM, 88063

When:

- September 20th - Beginning at 8am - Projects are done by 12PM.

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area (Con't)



National Public Lands Day

(NOT A HIGH DESERT COUNCIL EVENT)



LOCATION - Las Cruces, NM

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 - 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM

We're excited to partner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and NEEF (National Environmental Educational Foundation) for a cleanup of Kilborne Hole National Natural Landmark!

Registration opens August 28th!

Not in the Las Cruces area?
[Browse NPLD Event locations In Your Area](#)

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

South Service Area (Con't)

Massing of the Colors

LOCATION - El Paso, TX

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 - : 11:30 am
- 2:00 pm

Massing of the Colors is an event where multiple color guards from multiple organizations, come together to honor the flag of the United States of America.



Cubs and Scouts BSA are welcome to attend this event to honor the flag. Ceremony is held from 12:00-2:00 PM with registration starting at 11:30 AM.



PWD BUILD DAY - EL PASO OFFICE
SATURDAY OCTOBER 11TH
9:00 AM MT TO 1:00 PM MT

ADDITIONAL DAYS: NOVEMBER 22, DECEMBER 13

Pinewood Derby Build Day

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

No Registration Needed

Attention all racers far and wide! Come build your pinewood derby cars with us! We will have the tools you need to get your motors running!

Long Term Planning!

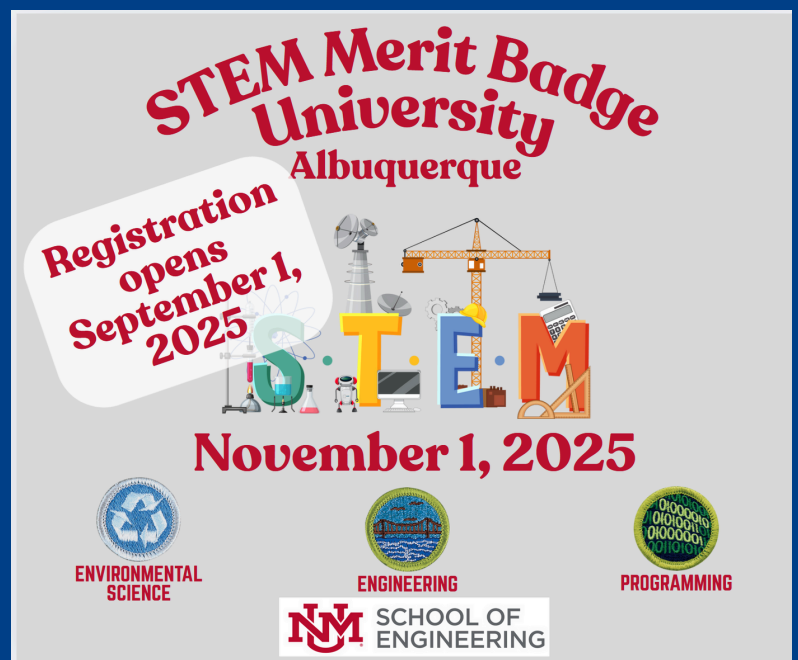


Western Tech Merit Badge University/University of Scouting- (East El Paso)

Saturday 10-25-2025
8:00 AM MT to 4:00 PM MT
(Registration Info Coming Soon)

STEM Merit Badge University with UNM School of Engineering

Saturday 11-1-25
(Registration Info
Coming Soon)



ALBUQUERQUE METRO AREA 2026 SCOUTING FOR FOOD

FEBRUARY 7TH 2026 & FEBRUARY 14TH 2026
(BOTH SATURDAYS)

IF INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING: PLEASE EMAIL:

- TROOP #,
- GENERAL LOCATION (NE, NW, CENTRAL, ETC)
- CONTACT PERSON

ABQMETROSFF@GMAIL.COM

STOREHOUSE NEEDS TO GET THE
ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF
LOCATIONS WORKED OUT BY THE
END OF SEPTEMBER



ABQ Metro Area Scouting for Food Feb 7 & 14, 2026

We have confirmed dates with Storehouse NM! We will determine collection locations based on interested units. If you are interested - please email ABQMetroSFF@gmail.com as soon as possible. We need to determine locations by the end of September.



Long Term Planning!



Philmont Trek 2026



Philmont Scout Ranch is one of four high adventure bases!

JUNE
8-20



Book Now - Space is Limited to 5 youth and 3 adults!

\$1725 per person - Questions?

Email: MWScout007@gmail.com



POLAND 2027

World Scout
26th Jamboree
Scout Mondial



- July 30 – August 8, 2027
- Gdansk region in Poland
- Visit here for more info and to sign up for mailing list and registration info: <https://wsj2027.us/>
- Looking for Registered Leaders to help out. Scan QR Code to fill out an interest Survey. If you have any questions, please email usapoland2027@gmail.com
- **Youth Interest Surveys will be coming out separately**