

HIGH DESERT NEWS

November 2025



Prepared. For Life.®

Campfire Memories

We all know that the best way to grow Scouting is through sharing our own personal experiences and memories and getting new families excited about the opportunities awaiting them in Scouting. Our “Campfire Memories” Campaign has kicked off on social media - and we invite you to share your memories on those posts and consider donating to our Council. Your donation will help keep those experiences alive and give a whole new generation of Scouts an opportunity to make campfire memories of their own!

[Donate Here](#)



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!



Adventure Guide:

Check out this great new resource with info about all the fun you can have in our council! [LINK HERE](#)

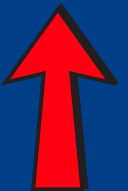
Roundtable - Council Wide

1st Thursday of every month starting t 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



Scan or Click to
enter Meeting



Zoom Meeting ID: 851 4615 1346

Passcode: EJPQv5

(Meeting Code is good for next 3 years)

FMI: Dale Balmer, dbalmer8@comcast.net

If you missed Roundtable - you can check out the slides here!

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



Upcoming Events

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

Date	Event	Location
Nov 14th	NRA Basic Shotgun Training	ABQ, NM
Nov 15th	Camp Tyler Francis Service Day	Sunland Park, NM
Nov 22nd	Pinewood Derby Build Days	El Paso, NM
Nov 22nd	IOLS/BALOO South - Camp Tyler Francis	Sunland Park, NM
Nov 27-28th	Office and Scout Shops Closed	All
Nov 29th	Scout Night at NMSU	Las Cruces, NM
Nov 30th	Last Day for Council Popcorn Incentives	All
Dec 4th	Council Roundtable	Online
Dec 5-7	Yah Tah Hey Si Kess Winter Banquet	Peralta, NM
Dec 6th	Range Safety Officer Training	ABQ, NM
Dec 13th	Wreaths Across America	El Paso, TX
Dec 13th	Pinewood Derby Build Days	El Paso, NM
Dec 20th	Camp Tyler Francis Service Day	Sunland Park, NM
Dec 24-Jan 1	Scout Shops Closed	All
Dec 24-26	Council Offices Closed	All
Jan 1-2	Council Offices Closed	All
Jan 3 rd	State 47 Marathon	Las Cruces, NM
Jan 17 th	Scouts BSA Klondike - Camp Dale Resler	Cloudcroft, NM

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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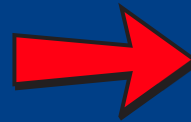
Unit Buzz!

The Unit Buzz is a monthly compilation of unit activities throughout the High Desert Council. Unit leaders are encouraged to use the form below to submit a picture and a short description of their unit in action.

Appropriate submissions include:

- Courts of Honor
- Service projects
- Campouts, hikes
- Other unit level, special activities that deserve recognition

Unit Leaders - Scan/Click here for the submission form!



Check out our Facebook Page and the Resources page of our website for the monthly compilations!



Troop 807 in Pagosa Springs, CO supported their community during the recent floods. The Troop helped fill sandbags for the Archuleta County. Members of the community were able to pick up bags to help protect their property and it allowed Archuleta County employees to be available in more critical areas.



In the News



Release of Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging Course

This new replacement course is now available since the “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” course has been retired. It replaces the requirements for merit badge counselors who desire to teach the Citizenship in Society merit badge.

We encourage everyone involved in Scouting to take this course as Scouting America promotes a culture where every youth, volunteer, and employee feels a sense of belonging and builds communities where every person feels respected and valued.

The course can be accessed from the My.Scouting via the home page and in the catalog of the Volunteer Learn Center.



Membership

Talking to Friends About Scouting

Want your Scouts to share their Scouting adventures with their friends? Here's how to spark the interest of their peers and invite them to join the fun:

Personal Touch: Share their own experiences and what Scouting means to them. Their enthusiasm will shine through as they talk about the exciting activities, friendships, and skills they have gained.

Highlight the Adventure: Paint a picture of the thrilling adventures awaiting them in Scouting, from camping under the stars to conquering outdoor challenges or making and running a Pinewood Derby car. Emphasize the opportunity to try new things and make unforgettable memories together.

Stress the Sense of Belonging: Talk about friends they make in Scouting and fun people in the den, patrol, crew, or ship.

Make it Inviting: Invite them to join you for an activity so they can experience Scouting firsthand. Encourage them to ask questions and explore what Scouting has to offer.

Share the Excitement: Spread the word about upcoming events, fun activities, and cool badges they can earn. Show them that Scouting is not only about learning but also about having a blast along the way.

With their passion and encouragement, they can inspire their friends to embark on their own Scouting journey and create memories that will last a lifetime

For more great ideas - check out the first (of many) Scouts BSA Membership Webinar, “Stronger Troops, Empowered Youth: Recruitment and Retention that Works.” Watch the recording at <https://www.scouting.org/topics/program-updates/program-updates-scouts-bsa/>

Training Trail

NRA Range Safety Officer Course December 6, 2025

- ATTENDEES MUST BE 21 YEARS OLD
- CLASSROOM TRAINING
- 8:30 AM- 5:30 PM
- ALL BSA/VENTURING UNITS MUST HAVE A CERTIFIED RSO PRESENT AT ALL RATA ACTIVITIES



THE MINIMUM
CLASS SIZE IS 4
AND MAXIMUM
IS 8.

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

Scouting  America
High Desert Council



IOLS/BALOO

November 22-23rd

Camp Tyler Francis

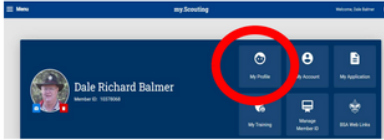
4200 Girl Scout Ln
Sunland Park, NM 88063



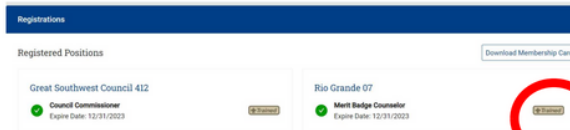
Advancement

How to check if you're trained as a Merit Badge Counselor

- Log into your my.scouting.org account
- Click on the My Profile button:



- Scroll down to see list of positions and training status for each position:



Can we get 100% Trained Merit Badge Counselors by 31 December?
As of 11/1/2025:
391 Total, **69 Untrained**,
322 Trained =
82.4% Trained

The quickest training is online

via my.scouting.org (24 + 10 = 34 mins)

- 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"
- The classes noted on the next slide are the total required to be a TRAINED Merit Badge Counselor

These are the required courses for Merit Badge Counselors!

- "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)

Please help us hit 100% before December 31st
Locaipen@aol.com 505-306-7694

Thank You!

Awards Central

Point of contact: Brian Tolson

email: briantolson99@yahoo.com or text to : 505-967-6139

2025 Scouter Awards Timeline

Our Volunteers are the lifeblood of our council! Without them - we wouldn't be able to function. If you know of a Scouter who has gone above and beyond to make the Scouting Program great - please take the time to nominate them for an award!

- 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](#)

Nominations due to Council Office by January 5, 2026:

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!

Awards Central

Special Needs Scouting Service Award



Recognizes adult volunteers and Scouting America professionals for service to Scouts with disabilities and/or special needs

- Award is earned by direct actions of Adults
- Download the application form at <https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/special-needs/>
- Need at least three years of service at the unit, district, council or higher level(s)
- Complete 6 of the 12 requirement areas
- Fill out form and submit to either of our Council offices
- Can be submitted anytime throughout the year

Events

(Click graphic for more information)

Camp Tyler Francis Day(s) of Service



LOCATION: Sunland Park, NM
8:00am - 12:00pm

Calling all Scouts BSA Troops, Venture Crews and Explorers and their leaders to join us for a day of service at CTF!

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

Scouts are not allowed to use power tools

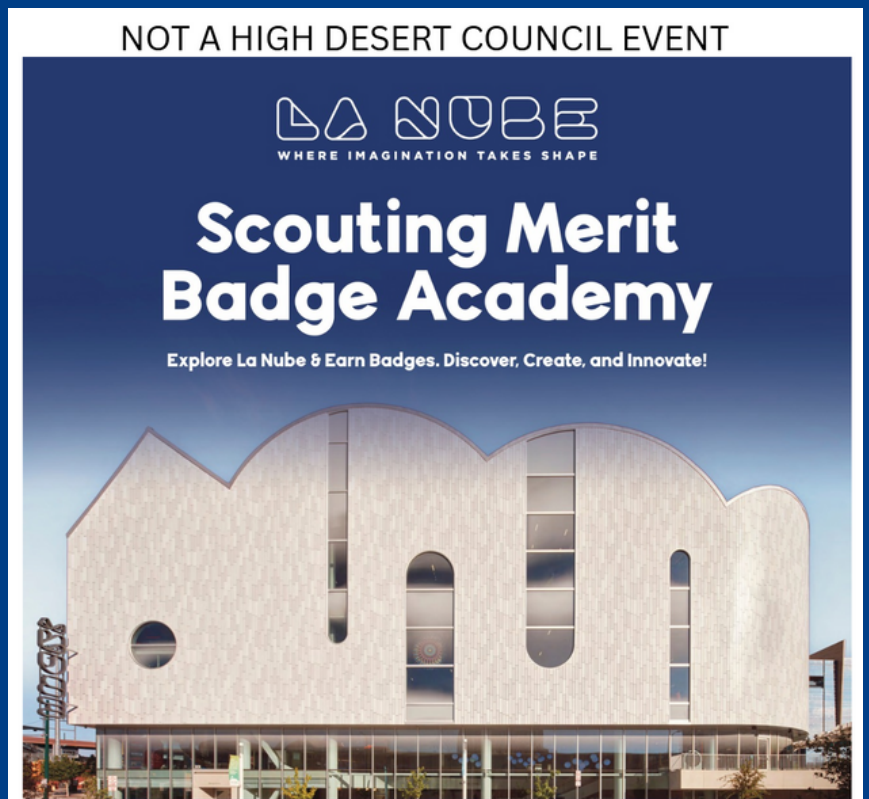
NOVEMBER 15TH
DECEMBER 20TH

La Nube Merit Badge Academy

LOCATION: El Paso, TX

Saturday Nov 15th! Sharing for our friends at the La Nube STEAM Discovery Center in El Paso! Registration through the museum is now open!

Visit <https://la-nube.org/resources/scouting-merit-badge> for more information and to register



Events

(Click graphic for more information)



Pinewood Derby Build Days

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!



Scout Night at NMSU

LOCATION: Las Cruces, NM

Join us for a great night of Football! Wear your Scout uniform and show off your scout pride! We can participate in some on field activities prior to the game start!

Ticket Cost: \$10 - Adults and \$8 - Youth.

Registration closes on 11/27!



Wreaths Across America

LOCATION: El Paso, TX -

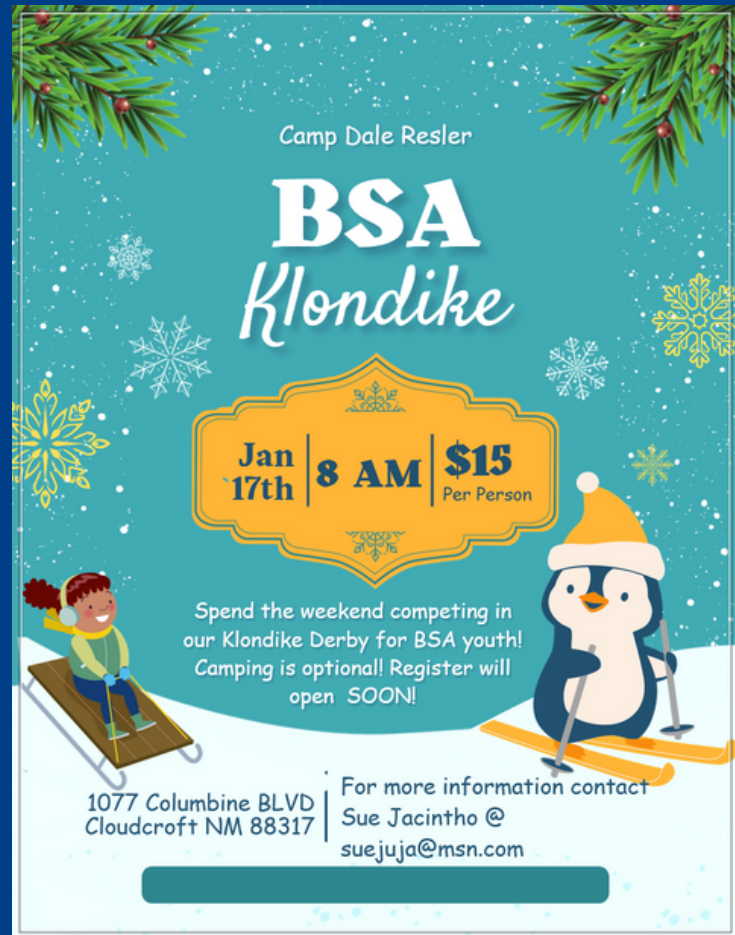
Please join us at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery for National Wreath Day on Saturday December 13, 2025. No registration required.

Volunteers should arrive between 7-7:30am. Parking is limited, arrive early. Wreath placement will begin at 8am with the ceremony to follow at 10am.

Please come in full Class A uniform and bring a wagon to help haul the wreaths. Don't forget your water bottle.

To sponsor a wreath: [Visit Donation Page](#)

Long Term Planning!



Long Term Planning!

ALBUQUERQUE METRO AREA 2026 SCOUTING FOR FOOD

FEBRUARY 7TH 2026 &
FEBRUARY 14TH 2026

LOCATION INFO AND SIGN UP FOR
TIME SLOTS COMING IN EARLY
JANUARY!

QUESTIONS:

ABQMETROSFF@GMAIL.COM



- **What:** National Jamboree is not just a 'big summer camp.' It is "the adventure of a lifetime," with amazing hands-on activity and adventure.
- **Where:** Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia
- **When:** July 22-31, 2026, leaving around July 19 for a fun pre-trip.
- **Who:** The High Desert Council will send as many 20-participant contingents of Male or Female as possible, but we have to be at those even 20 people for each contingent.
- Adults are also encouraged to volunteer for the Jamboree Service Team (<https://jamboree.scouting.org/staff/>)
- For More information - visit <https://scoutingevent.com/573-89330>

Long Term Planning!



POLAND 2027

World Scout
26th Jamboree
Scout Mondial



- The World Scout Jamboree is held every four years around the world. The next Jamboree will be held in Gdansk, Poland in the summer of 2027 and will have approximately 45,000 Scouts and leaders from over 140 countries in attendance. Participants must be between age 14-17 at the start of the Jamboree on July 30, 2027. Anyone older than that can apply to be a unit leader or on staff. Anyone younger than that will have to wait for the 2031 Jamboree in Denmark. Here are two key websites:
- The World Scout Jamboree website: <https://www.jamboree2027.org>
- The US Contingent website: <https://wsj2027.us>

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE U.S. CONTINGENT

09/10/2025	Registration for participants and IST opens. <i>No payment is required at this time.</i>
11/01/2025	Our contingent size is finalized and submitted to the Jamboree Planning Team.
12/01/2025	The Jamboree Planning Team notifies each country of its official contingent size allocation.
Early 01/2026	Participants and IST make their first Jamboree deposit .
02/01/2026	US contingent send our full payment to the Jamboree Planning Team

If you have any questions, email - Bill McKinney at USAPoland2027@gmail.com

